



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ARMY NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERIES
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22211-5003

November 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability for the Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Pentagon Memorial Fund (PMF) Visitor Education Center (VEC) for the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial on land owned by Army National Cemeteries (ANMC) in Arlington, Virginia

Dear interested party:

The Pentagon Memorial Fund (PMF) proposes the construction and operation of a Visitor Education Center (VEC) for the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial on land owned by Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) located on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) in Arlington, Virginia. ANMC proposes to grant a license to PMF to construct and operate the VEC. The Department of the Army, in conjunction with ANMC, announces the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the VEC project.

The VEC project EA evaluates the potential impacts to the human and natural environment associated with the construction and operation of the facility. The EA and draft FONSI are prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, and Army-specific NEPA requirements.

In conjunction with the NEPA process, ANMC completed the Section 106 process under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. § 470f), and its implementing regulations (36 C.F.R. Part 800). The Section 106 process began in May 2023 when ANMC notified the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of the undertaking (DHR File No. 2023-4078). ANMC determined that the undertaking will result in no adverse effects to the historic properties within the undertaking's area of potential effects (Arlington National Cemetery Historic District (DHR ID #000-0042), Pentagon Office Building Complex (DHR ID #000-0072), and Air Force Memorial (DHR ID #000-9821)). In May 2024, the Virginia SHPO concurred with the finding and determined that implementation of the undertaking in accordance with the finding of No Adverse Effects as documented fulfills the Federal agency's responsibilities under Section 106 of the NHPA.

The proposed action is needed to provide the existing 9/11 Pentagon Memorial with a visitor center that would educate, facilitate and enhance visitor experiences to the Memorial. In addition to sharing the stories of the 184 individuals who lost their lives on 9/11 and interpretive displays, the VEC will offer a dedicated parking area in close

proximity to the Memorial, permanent restrooms, shelter for visitors, a café, bookstore and event space. Accordingly, the building will have a site footprint of between 25,000 and 30,000 square feet to support a program area of between 46,500 and 50,000 square feet and approximately 100 parking spaces.

The purpose of the proposed action is to:

- Facilitate visitation to the Pentagon Memorial and provide parking in close proximity to the Memorial;
- Enhance visitor experiences when visiting the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial;
- Offer interpretive displays, interactive exhibits and educational programs that would give visitors a sense of the broad impact of the tragedy from a variety of perspectives.

The EA analyzes the effects of five different alternatives. The Army's preferred alternative would locate the VEC at the lowest elevation possible on the north end of the site. The building would have two fronts, one from the southern parking area and the other from the north (in the direction of the Memorial). The lower level will be dedicated to the exhibition spaces and a bookstore; the upper level will provide the main entrance and include event space, a café, and administrative offices. Of the alternatives considered, this alternative provides the most direct procession through the VEC and onwards towards the Memorial.

The preferred alternative has been determined to have no significant impacts to any environmental resources. Specifically, there will be no significant impacts to land use, air quality, greenhouse gases, noise, geological resources, water resources, biological resources, cultural or historic resources, socioeconomic, traffic and transportation, airspace, utilities, hazardous or toxic materials and hazardous waste. The project will have a beneficial impact on visitor use and experience at the Pentagon Memorial. Potential minor impacts from construction would be short-term and cease upon completion of construction activities. Accordingly, a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is also being circulated for public review and comment.

ANMC invites the participation of federal and state agencies, Native American tribes, local agencies, interested parties and the public to review and provide comments on the EA and Draft FONSI during the 30-day comment period. The documents are available for viewing and download on the ANC website at:

<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>.

Interested parties may also view an electronic or printed copy of the EA and draft FONSI at the Arlington Public Library, Central Library, located at 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA, 22201, and at the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center, located at 1 Memorial Avenue, Arlington, VA, 22211.

The public comment period will remain open for 30 days following publication. ANMC invites your comments during the 30-day review period, which ends at 11:59 p.m. EST on December 2, 2024. Interested parties are invited to submit comments via

email at: usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.planning-division@army.mil. Comments can also be postmarked to the following address: Mr. Scott Lonesome, Environmental Resources Manager, Arlington National Cemetery, 1 Memorial Avenue, Arlington, VA 22211. Submitted comments should include the project title and the commenter's contact information.

ANMC looks forward to continuing the NEPA process with our agency partners, interested parties, and the public. A list of interested or affected parties is included at the end of this notification.

Sincerely,

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KAREN DURHAM-AGUILERA
Executive Director
Army National Military Cemeteries

Enclosures

1. Current List of Interested or Affected Parties

Enclosure 1: Current List of Interested or Affected Parties

Additional parties may be identified during the EA and draft FONSI review period.

- 9/11 Families United
- Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Air Force Sergeants Association: Division 2
- Air Force Washington District (AFDW/CC)
- American Legion: General Billy Mitchell VA Post 85
- American Legion: Dorie Miller VA Post 194
- American Legion: VA Post 139
- American Legion: VA Post 46
- Arlington County Department of Environmental Services
- Arlington County Historic Preservation Program
- Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board
- Arlington Historical Society
- Arlington House Family Circle
- Arlington Ridge Civic Association
- Aurora Highlands Civic Association
- Catawba Indian Nation (aka Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina)
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division
- Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
- Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
- Foxcroft Heights Neighborhood Association
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Nansemond Indian Nation
- National Association of American Veterans, Inc.
- National Capital Planning Commission
- National Park Service
- National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway

- National Register & National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Preservation Virginia
- Rappahannock Tribe, Inc.
- September 11th Families Association
- September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows
- The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington
- The Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, DC
- United States Commission of Fine Arts
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- Washington Headquarters Services
- Veterans of Foreign Wars