

PUBLIC NOTICE
DEPARTMENT AIR FORCE USE OF DEPARTMENT OF NAVY CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
FOR INSTALL TRUCK SCALE, SCALE HOUSE/TESTING LAB at
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA

POSTED 2 JUNE 2025//CCJ//673dCES/CEIEC

The purpose of the proposed project is to install a truck scale, scale house and testing Lab at an existing gravel pit with power and parking lot lights. A building relocated from the flightline will be used as a scale house, located adjacent to a newly installed truck scale. The building will also be used as a material testing lab; ensuring quality materials are used for projects on JBER. The truck scale will be installed to ensure accurate weight of materials that are being removed from the pit for construction projects on JBER. This is required in accordance with contractual stipulations that vary by project as well as gravel permit requirements to track geological materials extracted from the pit. Power and lights are necessary for safety of 773d CES personnel and contractors. The project is necessary to ensure accurate material tracking for accounting purposes, testing to ensure appropriate engineering standards for soil are being met, and thus avoidance of wasteful and/or fraudulent use of government materials. The project directly supports the operations of an existing gravel pit. The location of the project is in an area that is already cleared, graded, and not located near wetlands or floodplains. The truck scale is approximately 880 square feet (sf). The building and concrete pad are approximately 600 sf.

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 Navy CATEX described in DON NEPA regulations at 32 CFR 775.6 (f)(33) "New construction that is like or compatible with existing land use (i.e. site and scale of construction are consistent with those of existing adjacent or nearby facilities) and, when completed, the use or operation of which complies with existing regulatory requirements. The test for whether this CATEX can be applied should focus on the proposed action generally fits within the designated land use of the proposed site." Since the truck scale, scale house, and testing facility are specifically intended to support the operation of the existing gravel pit, the application of the CATEX fits the test.

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 construction and operation 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 is less than 5-acres and consists entirely of groundwork to construct the building atop an extensively disturbed site, DON CATEX (f)(33) 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.

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.