

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Location

Westchester County Airport (HPN)
White Plains, New York

Proposed Federal Action

The proposed federal action is the approval of a change to the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and potential for federal financial assistance for the Snow Equipment Storage Building project at Westchester County Airport (HPN).

Project Description

The proposed action involves the construction of a new maintenance vehicles storage facility at the north end of the airport. The project involves the installation of an approximately 5,600 square-foot prefabricated open-air fabric structure to house airport maintenance vehicles, such as snowplows and sweepers, at the Westchester County Airport. The structure will be approximately 80 feet long by 70 feet wide and 20 feet high. Scope of work will include the installation of a concrete slab of the same dimensions (approximately 80 feet x 70 feet) to support the storage building and approximately 4,400 square feet of adjoining pavement area. The project will provide stormwater management consisting of oil/water separator in the interior floor drains and an infiltration system with pretreatment for the paved apron area.

Background

Westchester County Airport has identified the need for a snow equipment storage building through its recent Master Planning efforts. Construction of this snow equipment storage building is consistent with the current and future needs of the airport. One of the primary goals of a commercially viable airport is to provide and maintain facilities to enable safe and efficient operations.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of the proposed action is provide mission critical snow equipment with a storage space that protects them year round from harsh weather elements. Based on the numbers of airport operations, additional equipment and materials are required to continually meet Federal Aviation Administration standards and to minimize airfield closures during winter storm events. The airport's maintenance vehicles are currently stored outdoors, continually exposed to the elements. A shelter is needed to protect and extend the life of these vehicles.

Alternatives

The No Action Alternative was dismissed in the Short Form EA because it did not meet the purpose and need of the proposed project. If a new storage building is not constructed, the

snow equipment maintenance vehicles must remain outside, subject to the weather. This may delay snow removal if equipment needs to be cleared of snow and ice prior to use. This may also shorten the lifespan of these costly vehicles. The site for the building site was selected as the most appropriate location based on its proximity to existing critical airport maintenance facilities, including sand and salt sheds.

Discussion

The attached February 2018 Final Short Form EA addresses the effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human and natural environment, and is made a part of this Finding. The following impact analysis highlights the more thorough analysis presented in the document.

Biological Resources

Information obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that there was potential for three federally-listed threatened and endangered species to occur in Westchester County: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalists*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Bog Turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*). NYSDEC also lists the Bald Eagle (*haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) as threatened species that may occur at HPN. The New England Cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) is a candidate/species of special concern that may also be present at the airport. This project will occur in a pre-developed area of the airport and will not result in substantial loss, reduction, degradation, disturbance, or fragmentation of these species habitats or populations.

Historic, Architectural Archeological, Resources

A Phase IA Archeological Assessment was conducted for the airport in 2015 (see Attachment B of the EA). According to this study, the project site does not contain nor is proximate to any archeological sites on record.

Other Impact Categories

The impacts of the proposed Federal action on air quality, noise, land use compatibility, social, socioeconomic impacts, water quality, climate, coastal resources, DOT Section 4(f), farmlands, biotic communities, hazardous materials, solid waste, land use, water resources, coastal barriers, energy supply and natural resources, visual effects, environmental justice, and cumulative impacts, were evaluated in the EA. It is the FAA's finding that the proposed action will not have any significant impact on any of the above noted categories.

Public Involvement

A Notice of Availability and Request for Comment was published in the Journal News on December 6, 2017. The comment period was from December 6, 2017 to January 5, 2018. No public comments were received for the project.

CONCLUSION AND APPROVAL:

After careful and thorough consideration of the facts contained herein, the undersigned finds the federal action is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives as set forth in Section 101 (a) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and it will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment or otherwise include any condition requiring consultation pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of NEPA.

Recommended: **Edward Clarke** Digitally signed by
Edward Clarke Knoesel
Date: 2018.03.15 14:44:01
-04'00'
Knoesel

Environmental Specialist
New York Airports District Office

3/15/18
Date

Approved: 

Manager
New York Airports District Office

3/15/18
Date

Disapproved: _____
Manager
New York Airports District Office

Date

