

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION****NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[OMB Control No. 9000-0141]

**Federal Acquisition Regulation;
Submission for OMB Review; Buy
American Act—Construction**

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0141).

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information requirement concerning Buy American Act—Construction (Grimberg Decision). A request for public comments was published in the **Federal Register** at 73 FR 14780, March 19, 2008. No comments were received.

Public comments are particularly invited on: Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the FAR, and whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Submit comments on or before July 31, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Ms. Meredith Murphy, Contract Policy Division, GSA, at (202) 208-6925.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VPR), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Purpose**

The clauses at FAR 52.225-9, Buy American Act—Construction Materials, and FAR 52.225-11, Buy American Act—Construction Materials under Trade Agreements, prove that offerors/contractors requesting to use foreign construction material, other than construction material eligible under a trade agreement shall provide adequate information for Government evaluation of the request. These regulations implement the Buy American Act for construction (41 U.S.C. 10a - 10d).

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Respondents: 500.

Responses Per Respondent: 2.

Annual Responses: 1,000.

Hours Per Response: 2.5.

Total Burden Hours: 2,500.

Obtaining Copies of Proposals:

Requesters may obtain a copy of the information collection documents from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VPR), Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 501-4755. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0141, Buy American Act—Construction (Grimberg Decision) in all correspondence.

Dated: May 20, 2008.

Al Matera,

Director, Office of Acquisition Policy.

[FR Doc. E8-14870 Filed 6-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-EP-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Navy****Record of Decision for the
Development of the Westside of Marine
Corps Base Quantico, Including the
2005 Base Realignment and Closure
Action**

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. Section 4332(2)(c), the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy NEPA regulation (32 CFR part 775), and the Marine Corps Environmental Compliance and Protection Manual, which is Marine Corps Order P5090.2A (MCO P5090.2A), the Department of the Navy announces its decision to develop the area west of Interstate 95 (Westside) at Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCB Quantico), Virginia. This action will include implementation of the 2005

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action at MCB Quantico. The development of Westside and implementation of BRAC 2005 at MCB Quantico will be accomplished as set out in the Preferred Alternative and described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) of April 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeff Gardner, NREA Branch (B046), 3250 Catlin Avenue, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA 22134-0855, telephone: 703-432-6770, and e-mail: jeff.gardner@usmc.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 2005, the Secretary of Defense and the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended that certain realignment actions occur at MCB Quantico. The President and Congress approved these recommendations, which became law on November 9, 2005. These recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-510), as amended, no later than September 15, 2011. The actions directed at MCB Quantico are the collocation of Military Department Investigation Agencies Headquarters with the Counterintelligence Field Activity, and the Defense Security Service at MCB Quantico. These realignment actions will add approximately 3,000 personnel to work at MCB Quantico by 2011.

Projected personnel growth in Marine Corps units currently on Mainside, requirements to consolidate personnel located elsewhere, replacement of inadequate facilities on Mainside, and an expectation that other federal and Marine Corps initiatives will continue to identify MCB Quantico as a site for relocation, combined with limited redevelopment potential on Mainside, comprise the additional need to develop Westside.

Proposed Action. The Marine Corps proposes development of the Westside of MCB Quantico including the 2005 BRAC action at MCB Quantico. The development would entail construction of new facilities in two undeveloped areas west of I-95. These areas, the Russell Road Area and the MCB-1 Area, would accommodate the collocation of Military Department Investigation Agencies with the Department of Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency at MCB Quantico as directed by the 2005 BRAC law. They would also provide space for adequate facilities to support Marine Corps units currently at MCB Quantico, as well as potentially other federal and Marine

Corps initiatives that may identify MCB Quantico as a site for relocation. The components of the Proposed Action include construction and operation of new facilities with the necessary infrastructure, road improvements, and security measures to support new facilities.

Alternatives Considered: The Final EIS assesses two action Alternatives, A and B, that respectively provide development to support only the BRAC Action involving 3,000 personnel, or development to support both the BRAC Action and an additional 2,000 personnel that would relocate to the Westside. Both Alternatives A and B include the two development location options for the BRAC component that were identified in the 2006 *Quantico Land Use Plan, I-95 West*: (BRAC Option 1 (Russell Road) and BRAC Option 2 (MCB-1)). The following four options to implement the Proposed Action are evaluated by the Final EIS. Alternative B BRAC Option 1 (Russell Road) is the Marine Corps Preferred Alternative.

Alternative A, BRAC Action.

Alternative A would add only the development required to accommodate those personnel (approximately 3,000) associated with the BRAC 2005 action. About 70 acres would be required for the facilities. About 735,000 square feet of space and provision of parking and necessary supporting infrastructure would be constructed. Road widening and intersection improvements would be required throughout the Russell Road/MCB-1 corridor, from the intersection of Russell Road with U.S. Route 1 to the Southern Russell Road Site and/or to the MCB-1 Area. Alternative A BRAC Option 1 (Russell Road) would site the entire BRAC development in the Southern Russell Road Site, south of Telegraph Road and just east of the intersection of Russell Road with Telegraph Road. Alternative A BRAC Option 2 (MCB-1) would site the entire BRAC development in the Northern MCB-1 Site along Hotpatch Road.

Alternative B, 5,000 Personnel Including BRAC. Alternative B would add 5,000 personnel to work in the Westside, including 3,000 BRAC and 2,000 non-BRAC personnel. The non-BRAC personnel include approximately 1,000 personnel currently working elsewhere at MCB Quantico. Total space needed for BRAC and non-BRAC components is estimated to be approximately 148 acres and 1,300,000 square feet of interior space. Road widening and intersection improvements would be required throughout the Russell Road/MCB-1

corridor, from the intersection of Russell Road with U.S. Route 1 to the Southern Russell Road Site and/or to the MCB-1 Area.

Alternative B BRAC Option 1 (Russell Road) (The Preferred Alternative) would site the entire BRAC development in the Southern Russell Road Site; the remainder of the development for the additional 2,000 personnel would be sited in the MCB-1 Area, including approximately 300 personnel potentially at the Weapons Training Battalion Site. Alternative B BRAC Option 2 (MCB-1) would site the entire BRAC development in the MCB-1 Site along Hotpatch Road. The remaining development for 2,000 personnel could be completely sited in other parcels of the MCB-1 Area, or completely sited in the Southern Russell Road Site, or split between the two areas in some combination. Development for 300 personnel would be considered for the Weapons Training Battalion Site.

No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative would maintain the status quo. The No Action Alternative would not permit the implementation of the BRAC-directed action and would not be consistent with current law.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The No Action Alternative maintains the status quo and therefore does not impact the existing environment. It is the environmentally preferred alternative. However, it does not meet the purpose and need of the action, and does not comply with BRAC law. Therefore, a further environmental comparison of the two action alternatives, which meet purpose and need, is provided.

Alternative A would disturb a smaller quantity of environmental resources and consequently would be environmentally preferred to Alternative B. In terms of satisfying the BRAC requirement, either BRAC Option 1 (Russell Road) or BRAC Option 2 (MCB-1) is equally environmentally preferred depending upon the environmental resource of concern. Option 1 under either alternative potentially disturbs a greater quantity of wetlands, which can be mitigated, however. Option 2 entails more roadway construction under Alternative A and results in more traffic congestion on Base under both Alternatives A and B by placing a higher density of personnel in one general area than Option 1. Option 2 also places more personnel within the radii of potentially disturbing sound contours from training exercises. Other impacts are similar for Options 1 and 2.

Environmental Impacts:

Environmental impacts associated with the Preferred Alternative, Alternative B

BRAC Option 1 (Russell Road), are discussed below.

Water Resources. The widening of Russell Road will cross Chopawamsic Creek, but would avoid all other wetlands or Waters of the U.S. The Marine Corps would obtain any required permits under the Virginia/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Joint Permit Application process. Implementation of stormwater and erosion and sedimentation best management measures would reduce impacts to water quality.

Biological Resources. The Preferred Alternative would directly impact an estimated 148 acres of primarily forested habitat. The Preferred Alternative would occupy approximately two percent of the total 6,895 forested acres in which the Russell Road and MCB-1 Areas are located and would be near roads that already act as a barrier to wildlife. Therefore impacts to forest habitat would be minimal. Impacts to migratory birds would also be minimal. Proposed site development would avoid areas containing the federally-threatened small whorled pogonia or its designated protection zone. No other threatened or endangered species are expected in the proposed development areas. Consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendations, widening of Russell Road would occur on the opposite side of most recently identified small whorled pogonia colonies. Through informal consultation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife agreed the road widening is not likely to adversely affect the small whorled pogonia and/or its associated habitat as long as the widening of Russell Road occurred as recommended.

Build out of the construction site has the potential, through the importation of aggregate and other construction materials, as well as landscaping and natural re-vegetation processes to introduce invasive or non-native species. Mitigation measures will be employed to prevent any such introduction of invasive or non-native species and all landscape plantings will be in accordance with the approved plant list described in the Base Exterior Architecture Plan.

Air Quality: MCBQ is located in an air quality control region that is in moderate nonattainment for ozone and in nonattainment for particulate matter with diameter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5}). It is also in an ozone transport region. Federal actions located in nonattainment and maintenance areas are required to demonstrate compliance with the general conformity guidelines. The Final EIS has a completed General

Conformity Rule applicability analysis for the ozone precursor pollutants nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, for PM_{2.5}, and for the PM_{2.5} precursor pollutant sulfur dioxide to analyze impacts to air quality. It determined that annual project emissions are well below *de minimis* values and are not regionally significant; therefore, a further conformity determination is not required and impacts from these pollutants are not significant. A Record of Non-Applicability was included in the Final EIS.

Noise: The proposed development areas could be impacted by noise from nearby training ranges that will increase in the future with the introduction of new aircraft and increased ordnance. Reports from noise studies indicate that in the future much of the MCB-1 Area and approximately 10 acres in the western portion of the Southern Russell Road Site are projected to be within a zone of moderate noise impact. Noise attenuation measures would be employed to meet noise standards, most of which are already designed into the construction to meet security requirements. Temporary noise associated with construction and any increase in noise levels from traffic would not be expected to cause impacts off Base.

Transportation. Traffic studies conducted in conjunction with the EIS show that most secondary intersections within the project area currently operate at acceptable levels; major access points that serve the Base typically perform at unacceptable levels during peak commuter periods.

Anticipated growth within the region and the corresponding increase in vehicular traffic are predicted to further degrade the operation of most intersections within the area. This degradation is expected to occur with or without implementation of the proposed development of the area west of I-95, unless improvements to those intersections are made. The EIS analysis projects levels of service considered unacceptable at intersections that provide access from U.S. Route 1 and I-95, as well as within the Westside at proposed development sites, unless roadway improvement measures are implemented, including those proposed as mitigation in this document. In general, impacts within the Westside are less if the development is spread between the Southern Russell Road Site and MCB-1 Area, as occurs for the Preferred Alternative.

Socioeconomics. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative could increase local residents employed at MCB

Quantico by approximately 2,800 over time, and also would add associated additional family members to the region. The additional population would be expected to add students to the region's schools and could contribute to any need for additional services in the region. The projected additional residents represent a small percent of projected regional growth and impacts to the region are not expected to be significant. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative is not expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority, low-income or younger segments of the local population.

Land Use: Proposed alternatives are consistent with MCBQ land use plans; however, some land currently used for training and recreational hunting would become unavailable and routes to training areas currently passing through the development sites could require realignments. Traffic on MCB-1 Road passes through the explosive safety arcs for the adjacent ammunition supply point and would necessitate an adjustment of ammunition storage. A project is planned to accomplish this by 2011.

Mitigation: The Marine Corps has identified potential mitigation measures for any impacts to wetlands, surface water, invasive species, and federally-threatened species, control of fugitive emissions to air, potential noise exposure, and for traffic generated by the alternatives that could cause unacceptable levels of service at nearby intersections or exceed safety limits associated with the Ammunition Supply Point. Implementation of mitigation will be monitored by the Marine Corps construction management teams involved with each project.

Wetland Impacts Mitigation. The Virginia/USACE Joint Permit Application process would be followed and best management practices for erosion and sediment control will be implemented during and following construction. Use of wetlands bank credits may be used by MCB Quantico to mitigate the potential wetland losses.

Surface Water Measures. Stormwater management plans and best management practices would be employed to control runoff. In addition, a stormwater construction permit issued by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is required for all land disturbing projects greater than or equal to one acre of disturbance.

Invasive Species Measures. In accordance with Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species), and as discussed in detail in the FEIS, during development

of the sites, recommended measures to reduce the spread of invasive species would be implemented as practicable.

Threatened Species Measures. In accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendation, road widening would only occur on the west side of Russell Road.

Fugitive Dust Control Measures.

Fugitive dust from construction would be kept to a minimum by using control methods in accordance with the Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution (9 VAC 5-50-60 *et seq.*).

Noise Impacts Measures. For facilities sited in a zone of moderate noise impacts, Noise Level Reduction (NLR) measures will be included in the design of administrative facilities to reduce noise and impulse vibrations.

Ammunition Safety and Overpressure Zone Measures. The ammunition supply point operations building will be moved to avoid a hazard to passing vehicles. Development designs will consider the overpressure zone when a specific location for buildings has been determined and the distance can be measured to identify design requirements.

Potential Traffic Improvement Measures. The following roadway improvements will be funded and implemented by the Marine Corps to mitigate impacts caused by the Preferred Alternative: (1) Russell Road will be widened to 4 lanes from the Russell Road/Telegraph Road intersection east to approximately 300 feet past the northbound entrance ramp to I-95 (I-95 overpass support structures will not be altered); (2) a connector road will be constructed between Telegraph Road and Russell Road with traffic signals installed at each end; (3) the existing Chopawamsic Creek bridge will be rehabilitated; (4) an additional 2-lane bridge will be constructed over Chopawamsic Creek adjacent to the existing bridge; (5) the I-95 southbound exit ramp will have an additional lane added (westbound) and a traffic signal installed; (6) the I-95 northbound exit ramp will have an additional lane added (westbound) and a traffic signal installed; (7) a traffic signal will be installed on Russell Road adjacent to the northbound entrance ramp to I-95 from Russell Road; (8) Ponderosa Gate will be improved; and (9) the U.S. Route 1 ramps to and from Russell Road are under study in conjunction with gate improvements to Mainside to improve level of service.

Additional roadway improvements to the west of Ponderosa Gate will be identified when development there and resultant traffic volumes warrant. The

EIS identified off-Base improvements at the U.S. Route 1/VA 637 and VA 610/ Onville road intersections that would be under the purview of the Commonwealth of Virginia; the Marine Corps will cooperate with the Commonwealth as appropriate if these improvements are implemented. The Defense Access Roads (DAR) Program is the only authority the Marine Corps has to address these recommended improvements and the Marine Corps will submit requests for consideration under this program if they meet DAR criteria. In the next update of the Base Transportation Management Plan the Marine Corps will identify strategies to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips during peak hours. This plan will also encourage carpooling and staggered work hours where these do not impair accomplishment of the defense mission. The Base will cooperate with regional mass transit initiatives. State and/or local governments have jurisdiction over off-Base roads and intersections and would determine whether improvements identified off-Base in the EIS should be implemented.

Response To Comments Received Regarding the Final EIS: Comments on the Final EIS were received from the Commonwealth of Virginia. They noted the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) concerns with the statement in the Final EIS that state and/or local governments are the action proponents for off-Base road improvements and the inference that these had been approved and funded by State or local governments. VDOT also requested commitments to carpooling, staggered work hours, regional mass transit initiatives, and a transportation demand management plan focused on reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips during peak hours. The Marine Corps has addressed these comments in the preceding section.

Conclusions: After careful consideration of the purpose and need for the proposed action, the analysis contained in the EIS and the comments received on the EIS from federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individual members of the public, I have decided to proceed with the Preferred Alternative, Alternative B BRAC Option 1 (Russell Road) for development of Westside and implementation of BRAC 2005 at MCB Quantico, Virginia.

Consistent with this decision and the Proposed Action and analyses described in the Final EIS, at the sites identified in the Preferred Alternative, the Marine Corps will implement the Preferred Alternative and address all mitigation measures.

Dated: June 24, 2008.

BJ Penn,

Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment).

[FR Doc. E8-14854 Filed 6-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

No FEAR Act

AGENCY: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is providing notice to its employees, former employees, and applicants for federal employment about the rights and remedies available to them under the Federal antidiscrimination, whistleblower protection, and retaliation laws. This notice fulfills the Board's initial notification obligation under the Notification and Federal Employees Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR Act), as implemented by Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regulations at 5 CFR part 724.

DATES: This notice is effective July 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard A. Azzaro, General Counsel, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004. Telephone: (202) 694-7062. FAX: (202) 208-6518.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 15, 2002, Congress enacted the "Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002," which is now known as the No FEAR Act. See Pub. L. 107-174, codified at 5 U.S.C. 2301 note. As stated in the full title of the Act, the Act is intended to "require that federal agencies be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws." In support of this purpose, Congress found that:

Agencies cannot be run effectively if those agencies practice or tolerate discrimination.

Pub. L. 107-174, section 101(1).

The Act also requires the Board to provide this notice to federal employees, former federal employees and applicants for federal employment to inform them of the rights and protections available under Federal antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws.

Antidiscrimination Laws

A federal agency cannot discriminate against an employee or applicant with respect to the terms, conditions or privileges of employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or political affiliation. Discrimination on these bases is prohibited by one or more of the following statutes: 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(1), 29 U.S.C. 206(d), 29 U.S.C. 631, 29 U.S.C. 633a, 29 U.S.C. 791 and 42 U.S.C. 2000e-16.

If you believe that you have been the victim of unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or political affiliation, you must contact an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) counselor within 45 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory action, or, in the case of a personnel action, within 45 calendar days of the effective date of the action, before you can file a formal complaint of discrimination with the Board. See, e.g., 29 CFR 1614. If you believe that you have been the victim of unlawful discrimination on the basis of age, you must either contact an EEO counselor as noted above or give notice of intent to sue to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) within 180 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory action. If you are alleging discrimination based on marital status or political affiliation, you may file a written complaint with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) (see contact information below). In the alternative (or in some cases, in addition), you may pursue a discrimination complaint by filing a grievance through the Agency's administrative or negotiated grievance procedures, if such procedures apply and are available.

Whistleblower Protection Laws

A federal employee with authority to take, direct others to take, recommend or approve any personnel action must not use that authority to take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, a personnel action against an employee or applicant because of disclosure of information by that individual that is reasonably believed to evidence violations of law, rule or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, unless disclosure of such information is specifically prohibited by law and such information is specifically required by Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.