

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FLOODPLAIN

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that the Navy is conducting an evaluation of a proposed action which may involve construction in a floodplain to determine the potential effects that its activity in the floodplain would have on the human environment. The Navy will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988.

The Navy Operational Support Center aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, located in Escambia County, Florida, is proposing to relocate an existing floating jet dock used to store Navy Reserve Maritime Pre-positioning Force Utility Boats (MPFUBs) to protect them from degradation caused by prolonged time in the water. As required by EO 11988, a more detailed description of the proposed action is available below.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Interested parties may submit written comments no later than 5:00 PM Central Time on July 29, 2021 by email to [Joelle.odaniellopez@navy.mil](mailto:Joelle.odaniellopez@navy.mil) or by mail postmarked no later than July 29, 2021 to:

NAS Pensacola  
Joelle O'Daniel-Lopez, NEPA Program Manager,  
310 John Towers Road  
Pensacola, FL 32508

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Navy Operational Support Center aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, located in Escambia County, Florida, is proposing to relocate an existing floating jet dock used to store Navy Reserve Maritime Pre-positioning Force Utility Boats (MPFUBs) to protect them from degradation caused by prolonged time in the water. The project will include installation of new pilings and the repair and relocation of the existing floating dock.

The MPFUBs are used by the Navy Operational Support Center to train and qualify reservists in the operation and maintenance of MPFUBs. The existing jet dock has the capability to store two MPFUBs and is currently located in shallow water at Bayou Grande Marina on NAS Pensacola. The current location is insufficient, so the proposed project will relocate the dock to deeper water approximately 150 feet from its existing location where it can operate properly. The project includes installing five 12" diameter marine grade wood pilings to secure the floating jet dock in place. The existing dock will be repaired and relocated to the new location and attached to the newly installed pilings. This will allow the MPFUBs to enter and exit the floating jet dock and protect the vessels from degradation.

The Navy is proposing the action in a floodplain because of its location in Bayou Grande and proximity to Pensacola Bay. The MPFUBs are water vessels and the proposed dock location provides easy access to Pensacola Bay and the Gulf of Mexico to meet military mission and training requirements. The alternative to repair and relocation actions would be no action. If no action is provided, the MPFUBs would remain in the water for prolonged periods of time, which would continue to degrade the vessels. This is much less efficient, as it requires additional costs and time spent on maintaining the MPFUBs. No action would negatively affect training missions, as the vessels may be out of service while maintenance is being completed. Repair and relocation of the dock would provide an operable floating dock to remove the MPFUBs from the water and improve life expectancy of the vessels to ensure that short and long-term military mission and training requirements are met.

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Figure 1 - Location Map



Figure 2 - Site Map

