NCR Public Buildings Service

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, commonly referred to as NEPA, is one of the nation's laws for protection of the environment. NEPA provides for the consideration of environmental issues in Federal agency planning and decision-making. NEPA requires Federal agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies take into account the effects of their actions on any district, site, building, structure, or object listed or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Federal Research Center is listed on the National Register as the Naval Ordinance Laboratory District. GSA has initiated consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust in order to comply with Section 106.

Project Purpose and Need

Purpose: To provide a Master Plan for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Campus at FRC to accommodate the projected growth.

Need: The proposed action is needed to continue to support the FDA Headquarters consolidation at FRC and provide the necessary office space in order to conduct the complex and comprehensive reviews mandated by Congress.

Preliminary Scope of the EIS

GSA is preparing an EIS to identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action and assess potential impacts from the proposed expansion on the human environment. GSA's objective in preparing this EIS is to ensure impacts on the natural, social, cultural, and built environment are identified and considered in the Federal decision-making process.

A range of action alternatives for the Master Plan will be considered in the EIS that could potentially include additional building(s) and changes to building height, massing, and layout. The Master Plan will also include reconfigured roads and additional security screening areas. Areas under consideration for the Master Plan are shown in pink on the 2017 Potential FDA Development Plan.

Preliminary impact topics for inclusion in the EIS are natural resources, social environment, cultural resources, transportation, air quality, noise, utilities, and environmental contamination. Your comments will be greatly appreciated and will be considered when refining alternatives to be studied in the EIS. Your comments will also help GSA determine impact topics to be studied in detail in the EIS.

Public Involvement and Project Schedule

- Notice of Intent – August 18, 2017
- Scoping meeting – September 12, 2017
- End of Scoping Period – September 25, 2017
- Preparation of Draft EIS – Winter 2017/2018
- Draft EIS Public Comment Period – January/February 2018
- Draft EIS Public Meeting – February 2018
- Final EIS – Fall 2018
- Record of Decision – Fall 2018

Send Written Comments to:

Attention: Mr. Paul Gyamfi
Office of Planning and Design Quality
Public Buildings Service
National Capital Region
U.S. General Services Administration
301 7th Street, SW, Room 4004
Washington, DC 20407

Paul.Gyamfi@gsa.gov

Please visit the project website for more details:

https://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/166346

All comments on the Proposed Master Plan are due to GSA by September 25, 2017.

(Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than September 25, 2017.)
Comments on the Section 106 process will be accepted throughout the consultation process with the Maryland Historical Trust.

For more information, please call 202.440.3405.

FDA Consolidation

at the Federal Research Center at White Oak
Silver Spring, MD

National Environmental Policy Act
and
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
Compliance

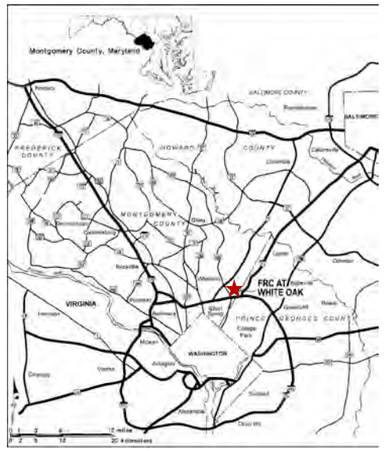
Public Scoping Meeting

September 12, 2017

Purpose of Scoping

The purpose of scoping is to provide citizens an opportunity to learn about the study and to identify potential alternatives, and other significant issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Scoping also invites the participation of affected Federal, State and local agencies in the project. It also helps to identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues that are not significant or that have been covered by previous environmental review.

Project Background and History



The Federal Research Center (FRC) at White Oak was a Navy weapons research center from 1944 to 1995. The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990 ended the Navy's use of the site as a weapons research center. In 1997, the Navy transferred 670 acres to GSA and the Army acquired the remaining 40 acres of the site as part of the transfer. Also, in 1997, GSA completed an EIS that analyzed the impacts from the consolidation of 5,974 FDA employees at the FRC.

In July of 2002, new legislation was passed that expanded FDA's mandate to support the Prescription Drug User Fee Act and the Medical User Device Fee Modernization Act. This new legislation and the growth of other programs resulted in a need to increase the number of employees at the FRC and a new eastern access road to accommodate those employees. In 2005, GSA completed a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that analyzed the impacts of increasing the number of employees from 5,947 to 7,720 and the impacts of adding the new eastern access entrance point into the FRC.

In September 2007, additional legislation was enacted that expanded FDA's mandate to support the PDUFA and the MDUFMA. In order for the FDA to fulfill the legislative mandates, it became necessary to increase the number of employees at the FRC from 7,720 to 8,889. In 2009, GSA completed an SEIS to evaluate the impacts of the addition of these employees.

To accommodate future growth and further consolidate FDA operations, GSA is preparing a new Master Plan for the FRC. GSA has identified several key areas for potential development. Development would include new office buildings, parking garages, reconfigured roads and new security screening points. GSA is also preparing an EIS to assess the impacts of the proposed lease consolidation of the total population at the site increasing up to approximately 18,000 employees over a 15- year period.

2017 Potential FDA Development Areas

Key Facts

Gross Square Feet
- 3,766,605 SF Existing GSF
- 1,555,00 SF Proposed (approximate)

Campus Population
- 12,855 – Existing campus staff (current peak daily population: 7,793)
- Projected up to approximately 18,000 over a 15-year period

Parking
- Current Parking
  - 8,498 – Total parking required
  - 6,817 – Existing parking available
  - 1,681 – Current Parking deficit
- Projected Parking
  - 11,709 – Total projected parking required
  - 4,273 – Existing parking to remain
  - 7, 346 – Total projected new parking required*

*New parking includes the replacement of existing surface parking spaces displaced accommodate new buildings.

GSA *Smarter Solutions*