

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**DEPARTMENT AIR FORCE USE OF NATIONAL AERONAUTICS SPACE ADMINISTRATION**  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR REPAIR ARCTIC VALLEY ROAD GATE at**  
**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA**

Reconfiguration of the Arctic Valley Road Gate is necessary because Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) does not receive manning or funding to maintain or man this gate. The gate was used for vehicles to have the ability to enter the highway to the south from the base. This gate was not used as an entry point to JBER. The gate will now only be used by the 11th Army Airborne Division for a mass run/march or emergency movements. The proposed project would remove/demolish all entry control point systems, infrastructure, Building 399, and replace the electric gate with a split, hinged swing gate. Additionally, removal of all underground and overhead utilities to the area, then replace/repair any damaged pavement or concrete from the demolition process.

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 NASA CATEX described in 14 CFR § 1216.304 - Categorical exclusions, 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."

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, 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. 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, 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.