

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR AMMUNITION WHARF PILE REPLACEMENT,  
MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR AT NAVAL MAGAZINE INDIAN ISLAND,  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Department of the Navy (DON) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 5090.1E, the DON gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for Ammunition Wharf Pile Replacement, Maintenance, and Repair at Naval Magazine (NAVMAG) Indian Island at Jefferson County, Washington. This action will be implemented as set out in the Preferred Alternative.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA was published in the Peninsula Daily News and the Port Townsend Leader on June 29, 2022. The Draft EA was made available for public review on the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest website. The public comment period on the Draft EA was from June 29 to July 29, 2022, and no public comments were received. An NOA of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be published in the Peninsula Daily News and Port Townsend Leader and a copy of the document will be available at <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/NWNEPA>.

**Proposed Action:** The Proposed Action is to replace piles, perform maintenance, and conduct repair activities on the Ammunition Wharf at NAVMAG Indian Island.

**Purpose and Need:** The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain the structural integrity of the Ammunition Wharf at NAVMAG Indian Island. The Proposed Action is needed to ensure the Ammunition Wharf continues to meet mission requirements.

**Existing Conditions:** The Ammunition Wharf was originally constructed using precast concrete piles. Following completion of the Ammunition Wharf, the Navy learned the method of forming and curing many of the concrete piles left them susceptible to a condition called Delayed Ettringite Formation (DEF). DEF is the expansion and cracking of concrete associated with the delayed formation of the mineral ettringite, which is a normal product

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of early cement hydration. DEF occurs rapidly and without warning, causing the pile to lose its structural integrity. The Navy schedules inspections on waterfront facilities as outlined in Unified Facilities Criteria 4-150-07 Maintenance of Waterfront Facilities. Maintenance and repair projects at the Ammunition Wharf are developed from these waterfront inspections, which are conducted on an approximate two-year cycle.

**Alternatives Analyzed:** The Final EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the following two alternatives: the No Action Alternative and an Action Alternative (Preferred Alternative) to replace piles and perform maintenance and repairs to the Ammunition Wharf at NAVMAG Indian Island. Under the No Action Alternative, pile replacement would not occur, structural integrity would not be restored, and mission readiness would be compromised. Under the Preferred Alternative, the Navy will replace piles and perform maintenance and repairs to the Ammunition Wharf at NAVMAG Indian Island.

**Environmental Effects:** No significant direct, indirect, or cumulative environmental impacts would occur from implementing the proposed action. Certain environmental resources including air quality, noise, cultural resources, bathymetry, land use, traffic and transportation, visual resources, recreational and commercial fishing, terrestrial vegetation and wildlife, hazardous materials and waste, environmental justice and protection of children, socioeconomic, and public health and safety were not analyzed in detail in this EA because implementation of the proposed action would not be likely to result in any potential environmental impacts on these resources or impacts would be negligible. Potential environmental impacts on water quality and marine sediments, biological resources, and American Indian Traditional Resources are summarized here.

Water Quality and Marine Sediments. The Preferred Alternative will comply with applicable state or federal water quality standards. Impacts to water quality would be limited to short-term and localized changes associated with re-suspension of bottom sediments from pile removal and installation and barge and tug operations, such as anchoring and propeller wash. These changes would be spatially limited to the construction site and areas immediately adjacent. Best management practices (BMP) and minimization measures will be implemented to prevent accidental losses or spills of construction debris into Port Townsend Bay. Therefore, no significant impacts to water quality are expected.

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Project-related construction activities will not create sediment contamination concentrations or physical changes that violate state standards or interfere with beneficial uses of Port Townsend Bay near the Ammunition Wharf. Therefore, there will be no significant impact to marine sediments.

Biological Resources. Under the Preferred Alternative, impacts to biological resources due to turbidity and pile removal will be short-term, temporary and localized. Any vegetative growth on existing piles will be removed when piles are extracted from the water. However, because piles will be replaced, a similar amount of surface area on which marine organisms could colonize will ultimately exist. Pile work will be conducted during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designated in-water work window to reduce noise impacts to biological resources. The Navy initiated informal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and formal consultation with NMFS in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The Navy also initiated consultation with NMFS in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for potential effects to essential fish habitat, as well as potential effects to marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. USFWS issued a letter of concurrence on November 22, 2021, and NMFS included the project in the Marine Pile Replacement biological opinion dated April 5, 2019. Both USFWS and NMFS concurred with the Navy's conservation methods for compliance with the Endangered Species Act, Essential Fish Habitat, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. With the implementation of minimization measures and Best Management Practices, no significant impacts to biological resources are expected to occur.

American Indian Traditional Resources. Under the Preferred Alternative, Tribal access to Usual and Accustomed fishing grounds and stations near NAVMAG Indian Island would be expected to remain similar to existing conditions. In accordance with Executive Order 13175 *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, and Department of Defense and DON policy, the Navy invited potentially affected federally recognized tribes to initiate Government to Government consultation on the Proposed Action and held Government to Government meetings with the Tribes to discuss the project. The Navy met with the Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes on November 15, and 19, 2021 and January 20, 2022; and with the Suquamish Tribe on October 15, 2021 and October 25, 2022. None of the Tribes had objections to the

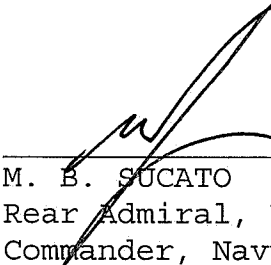
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project. Construction activities could result in the loss of benthic organisms at the immediate project site; however, replacement piles will be installed near the location of the removed piles, minimizing the direct loss of benthic invertebrates. The in-water work window for each construction year will minimize impacts to tribal resources including all juvenile salmonid species; significant impacts to juvenile salmonids are not expected. Therefore, there will be no significant impacts to American Indian Traditional Resources as a result of the Proposed Action.

**Finding:** Based on the analysis presented in the Final EA, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA and DON NEPA regulations, and in coordination with NMFS, USFWS, and potentially affected federally recognized American Indian tribes, the Navy finds that implementation of the Proposed Action of pile replacement, maintenance, and repair of Ammunition Wharf at Naval Magazine Indian Island will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS will not be prepared.

The Final EA prepared by the Navy addressing this action is on file, and interested parties may request a copy from: Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, 1101 Tautog Circle, Silverdale, WA 98315-1101 (Attention: NEPA Planner, Ammunition Wharf Pile Replacement).

5/29/24  
Date

  
M. B. SUCATO  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Commander, Navy Region Northwest