

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.

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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.

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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