

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 proposed action is to install approximately 350 feet of new buried conduit and fiber optic cable from an existing handhole to Building 630 located on Naval Air Station Pensacola in Escambia County, Florida. 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 25, 2021 by email to joelle.odaniellopez@navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than June 25, 2021 to:

Naval Air Station Pensacola
Joelle O'Daniel-Lopez, NEPA Program Manager
310 John Towers Road, Building 3560
Pensacola, FL 32508

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed action is to install approximately 350 feet of new buried conduit and fiber optic cable from an existing handhole to building 630 located on Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola in Escambia County, Florida. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide necessary upgrades to the communication services for the Navy Exchange (NEX) and other building tenants.

The Navy is proposing the action in a floodplain because the facility, building 630, is located within the boundaries of floodplains associated with Pensacola Bay and is in need of upgrades to the current data services. There is no existing conduit that can be used to install the new fiber optic cable. Therefore, new buried conduit will be installed from an existing handhole near the intersection of Murray Road and Saufley Avenue to building 630 via directional bore and new fiber optic cable will be installed to provide necessary upgrades to the data services. If no action is provided, data services cannot be upgraded, which would negatively impact the communication abilities for the NEX and other building tenants.

Implementation of the proposed action would not affect flood frequency or severity because there would be no construction of structures that would increase the potential for an increased amount of flood waters, and all construction actions would be in compliance with applicable State and local flood protection standards.

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Location Map



Site Map

