



# Fact Sheet

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## Homeland Defense Radar–Hawaii Environmental Impact Statement

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act requires the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to develop a plan to procure and field a discrimination radar to improve the defense of Hawaii from ballistic missile threat. A “discrimination radar” is capable of identifying and classifying specific ballistic missile threats. The construction and operation of this radar requires MDA to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act (HEPA). The EIS will be used to inform a decision on the location of deployment, construction, and operation of the discrimination radar.

### Overview

- NEPA requires federal agencies to ensure decision-makers make informed decisions based on an understanding of the environmental impacts and potential consequences of their proposed actions.
- Under NEPA, federal agencies are required to coordinate with other agencies having environmental expertise or regulatory oversight and give the public the opportunity to review input and comment on proposed actions, alternatives, and the environmental analysis.

### Proposed Action

The Proposed Action to be evaluated in the EIS is to construct and operate a missile defense radar system complex in Hawaii that would support the U.S. ballistic missile defense system and enhance homeland defense capabilities in the Pacific region including Hawaii.

### Details

MDA is preparing this EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed construction and operation of a Homeland Defense Radar in Hawaii (HDR-H). 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 all 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 action with consideration of the alternatives for implementing the action.

### EIS Process

**Notice of Intent (NOI):** The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* to inform the public of MDA's intent to prepare the HDR-H EIS. The NOI provides a brief description of the proposed action and alternatives; information on the scoping process; and MDA's point of contact. MDA is requesting assistance from the public in identifying significant issues to analyze in the HDR-H EIS. Three public scoping open house meetings will be held during the scoping period to provide the public with information and to offer an opportunity to comment on issues for analysis. Notification of the meeting locations, dates, and times were published and announced in local news media prior to the meetings.

**Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN):** The EISPN was published in *The Environmental Notice* to inform the public of the intent of the preparation of an EIS pursuant to and in accordance with Sections 11-200-9 and 11-200-11.2 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules.

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS):** MDA will prepare a DEIS to evaluate the potential effect of the proposed action. The DEIS will contain a reasonable range of alternatives, a description of the affected environment, and an analysis of the impacts of each alternative. A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* and in *The Environmental Notice* announcing a minimum 45-day public review and comment period. Open house public meetings will be held 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 will prepare and publish an 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.