

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, located in Escambia County, Florida, has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. Building 646 is one of many facilities aboard the installation that sustained substantial damage during Hurricane Sally. The proposed action is to complete repairs on various interior and exterior components of Building 646 to restore the facility to fully functional conditions. 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 September 5, 2021 by email to joelle.odaniellopez@navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than September 5, 2021 to:

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, located in Escambia County, Florida, has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. Building 646 is one of many facilities aboard the installation that sustained substantial damage during Hurricane Sally. The proposed action is to complete repairs on various interior and exterior components of Building 646 to restore the facility to fully functional conditions.

Building 646 is located at the northeast corner of Radford Boulevard and West Avenue and serves as a parachute and dinghy maintenance facility. The purpose of this project is to repair hurricane damage and provide a safe facility to support the military mission. This project includes, but is not limited to, the repair or replacement of roofing systems; exterior walls, doors, windows, and canopy; interior ceilings, walls, and floors; domestic water heater and water pipe insulation; fire alarm system; HVAC system; and electrical lighting and distribution systems. In addition, debris and sediment will be cleaned from the existing stormwater inlet to prevent flooding. Restoring the facility to fully functional conditions is essential to meeting military mission requirements for NAS Pensacola.

The Navy is proposing the action in a floodplain because repair of the existing building is the most cost-efficient and least destructive alternative for restoring this facility to fully functional conditions. Alternatives to repair actions include new construction and no action. New construction outside of the floodplain would allow for a new modern facility but at much greater economic and environmental costs than repair. If no action is provided, the facility would continue to deteriorate and eventually become inoperable. This will incur extra costs and negatively affect military missions. Repair of the damaged building is the most cost-efficient alternative, will ensure that short and long-term military mission requirements are met, and allow for minimal effects to the floodplain and the natural environment.

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Location Map



Site Map

