

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF EARLY PUBLIC REVIEW FOR A PROPOSED ACTION
IN A WETLAND AT EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, ALASKA

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is proposing to consolidate munitions storage, assembly, and production functions at Eielson Air Force Base (AFB), Alaska. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, DAF is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential effects of the associated construction and demolition projects (the "Proposed Action"). DAF is issuing this notice to advise the public of the proposed development.

Currently, munitions storage, assembly, and production at Eielson AFB are divided between two Munitions Storage Areas (MSAs): Engineer Hill and Quarry Hill. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to consolidate munitions functions to a single MSA at Quarry Hill to reduce the footprint and improve the efficiency of munitions operations; eliminate facility upkeep and monitoring; and reduce travel time and costs associated with maintaining two separate MSAs. Additionally, the Proposed Action would eliminate explosive hazards to the general base population.

The Proposed Action would entail construction of facilities at Quarry Hill and demolition of facilities at Engineer Hill. The proposed construction of a Cold Inert Storage Facility (+19,000 square feet [SF]), four Multi-Bay Storage Magazines (+44,000 SF), a Munitions Production Facility (+108,900 SF), and a Munitions Water Facility (+450 SF) would require clearing approximately 11.9 acres of forested wetlands and converting at least 3.2 acres of these wetlands into uplands. Conversion from wetlands to uplands for the Proposed Action would likely have a long-term, negligible, adverse effect on wetlands at Quarry Hill. DAF would minimize potential wetland effects by obtaining a Section 404 permit for projects requiring discharge or dredging of fill into wetlands. The permit process would include consultation with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and identification of mitigation measures. There are no wetlands within the Engineer Hill project footprint; therefore, demolition at Engineer Hill is not anticipated to affect wetlands.

The Proposed Action is subject to the requirements and objectives of Executive Order (EO) 11990 "Protection of Wetlands." This notice is required by EO 11990 Section 2(b) and DAF Manual 32-7003 for actions proposed in wetlands. As part of the EA process, DAF will contact state and federal regulatory agencies such as USACE and the State Historic Preservation Office for their input and expertise on the Proposed Action.

DAF requests advance public comment to determine if there are any public concerns regarding the Proposed Action's potential to affect wetlands. Comments regarding wetland effects with respect to this proposal may be submitted to: Eielson AFB Public Affairs, 354 Broadway St., Ste 15A, Eielson AFB, AK 99702-2299 or by email to: 354fw.pa.publicaffairs@us.af.mil. This notice is also available for review at: <https://www.eielson.af.mil/General-Information/Environmental/>.

PRIVACY ADVISORY NOTICE

Public commenting allows DAF to make better, informed decisions. Letters or other written or oral comments provided may be published in the EA. As required by law, comments provided will be addressed in the EA and made available to the public. Providing personal information is voluntary. Any personal information provided will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement

during the public comment portion of any public meetings or hearings or to fulfill requests for copies of the EA or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing address for those requesting copies of the EA. However, only the name of individuals making comments and the specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the Final EA.