

PTC at a single location within the Continental United States to provide consolidated FMS F-35 pilot training for our FMS nation partners. The need for the Proposed Action addresses the increased capacity required to support the additional purchases of FMS aircraft by our nation partners. The DAF has identified a Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative, and the Refine Operations Alternative to be carried forward for analysis in the SEIS. Under all alternatives, air crews would utilize existing designated special use airspace over areas in Arkansas and Oklahoma. No new special use airspace would be created or modified as part of any of the alternatives.

Under the Proposed Action, the DAF proposes to expand the permanent FMS PTC mission at Ebbing ANG Base over what was analyzed and authorized in the 2023 FMS PTC EIS and ROD. This Proposed Action would beddown an additional 12 F-35s at Ebbing ANG Base and increase F-35 operations (to include F-35B STOVL operations), personnel, and new facilities. Proposed changes in aircraft operations that were not evaluated in the 2023 FMS PTC EIS include the addition of STOVL operations for F-35B aircraft; F-35A and F-35B flight tracks and flight profiles would be revised based on an updated training syllabus; afterburner would be used on 95% of departures for both the F-35A and F-35B; and there would be no reduced-power departures, allowing the F-35 aircraft to accelerate to a 350-knot climb airspeed.

Under the No Action Alternative, the DAF would not expand the FMS PTC mission at Ebbing ANG Base and the DAF would proceed with the implementation of the 2023 FMS PTC ROD issued on March 11, 2023.

Under the Refine Operations Alternative, the DAF would not beddown the additional 12 F-35 aircraft, but aircraft operations would be modified as described in the Proposed Action for the existing 24 F-35 aircraft to satisfy the additional requirements and operational procedures identified for F-35A and F-35B aircraft after completion of the 2023 FMS PTC EIS. With the Refine Operations Alternative, the numbers of annual operations at Ebbing ANG Base, airspace events, Military Training Route events, nighttime operations and events, as well as use of munitions and countermeasures would not change from those listed under the 2023 FMS PTC EIS. Personnel numbers would not change from those described in the 2023 FMS PTC EIS. No additional construction activities would occur under the Refine Operations alternative

except for the construction of a vertical landing pad for STOVL operations. Both the Proposed Action and Refine Operations Alternative would require changes to the Airport Layout Plan, necessitating review and approval by the FAA. Potential impacts may include impacts resulting from, or to, noise, land use, socioeconomic, cultural resources, biological resources, physical resources, and air quality.

Potential permits that could be required include, but are not limited to, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, General Construction, and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

Consultation will include, but not necessarily be limited to, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, to include consultation with federally recognized Native American Tribes. The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft SEIS is anticipated in the Summer of 2025 and the NOA for the Final SEIS is anticipated in the Spring of 2026. A decision could be made no earlier than 30 days after the Final SEIS is published. There is no formal scoping period that will take place for this project and there will be no public scoping meetings as allowed in 32 CFR 989.20(b).

Tommy W. Lee,

Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2025-07091 Filed 4-23-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3911-44-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the South Carolina Highway 22 Extension Project in Horry County, South Carolina

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District intends to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to assess the potential social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed extension of South Carolina Highway 22 (SAC-2024-00107) by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). In accordance with the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Corps is the lead Federal agency responsible for the preparation of the DEIS. Information included in the DEIS will serve as the basis for the Corps' evaluation of the proposed highway extension project pursuant to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) and section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The DEIS will assess potential effects of the proposed highway extension project and a range of reasonable alternatives on impacts to navigable waters and other waters of the United States. The DEIS will also provide information for Federal, State, and local agencies having other jurisdictional responsibility.

DATES: All comments and suggestions must be submitted by May 27, 2025. Individuals and organizations that are interested in the proposed highway extension project or whose interests may be affected by the proposed work are encouraged to submit oral and/or written comments to the Charleston District.

ADDRESSES: Charleston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Ann Eaddy, 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29403.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or questions about the proposed highway extension project and DEIS, please contact Ms. Ann Eaddy, Project Manager, by *email*: Ann.W.Eaddy@usace.army.mil, by *telephone*: 843-365-4239, or by *mail*: Ms. Ann Eaddy, Project Manager, Regulatory Division, 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29403.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Corps is evaluating a proposal from the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) for the proposed extension of South Carolina Highway 22 (SAC-2024-00107) in accordance with section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403), section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and NEPA. Based on the available information, the Corps has determined that SCDOT's proposed extension of SC Highway 22 has the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment and therefore warrants the preparation of an EIS. Additional information about the proposed highway extension project and the NEPA process is available on the project website at: <https://sc-22extension.com>.

1. *Description of Proposed Project.* The South Carolina Highway 22 Extension Project (the proposed Project) includes the establishment of a new highway originating at US Highway 501,

near Aynor, Horry County, South Carolina, and terminating at or near US Highway 17, near Surfside Beach, Horry County, South Carolina. According to SCDOT, the purpose and need for the proposed Project is to provide the southern region of Horry County with congestion relief, improved hurricane evacuation, and improved access to needed services east and west of the Waccamaw River.

2. *Alternatives.* A range of alternatives to the proposed action will be identified, and those found to be reasonable alternatives will be fully evaluated in the EIS, including: the no-action alternative, the applicant's proposed alternative, alternative site configurations, alternatives that may result in avoidance and minimization of impacts, and mitigation measures not in the proposed action. However, this list is not exclusive and additional alternatives may be considered for inclusion.

3. *Scoping and Public Involvement Process.* A scoping meeting will be conducted to gather information on the scope of the project and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS. A local public notice will be issued by the Charleston District, and a meeting announcement will be published in local newspapers once the date and location for the scoping meeting has been determined. Additional public and agency involvement will be sought through the implementation of a public involvement plan and through an agency coordination team.

4. *Significant Issues.* Issues associated with the proposed Project to be given detailed analysis in the DEIS are likely to include, but are not necessarily limited to, the potential impacts of the proposed highway on the existing and proposed transportation infrastructure, waters of the United States, water quality, wetlands and stream habitats, federal and state listed species of concern, threatened and endangered species, mitigation, noise, conservation, economics, cultural resources, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, recreation, water supply and conservation, safety, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

5. *Additional Review and Consultation.* Additional review and consultation, which will be incorporated into the preparation of this DEIS, will include, but will not necessarily be limited to, section 14 of the RHA (33 U.S.C. 408), Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act.

6. *Availability of the Environmental Impact Statement.* The DEIS is anticipated to be available in early 2027. A Public Hearing will be conducted following the release of the DEIS.

Daniel H. Hibner,

Brigadier General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division.

[FR Doc. 2025-07071 Filed 4-23-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Extension of Comment Period for the Draft Amended Analysis to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for EA-18G "Growler" Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Complex

AGENCY: Department of the Navy (DoN), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: On March 14, 2025, the Department of the Navy (DoN) published in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Public Meetings for the Draft Amended Analysis to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Complex. In addition to announcing its hosting of two in-person public meetings (April 1 and 2, 2025) and one virtual meeting (April 3, 2025), the DoN announced a 45-day public comment period beginning March 14, 2025 and ending April 28, 2025. DoN is now extending the comment period until May 13, 2025 to allow the public additional time to review and submit comments on the Draft Amended Analysis.

DATES: The comment period for the notice published on March 14, 2025 at 90 FR 12155 (FR Doc. 2025-04111) is extended. DoN must receive comments by May 13, 2025 to be considered in the Final Amended Analysis. Comments submitted concerning the Draft Amended Analysis prior to this announcement do not need to be resubmitted.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Draft Amended Analysis may be provided electronically through the project website: www.nepa.navy.mil/growler/, or by mail to: Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command

Atlantic; Attention: Code EV21JB (Growler Project Manager); 6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23508-1278.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Fleet Forces Command, 1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250, Norfolk, VA 23551-2487, Attention: Mr. Theodore Brown, Installations and Environment Public Affairs Officer, 757-836-4427, theodore.c.brown4.civ@us.navy.mil, or visit the project website www.nepa.navy.mil/growler/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In July 2019, the Navy defended lawsuits in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington challenging the Navy's 2018 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and 2019 Record of Decision (ROD) for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island Complex. These cases were later consolidated.

In 2022, the Court found the Navy's EIS and ROD violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by "failing to disclose the basis for greenhouse gas emissions calculations, failing to quantify the impact of increased operations on classroom learning, failing to take a hard look at species-specific impacts on birds, and failing to give detailed consideration to the El Centro, California, alternative."

All other claims were dismissed with prejudice. Therefore, the public meetings for the Draft Amended Analysis (held April 1, 2, and 3, 2025) were limited to these four areas identified by the Court. Notice of the availability of the Draft Amended Analysis was distributed to local Tribes, Federal, State, and local agencies, elected officials, and relevant organizations.

Dated: April 18, 2025.

R.A. Kennedy,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2025-07032 Filed 4-23-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Notice of Designation of Policy-Making Positions

AGENCY: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

ACTION: Notice of determination of policy-making positions.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) has determined that the Deputy General