



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

**DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

**Field Research Facility Annex for U.S. Army
Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC)
Duck, North Carolina**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) dated June 2020, for the Field Research Facility (FRF) Annex for the U.S. Army Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) addresses the proposed action and the environmental impacts of the proposed action in Duck, South Carolina.

The EA, incorporated herein by reference, includes alternatives that were evaluated to examine effects on the environmental resources. In addition to the “No Action” Alternative, which would mean continuing standard operations at the FRF with no annex, the proposed action was also evaluated. The proposed action consists of construction of a 4,008 square foot annex within the existing nine-acre site enclosed by an eight-foot fence. Supporting facilities would include site development, pavement removal, utilities and connections, lighting, lightning protection system, walks, curbs, fire access lanes, information systems, and signage.

Site work for the project would include the following items: a reconfigured parking lot to accommodate additional parking for new staff, a fire truck access road to provide fast access to the new building in the event of a fire, two new handicapped access parking spaces close to the new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant access ramp structure, and new larger septic tank to accommodate both buildings and a larger drain field to provide easy access for maintenance. Relocation of existing underground utility lines would be required. Demolition of an existing septic tank and drain field would occur. Measures in accordance with the Department of Defense (DOD) Minimum Antiterrorism for buildings standards would be provided. Cyber Security Measures would be incorporated into this project.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS:

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Draft Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Resource unaffected by action
Geology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Waters of the U.S. including wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recreational Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Resources/Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Essential Fish Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Beaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prime Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marine Mammal Protection Act	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Terrestrial Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife: Fauna and Flora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened, Endangered and Protected Species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise Levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

Dr. Jeffrey Waters
Supervisory Research Scientist
ERD FRF Director