



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
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ARLINGTON, VA 22204-1382

NGB-ARE

JUN 1 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR The Adjutant General, Headquarters Nebraska Army National Guard, ATTN: Environmental Office (LTC Heng), 1300 Military Road, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

SUBJECT: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Implementation of Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations at the Beatrice, Nebraska Armed Forces Reserve Center

1. References:

a. 32 CFR 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, 29 Mar 02.

b. The National Guard Bureau (NGB) NEPA Handbook, Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA of 1969, Jun 06.

2. In accordance with procedures established in references 1a and 1b, this EA has been approved by NGB. A copy of the signed Finding of No Significant Impact is enclosed. This completes the appropriate NEPA documentation for this project in accordance with reference 1a.

3. If there is a delay in project construction or project conditions change, review the EA to ensure it adequately addresses the action to be taken. If the EA is invalid, new NEPA documentation must be completed before project initiation.

4. The point of contact is Mr. Patrick Magnotta, Western Region NEPA Program Manager, at DSN 327-7982, 703-607-7982, or Patrick.Magnotta@us.army.mil.

Encl
as

ERIC N. ANDERSEN
Deputy Chief, Environmental
Programs Division

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)
IMPLEMENTATION OF BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC)
RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE
BEATRICE ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER (AFRC)
BEATRICE, NEBRASKA**

Introduction

The Nebraska Army National Guard (NEARNG) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental effects from implementing BRAC recommendations at the Beatrice AFRC in Beatrice, Nebraska. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC § 4321 to 4370e), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR 651).

1. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Proposed Action. The purpose of the proposed action is to implement the 2005 BRAC Commission's recommendations pertaining to Beatrice, Nebraska. The recommendations are as follows:

a. Close the United States Army Reserve Center in Wymore, Nebraska and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center with an organizational maintenance facility in the vicinity of Beatrice, Nebraska, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities.

b. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate NEARNG Units from the following NEARNG Readiness Centers: Fairbury, Nebraska, Falls City, Nebraska, and Troop C, 1-167th Cavalry in Beatrice, Nebraska, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard Units.

The Army proposes to construct new facilities to support the above recommendations.

Alternatives Considered:

a. Alternative 1, No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, no new facilities would be constructed. This action is not viable to the NEARNG because it would fail to implement BRAC recommendations. Though not viable, an environmental analysis of the No Action Alternative is performed to serve as a benchmark against which the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

b. Alternative 2, Construct a New AFRC at Beatrice, Nebraska. This is the NEARNG's Preferred Alternative. Alternative 2 will require an acquisition of

property in Beatrice, Nebraska, followed by construction and operation of a new 63,000 square foot Readiness Center, and associated parking. The proposed site is across the street from the existing Beatrice Readiness Center.

2. Environmental Analysis

Based on the analysis contained in the EA, the NEARNG has determined that implementation of BRAC recommendations at Beatrice will not have any significant adverse impacts on the human environment.

Mitigation. No mitigation measures will be required to reduce potentially significant effects to less-than-significant levels. However, the NEARNG will implement several Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce potential minor impacts associated with construction. A complete list of BMPs can be found in Table 4-10 of the Final EA.

3. Regulations

The Proposed Action will not violate NEPA, the CEQ Regulations, 32 CFR 651, or any other Federal, state, or local environmental regulations.

4. Commitment to Implementation

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) and NEARNG affirm their commitment to implement this EA in accordance with NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. The NEARNG and NGB's Environmental Programs and Installations Divisions will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in this EA.

5. Public Review and Comment

The Final EA and DFNSI were available for public review and comment from April 23, 2007 to May 23, 2007 at the Beatrice Public Library and Department of the Army BRAC Environmental Website. No comments were received.

For further information, contact LTC Lynn Heng, NEARNG Environmental Office, at (402) 309-7453.

6. Finding of No Significant Impact

After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Alternative 2 will not generate significant controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA and the CEQ Regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the National Guard Bureau is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

31 May 2007
Date



Gerald I. Walter
Colonel, US Army
Chief, Environmental
Programs Division