



# FAQs

## **What is MDA proposing to do?**

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration and United States Air Force, to inform a decision on the design of additional Special Use Airspace (SUA) necessary for the operation of a Long Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) at the Clear Air Force Station (CAFS) in Alaska.

## **What is MDA's purpose and need for the proposed action?**

The purpose of the additional SUA at CAFS is to support LRDR operations and provide protection from high intensity radiated fields (HIRF) for aircraft operating in the vicinity.

This action is needed as the LRDR's original operational concept did not take into account the planned change in operational tempo and expanded threat space to meet evolving threats. The MDA requires the land-based LRDR to support fielding of enhanced homeland defense capability as a key component of the BMDS.

## **Why does MDA need to prepare an EIS for an LRDR?**

Operation of the LRDR with planned operational tempo and threat space requires MDA to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The 2016 environmental assessment for construction and operation of the LRDR was based on knowledge of the threat at that time and did not anticipate a requirement for additional SUA.

## **Will the project improve missile defense of the United States?**

The LRDR will be an integral part of the US Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System and enhance Homeland defense by increasing the efficiency and lethality of BMD missile interceptors.

## **What are the anticipated environmental impacts?**

The purpose of the EIS is to evaluate potential impacts associated with the additional SUA and we anticipate that the most significant impacts would be to socioeconomics and airspace. Other impacts, as identified, will be assessed in the EIS.



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## **Is there an impact for residents in the area?**

The primary impact to residents would be the potential change to airspace access around the Clear Air Force Station. This change would require pilots to remain outside the restricted air space. The radar will not radiate the ground, water, people, or housing areas.

## **What is the schedule for completion of the EIS?**

The entire EIS process is expected to take approximately 1 year. The process starts with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register and commencement of a 30-day scoping period. Public scoping meetings in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Anderson will occur during the scoping period, which is anticipated in June 2019.

## **Will MDA be coordinating with other agencies on this EIS?**

Throughout the development of the EIS, MDA will coordinate with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and Alaska Native Tribes. MDA will solicit and consider agency and tribal input concerning potential impacts from the additional SUA and will incorporate their comments, as appropriate, in the Draft and Final EIS.

MDA will comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in parallel with this NEPA process and will invite federally recognized tribes and the State Historic Preservation Officer to participate in the consultation process.

## **How is public input included in the EIS process?**

One of the essential components of the EIS development is to engage and educate the public about this project. The public is invited and encouraged to participate throughout the EIS process. MDA desires to understand the communities' interests and concerns regarding the proposed additional SUA for operation of the LRDR at CAFS in Alaska.

## **When does the comment period end and how do I provide comments?**

The formal public scoping comment period is May 17 to July 5, 2019. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed action or request additional information about the project can email the project team at: [info@cleareis.com](mailto:info@cleareis.com) or mail to Clear Air Force Station LRDR EIS c/o HDR, 2525 C Street, Suite 500, Anchorage, AK 99503.