



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE EAST
4911 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19112-1303

Notice of Public Meeting for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal and Reuse of Surplus Property at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law [P.L.] 91-190, 42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321-4347), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500–1508), the Department of the Navy (DoN) has prepared and filed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential human and natural environmental consequences of the disposal of surplus property at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Newport, Rhode Island, by the Navy and its subsequent redevelopment by the respective municipalities in which the surplus property is geographically located. P.L. 101-510, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended in 2005 (BRAC Law), has directed the Navy to realign NAVSTA Newport. As a result of this action, the Navy has declared approximately 158 acres of land area at NAVSTA Newport to be surplus to the needs of the federal government. The DoN is initiating a 45-day public comment period to provide the community an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS. Federal, state, and local elected officials and agencies and the public are encouraged to provide written comments. Two public meetings will also be held to provide information and receive written comments on the Draft EIS.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: The Navy will hold two open house public meetings at the locations listed below and will allow individuals to review and comment on the information presented in the Draft EIS. DoN representatives will be available during the open house to clarify information presented in the Draft EIS, as necessary. There will not be a formal presentation.

Thursday, April 14th, 2016

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School Cafeteria
1113 Aquidneck Ave (Turner Rd entrance)
Middletown, Rhode Island 02842**

Friday, April 15th 2016

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Assembly Room Newport Police Department
120 Broadway
Newport, Rhode Island 02840**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Director, BRAC Program Management Office (PMO) East, Attn: Newport EIS, 4911 South Broad Street, Building 679, Philadelphia, PA 19112-1303, telephone (215) 897-4900, fax: (215) 897-4902; e-mail: james.e.anderson1.ctr@navy.mil. For more information on the NAVSTA Newport BRAC Draft EIS, visit the Navy BRAC PMO website (<http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil>) or the project website <http://www.newporteis.com/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft EIS was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the BRAC Law; NEPA; the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508); Navy procedures for implementing NEPA (32 CFR 775), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) Manual M-5090.1; and other applicable Department of Defense (DoD) and Navy policies and guidance. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare this Draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on October 31, 2012 (*Federal Register*, Vol. 77, No. 211/Wednesday, October 31, 2012/Notices). The Navy is the lead agency for the proposed action.

The purpose of the proposed action is to comply with the BRAC Law and provide for the disposal and reuse of surplus property at NAVSTA Newport in a manner consistent with the Aquidneck Island Reuse Planning Authority's (AIRPA) *Redevelopment Plan for Surplus Properties at NAVSTA Newport* (Redevelopment Plan). The proposed action is needed to provide the local community an opportunity for economic development and job creation.

The Draft EIS has considered two redevelopment alternatives. Alternative 1, the preferred alternative, is the disposal of the surplus property and reuse in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan, which has been prepared and approved by the AIRPA. Alternative 1 includes mixed land use types and densities for each of four non-contiguous surplus properties as well as open space and natural areas. Alternative 2 provides for the disposal of the surplus property at NAVSTA Newport and redevelopment at a higher density and with a different mix of uses than Alternative 1. A No Action alternative was also considered, as required by NEPA and to provide a point of comparison for assessing impacts of the redevelopment alternatives. The four surplus properties to be redeveloped are located in three separate municipalities on Aquidneck Island:

- **Former Navy Lodge** – Approximately 3 acres located in the Town of Middletown
- **Former Naval Hospital** – Approximately 15.2 acres, consisting of 8.3 acres of land and 6.9 acres of offshore riparian rights, located in the City of Newport.
- **Tank Farms 1 and 2** – Approximately 136 acres located in the Town of Portsmouth
- **Midway Pier/Greene Lane** – Approximately 10.7 acres located in the Town of Middletown

The Draft EIS addresses potential environmental impacts under each alternative associated with land use, zoning, and coastal resources; socioeconomics and environmental justice; community facilities and services; transportation; environmental management; air quality; noise; infrastructure and utilities; cultural resources; topography, geology, and soils; water resources; and biological resources. The analysis addresses direct and indirect impacts, and accounts for cumulative impacts from other foreseeable federal, state, or local activities at and around the former NAVSTA Newport properties. The DoN conducted a scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues that should be addressed in the EIS. The DoN considered the comments provided, which identified specific issues or topics of environmental concern, in determining the scope of the EIS. The Draft EIS identifies significant adverse impacts to traffic and cultural resources, and significant beneficial impacts to socioeconomics and community services. The Draft EIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other interested individuals and organizations.

Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as interested members of the public, are invited and encouraged to review and comment on the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is available for viewing at the following locations:

- **Newport Public Library** - 300 Spring Street, Newport, RI 02840
- **Town of Portsmouth Town Hall** - 2200 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871
- **City of Newport, City Hall, 43 Broadway** - Newport, RI 02840
- **Town of Middletown Planning Department** - 350 East Main Road, Middletown, RI 02842

An electronic version of the Draft EIS can be viewed or downloaded at the following websites - <http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil> and <http://www.newporteis.com/>. A limited number of hard copies are available by contacting BRAC PMO East at the address in this notice.

Comments can be made in the following ways: (1) written statements can be submitted to a DoN representative at the public meeting; (2) written comments can be mailed to Director, BRAC PMO East, Attn: Newport EIS, 4911 South Broad Street, Building 679, Philadelphia, PA 19112-1303; (3) written

comments can be e-mailed to james.e.anderson1.ctr@navy.mil; or (4) comments can be faxed to (215) 897-4902, Attn: Mr. James Anderson. Comments may be submitted without attending the public meeting. All comments postmarked or e-mailed no later than midnight, **May 2, 2016**, will become part of the public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Requests for special assistance, sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired, language interpreters, or other auxiliary aids for the scheduled public meetings must be sent by mail or e-mail to Mr. Matthew Butwin, Ecology and Environment, Inc., 368 Pleasant View Drive, Lancaster, NY 14086, telephone: (716) 684-8060, e-mail: mbutwin@ene.com no later than April 1, 2016.

Dated: March 11, 2016