

PUBLIC NOTICE
DEPARTMENT AIR FORCE USE OF DEPARTMENT ARMY CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR
DEMOLITION FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER LOG CABIN BUILDING 8535 at
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA

Demolition of Building 8535 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) has been proposed to comply with Construction Growth Offset Policy signed by Secretary Air Force (SAF) Installation and Environmental (IE) 20 May 2022, directing bases to demolish excess facilities. The proposed action would demolish Building 8535, an approximately 9,800 square foot building. The building was constructed in 1945, but the building has been vacant for several years and maintenance requirements to allow for occupancy would not be cost effective, resulting in its selection for demolition. All attendant features would be removed and borrow material placed in the old building footprint. The area would remain, most likely, as a gravel pad for future facilities, though none are currently planned.

The Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) was conducted on the proposed project in accordance with 32 CFR Part 989 to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Air Force regulations implementing NEPA. Pursuant to NEPA, the use of Categorical Exclusions (CATEX) may be appropriate where an agency has determined an action falls within a category of actions that a Federal agency has determined normally does not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Agencies may rely on CATEXs promulgated by the agency itself, or those promulgated by other agencies adopted pursuant to 42 USC §4336c. On 25 Nov 24, the Air Force published in the Federal Register (89 FR 92911) its identification and adoption of a range of other agency CATEXs, including the Department of the Army CATEX described in Appendix B to 32 CFR Part 651, Section II, paragraph (c)(2) "*Demolition of non-historic buildings, structures, or other improvements and disposal of debris there from, or removal of a part thereof for disposal, in accordance with applicable regulations, including those regulations applying to removal of asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead-based paint, and other special hazard items.*"

The DAF is aware of the November 12, 2024 decision in *Marin Audubon Society v. Federal Aviation Administration*, No. 23-1067 (D.C. Cir. Nov. 12, 2024). To the extent that a court may conclude that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA are not judicially enforceable or binding on this agency action, the DAF has nonetheless elected to follow those regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508, in addition to the DAF's procedures/regulations implementing NEPA at 32 CFR 989, to meet the agency's obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

A review of the proposed project and methods for demolition, proper handling and disposal of toxic and hazardous materials, and potential for release of hazardous materials resulted in no anticipated adverse effects to the human environment. The project will not affect wetlands, floodplains, or other sensitive habitat or have any effect at all on federally listed threatened or endangered species. As this project consists entirely of demolition and disposal of construction waste, DA CATEX (c)(2) applies to the action. The analysis and findings have been documented on an Air Force Form 813 as required by the Air Force EIAP process.

This public notice has been prepared in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations to "[p]ublish the documentation of the application of the adopted categorical exclusion." 40 CFR 1501.4(e)(5).

Inquiries may be sent to 673 CES/CEIEC EnvPlanning 673CES.CEIEC.EnvPlanning@us.af.mil.

PRIVACY ADVISORY NOTICE

Public comments on this Draft EA are requested pursuant to NEPA, 42 *United States Code* 4321, et seq. All written comments received during the comment period will be made available to the public and considered during the Final EA preparation. Providing private address information with your comment is voluntary and such personal information will be kept confidential unless release is required by law. However, address information will be used to compile the project mailing list and failure to provide it will result in your name not being included on the mailing list.