



Fact Sheet

5700 18th Street, Bldg 245
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5573

Homeland Defense Radar–Hawai‘i Environmental Impact Statement

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 requires the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to develop a plan to procure a discrimination radar, or equivalent sensor, for a location that will improve homeland missile defense for the defense of Hawai‘i. A “discrimination radar” is capable of identifying and classifying specific missile threats. The NDAA FY 2021 authorizes MDA to continue Homeland Defense Radar - Hawaii (HDR-H) radar development and siting efforts. The FY 2021 Appropriation bill provided funding to continue these efforts in FY 2021. Therefore, MDA is engaged in Advanced Planning studies and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the siting and development of the HDR-H, should a deployment decision be made and is funded. The EIS will be used to support a decision on the location for deployment of the proposed HDR-H. MDA will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800.

Proposed Action

The proposed HDR-H requires MDA to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The Proposed Action to be evaluated in the EIS is to construct, test, and operate the HDR-H. The new HDR-H complex would consist of multiple buildings and facilities placed within and outside of a restricted fenced area, and include associated support facilities and infrastructure. The Proposed Action would also include establishment of restricted airspace and the connected action of potentially relocating several facilities. If the HDR-H were constructed on O‘ahu, the U.S. Air Force Solar Observatory located on O‘ahu would be relocated to either the Air Force Research Laboratory Remote Maui Experiment site on Maui or to PMRF on Kaua‘i.

Details

MDA will prepare the HDR-H EIS in two stages resulting in a draft and final EIS. The EIS will describe the potential effects of the proposed action and its alternatives on the environment. “Environment” in this case is defined as the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. The EIS will include a statement of the purpose and need for the HDR-H, a description of reasonable alternatives to meet the purpose and need, a description of the environment that could be affected by those alternatives, and an analysis of the direct and indirect effects of the cumulative action with consideration of the alternatives for implementing the action. In accordance with federal and state regulations, the EIS will satisfy compliance requirements under NEPA.

EIS Process

Notice of Intent (NOI): The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* on June 1, 2018 to inform the public of MDA’s intent to prepare the HDR-H EIS. During the 2018 public scoping effort, MDA held three public scoping meetings on O‘ahu between June 19 and June 21, 2018. Due to changes in alternatives being considered in the EIS, MDA is reopening scoping to provide the public an opportunity to comment on substantive project changes to previously identified HDR-H alternatives. Originally, one HDR-H alternative was identified at Kuaokalā Ridge (KR) on state-owned land adjacent to the U.S. Air Force Ka‘ena Point Satellite Tracking Station (KPSTS), while two other alternatives were identified at U.S. Army Kahuku Training Area (KTA) and labeled as KTA Site 1 and Site 2. Since 2018, MDA has conducted additional and more intensive siting studies to confirm alternative selection, and optimize facility planning and design. As a result in 2020, MDA removed the U.S. Army KTA Site 2 and KR alternatives from further consideration and added a new alternative at the U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on the island of Kaua‘i. The EIS analysis will include three alternatives: one on O‘ahu (KTA 1), one on Kaua‘i (PMRF), and a No Action Alternative.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS): MDA will prepare a DEIS to evaluate the potential effects of the proposed action. The DEIS will contain a range of reasonable alternatives, a description of the affected environment, and an analysis of the impacts associated with each alternative. A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* announcing a minimum 45-day public review and comment period. Public engagement will occur in order to provide additional information and offer an opportunity for the public to comment on the DEIS. Upon close of the comment period, MDA will consider all substantive comments and, if necessary, conduct further analyses.

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS): MDA will consider and provide responses to substantive public comments received on the DEIS, and prepare and publish the FEIS. Publication of the FEIS begins a period in which agencies are generally required to wait at least 30 days before making a final decision on a proposed action.

Record of Decision (ROD): The HDR-H EIS process ends with the issuance of the ROD. The ROD details the Agency's decision, the alternatives considered, and plans for mitigation and monitoring, if necessary. Additionally, the FAA will issue a ROD on the established restricted airspace.

