

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**DEPARTMENT AIR FORCE USE OF NATIONAL AERONAUTICS SPACE ADMINISTRATION**  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR JBER ELMENDORF EXPRESS IMAGE UPDATE**  
**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA**

Renovation of the JBER Elmendorf Express (Building 5201) is necessary to better serve the JBER community with a retail facility that will meet AAFES Retail Standards. This project is needed to update the facility to current standards, which will provide JBER customers with the most up-to-date customer experience. AAFES has proposed retail renovations within the approximately 9,000 square foot Shopette. The overall renovation has both interior and exterior elements. Exterior work will include new 300KVA transformer, main distribution panel, associated trenching and pavement repair, and building mounted signage. Interior work will include new finishes per current Exchange brand standards. Finishes will include polished concrete, paint, wall graphics, and signage. Additionally, quick serve restaurant products consisting of "Hot Stuff Kitchen" will be served. Associated mechanical, electrical, and plumbing distribution to be modified in these areas to meet needs of equipment.

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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration CATEX described in 14 CFR §1216.304, paragraph (d)(2)(i) *"Routine maintenance, minor construction or rehabilitation, minor demolition, minor modification, minor repair, and continuing or altered operations at, or of, existing NASA or NASA-funded or -approved facilities and equipment, such as buildings, roads, grounds, utilities, communication systems, and ground support systems (e.g., space tracking and data systems). This includes routine operations such as security, public health and safety, and environmental services."*

Procedurally this Environmental Impact Analysis was developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended by Public Law 118-5, Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), the DAF's Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 989), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of NEPA (40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508) of July 2024. Executive Order (E.O.) 14154 of January 20, 2025, Unleashing American Energy, revoked E.O. 11991, Enhancement of Environmental Quality, which amended E.O. 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality. While CEQ has provided notice that it intends to rescind the CEQ NEPA regulations, the DAF has accepted in this instance CEQ's suggestion to voluntarily rely on the CEQ Regulations to allow for timely decision-making to meet critical mission requirements.

A review of the proposed project and methods for demolition, construction, 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. As this project consists entirely of renovation activities and disposal of construction waste, NASA CATEX (d)(2)(i) 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](mailto: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.