

PROPOSED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF LONG RANGE DISCRIMINATION RADAR AT CLEAR AIR
FORCE STATION, ALASKA

BACKGROUND: The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) prepared a joint Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the deployment of a Long Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) system at Clear Air Force Station (CAFS), Alaska (AK). The LRDR system supports defense of the United States.

The attached LRDR EA, which is hereby incorporated by reference, was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321 et seq.), the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Title 40, Parts 1500-1508), and Department of the Air Force Policy and Procedures (32 CFR 989), Environmental Impact Analysis Process.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES: The Proposed Action is to construct and operate a missile defense radar system complex in the Pacific Region at CAFS which would support a LRDR and command and control components. The Proposed Action would include mission critical, mission support, and non-mission support facilities. Mission critical facilities would consist of the Mission Control Facility, LRDR equipment shelter and foundation, an entry control facility with a secure boundary, restricted perimeter and animal control fences, a power plant; and a fuel storage system. Mission support facilities would be located outside the restricted area and would consist of a maintenance facility, near field antennas, and infrastructure. Non-mission LRDR-specific support facilities would consist of a new dormitory for LRDR operating personnel and a new steam heating plant for the new dormitory; as well as related activities consisting of repair and replacement of the potable water facility for the new dormitory and repairs (mill and overlay) to Clear Road entering the installation. In addition to the non-mission LRDR-specific actions, several non-mission non-LRDR support facilities and activities will also be implemented including a new fire station, consolidation of civil engineering facilities, main gate improvements, and demolition of the previous Ballistic Missile Early Warning System radar and associated facilities. Infrastructure would consist of electrical services including an onsite electrical substation, water, sewer, paving, sidewalks, storm drainage, fire protection and alarm systems, telecommunication point of presence, and information management systems.

Alternative 1-Site 3A: Under this alternative, the LRDR site (includes both the mission critical and support facilities) at CAFS would primarily be located at the Old Tech Site. At this location, the LRDR site would be in close proximity to available utilities, such as power, communications, and roads. Alternative 1-Site 3A would consist of approximately 44.2 acres with 31.4 acres for the site layout area. Alternative 1-Site 3A is located in a previously developed area requiring minimal site clearing.

Alternative 2-Site 3B: Under this alternative, the LRDR site (includes both the mission critical and support facilities) at CAFS would also primarily be located at the Old Tech Site, but would encompass an area that had not been previously developed. At this location, the LRDR site would also be in close proximity to available utilities, such as power, communications, and roads. Alternative 2-Site 3B would consist of approximately 44.2 acres which includes 31.4 acres for the site layout area. In addition, Alternative 2-Site 3B would require 12.8 acres outside the site layout area for radar sighting above the trees and would require approximately 26 acres of tree clearing.

No Action: Under the no action alternative, the LRDR facilities would not be constructed or operated. Thus, no environmental impacts were identified for this alternative.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: In assessing the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action, potential effects to 15 environmental resource areas including air quality, airspace, biological resources, cultural resources, environmental justice, geology and soils, hazardous materials and hazardous waste management, health and safety, land use, noise, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, water resources, and wetlands were analyzed in the attached EA. Each environmental resource was evaluated for impacts from implementing the proposed action and alternatives. No significant impacts from construction or operation of the Proposed Action were identified for any resources under either Alternative 1-Site 3A or Alternative 2-Site 3B.

Cumulative impacts for the Proposed Actions were also reviewed and evaluated for the same environmental resources. Following review of the LRDR alternative actions in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions at CAFS, no significant cumulative impacts would occur.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT: A Notice of Availability of the Proposed Final EA and unsigned Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for public review and comment was published in local newspapers and posted at post offices. Copies were also placed in local libraries and posted on the MDA internet site at http://www.mda.mil/news/environmental_reports.html. The public comment period closed on June 2, 2016.

CONCLUSION: The environmental analysis shows no significant impacts from any of the proposed actions or alternatives. Preparing an environmental impact statement is not required. The MDA and AFSPC are issuing a FONSI. This determination was made in accordance with all applicable environmental laws.

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ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact.

APPROVE:

John H. James, Jr.
Executive Director
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DATE: _____

APPROVE:

Michelle A. Linn, GS-15, DAF
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DATE: _____