

# FACT SHEET

## National Environmental Policy Act

### *An Overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)*

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the national charter for promoting productive harmony between man and the environment and minimizing the impacts of federal actions. This law requires all federal agencies to consider potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives in making decisions about those actions. Public involvement is an essential part of the process. With public involvement and environmental analysis, the NEPA process helps the Navy arrive at the best possible informed decision.

Informed decisions are based on a candid and factual presentation of environmental impacts. These facts come from collecting information on the areas and resources (for example, threatened and endangered species, water quality, and land use) affected by the proposal, and then identifying the type and extent of potential impacts resulting from the proposal.

This information is then presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). Following public review of the Draft EIS, comments are considered and integrated into the Final EIS which is re-released for public review. The Navy then makes a determination on how to implement the proposed action based in part on the analysis provided in the Final EIS.

### *What is the NEPA process for this EIS?*

The environmental impact analysis process provides numerous opportunities for public input and involvement. This NEPA process began when the Notice of Intent was published in the *Federal Register* on November 14, 2006, announcing the intent of the Navy to prepare an EIS. A 45-day public scoping period included an open house and allowed the public to identify specific issues and concerns. Preparation of the Draft EIS then began and resulted in its publication on March 28, 2008.

Following receipt of comments on the Draft EIS, the Navy will prepare the Final EIS, which will include all public comments and responses to those comments. The Final EIS availability will be announced in local newspapers and the *Federal Register*. Copies of the Final EIS will be sent to those of you who already received a copy of the draft and/or have indicated that you would like a copy of the final.

*All federal agencies must consider the environmental impacts of any major proposed projects.*

*Informed decisions are based on a candid and factual presentation of environmental impacts.*

### The EIS Timeline

Notice of Intent Published in <i>Federal Register</i>	Nov. 14, 2006
Public Scoping Open House	Dec. 5, 2006
Preparation of Draft EIS	Dec. 2006 to Mar. 2008
Notice of Availability of Draft EIS	Mar. 28, 2008
Public Comment Period-45 days	Mar. 28, 2008 to May 12, 2008
Preparation of Final EIS	May to Nov. 2008
Notice of Availability of Final EIS	Nov. 2008
Waiting Period-30 days	
Record of Decision	Jan. 2009

A waiting period of 30 days will occur after the Final EIS is published, and then the Navy will announce their decision in a Record of Decision (ROD).

***Where are we now in the process?***

We are now in the 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIS, during which the public hearing is being held. A public hearing is a meeting where the public is given the opportunity to voice their comments on the Draft EIS. Each person wishing to provide oral comments at the public hearing will be given a time allotment to ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak. If you cannot attend the public hearing, or would prefer to provide written comments, you may mail your written comments or submit your comments via our website at the address provided below. Your comments are important; however, the more effective comments are those that directly relate and are specific to the contents and analysis presented in the Draft EIS.

The public hearing will be at Florida Community College of Jacksonville (FCCJ) Deerwood Campus on 9911 Old Baymeadows Road in room B1204. It will start at 4:30 p.m. beginning with an open house where Navy representatives will be available to answer any questions the public might have about the analysis provided in the Draft EIS. A formal presentation will occur at 6:30 p.m., with comments formally recorded from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

***Where can you find a copy of the Draft EIS?***

If you want to review the Draft EIS but did not request a copy, several local public libraries have copies of the document:

*Fernandina Beach*—Fernandina Public Library

*Jacksonville Area*—Jacksonville Main Library

Pablo Creek Library

Regency Square Library

*Neptune Beach*—Beaches Library

The Draft EIS can also be found on the Navy website at <http://www.mayporthomeportingeis.com>

***How can you provide comments?***

- 1. Speak during the public hearing. Fill out a speaker card, then following a formal presentation by the Navy, you will have a chance to speak and have your comments recorded.***
- 2. Fill out a comment sheet at the public hearing.***
- 3. Submit written comments and mail them to the Navy.***
- 4. Submit your comments online at [www.mayporthomeportingeis.com](http://www.mayporthomeportingeis.com)***

***Public Hearing Schedule  
April 16, 2008***

***4:30-6:30 p.m.—Open house***

***6:30-7 p.m.—Navy presentation***

***7-8:30 p.m.—Public comments heard***

***Please provide your comments by May 12, 2008 to ensure they are addressed in the Final EIS.***

***Mail written comments to:***

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast

ATTN: Mr. Will Sloger, Code EV21

2155 Eagle Drive

North Charleston, SC 29406

*Or submit comments via our website: <http://www.mayporthomeportingeis.com>*