

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.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. The proposed project is to complete repairs to the hurricane damaged Fuel Barge Pier and Barge Shack located on NAS Pensacola, in Escambia County, Florida. The project will include selective demolition and repair work on various parts of the facilities. 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 June 8, 2021 by email to Joelle.odaniellopez@navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than June 8, 2021 to:

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. The proposed project is to complete repairs to the hurricane damaged Fuel Barge Pier and Barge Shack located on NAS Pensacola, in Escambia County, Florida. The project will include selective demolition and repair work on various parts of the facilities. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide safe facilities for fuel delivery operations in support of the military flight training mission. The Proposed Action is needed because Hurricane Sally caused significant damage to the Barge Pier and Barge Shack when the hurricane made landfall in September 2020.

NAS Pensacola aviation fuel deliveries are made from the Barge Pier by pipeline to the Fuel Farm, located one half mile north of the Barge Pier. The Barge Shack provides office space in support of fueling activities. The Barge Pier and the Barge Shack are in need of repairs due to damage caused by Hurricane Sally in September 2020. For the Barge Pier, this project will include replacement of the electrical distribution and lighting systems for the pier, plumbing replacement and repair work for the emergency eyewash station, and road repairs and upgrades. For the Barge Shack, this project will include roof, window, and HVAC replacement. In addition, a temporary contractor trailer and laydown area may be placed onsite during the extent of the project.

The Navy is proposing the action in a floodplain because of the close proximity to Pensacola Bay. The current location for the Fuel Barge Pier allows access for fuel barges to deliver fuel to NAS Pensacola in support of the military flight training mission. The location of the Barge Shack allows for a manned office space during scheduled deliveries. To construct a new building outside of the floodplain would defeat the whole purpose of the building and would be constructed at much greater economic and environmental costs. This project will ensure that military flight training mission requirements are met through continued fueling operations.

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Location Map



Site Location

