



Fact Sheet

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

Long Range Discrimination Radar Special Use Airspace Environmental Impact Statement National Environmental Policy Act Process

The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act requires the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to deploy a Long Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) to improve the United States defense against ballistic missile threats. Due to threat evolution, operational requirements have changed creating the need to expand the current Special Use Airspace (SUA) at Clear Air Force Station (CAFS) to protect nearby aircraft. This EIS is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 to evaluate potential environmental impacts that could result from LRDR SUA alternatives. The EIS will supplement a 2016 Environmental Assessment (EA) to inform a decision on the design of the additional SUA.

Overview

- NEPA requires federal agencies to ensure that 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 the design of additional SUA necessary to operate the LRDR at CAFS with planned operational tempo and threat space that would support the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense System and enhance homeland defense capabilities.

Details

MDA is preparing this EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed additional SUA for the operation of the LRDR at CAFS. MDA will prepare the LRDR EIS in two stages, resulting in a Draft and a Final EIS. The EIS will describe the potential effects of the proposed additional SUA on the environment. "Environment" in this case is defined as the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people within that environment. The EIS will include a statement of the purpose and need for the additional SUA, a description of all reasonable alternative SUA configurations to meet the purpose and need, a description of the environment that could be affected by the additional SUA, and an analysis of the direct and indirect effects of the additional SUA.

EIS Process

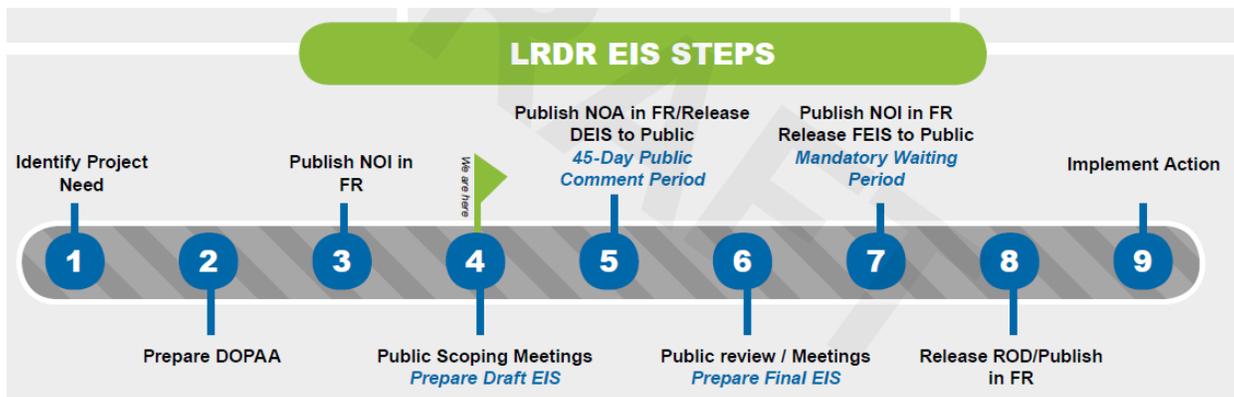
Notice of Intent (NOI): The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* to inform the public of MDA's intent to prepare the LRDR SUA EIS. The NOI provided a brief description of the proposed action and alternatives; information on the scoping process; and MDA's point of contact. MDA is requesting assistance from the public in identifying significant issues to analyze in the LRDR EIS. Three public 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 will be published and announced in local news media prior to the meetings.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS): MDA will prepare a Draft EIS to evaluate the potential effects of the proposed additional SUA. The Draft EIS will contain a description of alternative SUA configurations, a description of the affected environment, and an analysis of the impacts of each alternative SUA configuration. A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* 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 Draft EIS. Upon close of the comment period, MDA will consider all substantive comments and, if necessary, conduct further analyses.

Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS): MDA will consider and provide responses to substantive public comments received on the Draft EIS and will prepare and publish a Final EIS. Publication of the Final EIS 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 LRDR SUA 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.

EIS Process



Acronym Key

CAFS: Clear Air Force Station
 DEIS: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 DOPAA: Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

EA: Environmental Assessment
 EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
 FEIS: Final Environmental Impact Statement
 FR: Federal Register

LRDR: Long Range Discrimination Radar
 MDA: Missile Defense Agency
 NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
 NOA: Notice of Availability

NOI: Notice of Intent
 ROD: Record of Decision
 SUA: Special Use Airspace

Comment Period

Your input is important. The formal comment period is **May 17–July 5, 2019**. You may submit comments by mail (address below) or emailing the project team at info@cleareis.com.

Clear Air Force Station LRDR EIS

C/O HDR

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General Questions or Comments

For any questions, please visit the project website at https://www.mda.mil/news/nepa_documents.html or email the project team at info@cleareis.com.