

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
CONSTRUCTION OF MAINTENANCE UTILITY STRUCTURE AND STORAGE LOT
FOR BASE UTILITIES, INC.
ON GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S. Code [USC] §§ 4331 *et seq.*), the regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that implement NEPA procedures (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Environmental Impact Assessment Process Regulations at 32 CFR Part 989, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061 codified at 42 U.S.C 4321 *et seq.*, and implementing regulations, an Environmental Assessment (EA), incorporated by reference herein, has been prepared for proposed construction of a maintenance utility structure and storage lot for Base Utilities, Inc. (BUI). The proposed project area is located on Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB), Grand Forks County, North Dakota.

Proposed Action

The EA covers the construction of on-base location for the privatization of water and wastewater treatment systems. The Proposed Action provide a 4,800-sf utility facility, a 12'x12' water-fill station, and a washout pit. The Proposed Action would reduce utility and energy consumption, maintenance time for repair of damaged infrastructure, and consolidate water distribution and wastewater system operations and maintenance within one central facility. More importantly, the Proposed Action would allow BUI to operate during increased security levels, when off-base access is restricted.

Alternatives Considered

Two alternatives were considered: the Recommended Alternative and the No Action Alternative. Under the Recommended Action, a new 4,800-sf utility facility (roughly 60'x80') would be constructed approximately 180 feet to the north of existing Facility 490, within what is currently a grassy area. In addition, 65'x65' dump vault would be erected. The dump vault with have a poured concrete slab with concrete support walls. The remaining area is to be graveled for storage and staging. Design of the facility and water-fill station will be an open floor layout. The gravel area would be utilized for parking, material stockpiles, and equipment storage. The Proposed Action would reduce utility and energy consumption, maintenance time for repair of damaged infrastructure, and consolidate water distribution and wastewater system operations and maintenance within one central facility. More importantly, the Proposed Action would allow BUI to operate during increased security levels, when off-base access is restricted.

Under the No-Action Alternative, BUI, would continue to rent a building from Grand Forks AFB that has been on the demolition list for several years. The No Action Alternative was eliminated from further consideration because it would hinder the ability of Base Utilities Inc., to perform its mission of service and maintenance to the members of Grand Forks AFB, decrease efficiency, and increase cost to the users.

Agency, Tribal and Public Comments

The EA and comments received from resource agencies and federally recognized Native American tribes have been used to determine whether the proposed action requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. All environmental, social, and economic impacts that are relevant to the proposal were considered in this assessment. These include, but are not necessarily limited to, water quality, air quality, noise, wetlands, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources. No significant adverse impacts to these resources would be expected to occur. The proposed actions would be in compliance with applicable environmental statutes.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the incorporated EA, and in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S. Code [USC] §§ 4331 *et seq.*), the regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that implement NEPA procedures (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Environmental Impact Assessment Process Regulations at 32 CFR Part 989, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061 codified at 42 U.S.C 4321 *et seq.*, I have concluded that the proposed action (Recommended Alternative), implemented with the conditions and mitigation measures outlined in the EA, would not have any significant adverse impacts on the environment, either standalone or in conjunction with additional known projects. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8). This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA and Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP). The signing of this Finding of No Significant Impact completes the EIAP process.

Sincerely

BART P. YATES, Colonel, USAF
Vice Commander