



Notice of Availability: ANMC Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Proposed Visitor Education Center (VEC) for the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial

ARLINGTON, Va. (Dec. 20, 2024) – The Department of the Army, in conjunction with Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC), announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the construction and operation of a Visitor Education Center (VEC) for the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, to be constructed on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) in Arlington, Virginia.

ANMC prepared an EA to evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed construction and operation of a VEC for the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial. ANMC proposes granting a license to the Pentagon Memorial Fund (PMF) to construct and operate the VEC. The site for the proposed Pentagon Memorial VEC is adjacent to the Southern Expansion area of ANC, within a 3.71-acre parcel of land bounded by Columbia Pike, East Joyce Street and Washington Boulevard. Approximately 900,000 individuals are projected to visit the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial VEC every year. The facility would include exhibits, event space, a bookstore and a café.

The EA provides an overview of the environmental resources that may be affected, the interrelationship of these resources and potential impacts on the human environment. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) briefly states why the discretionary aspects of the proposed action will not significantly affect the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

The EA analyzes the effects of five proposed alternatives, including a no-action alternative. The four action alternatives consider different potential building designs, building heights and parking configurations for the proposed VEC. In addition, four other alternatives were identified and eliminated from detailed analysis during the planning process, since they did not meet the purpose and need of the project.

The “preferred alternative” has been determined to have no significant impacts to any environmental resources. Adverse impacts from implementing the proposed action will be negligible to all environmental resource areas. 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, socioeconomics, 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 would cease upon completion of construction activities.

The EA and a draft copy of the Finding of No Significant Impact were made available to the public, interested and affected parties, and to appropriate government agencies for review and comment during a 30-day period that began on Nov. 1, 2024, with the publication of a Notice of



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Availability on the ANC website and in local newspapers. Additionally, electronic and hardcopy versions of the EA were made available for review at the Arlington Public Library's Central Library and the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center. The EA public comment period closed on Dec. 2, 2024.

All comments were considered in making this finding. The comments did not identify any significant impacts that would preclude reaching a Finding of No Significant Impact for the action. The comments did not identify significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns, or bearing on the proposed action or its impacts, which would require supplementation of the EA. Based on the analysis contained in this EA, and taking into consideration comments received from the public and from appropriate government agencies, the agency concluded that implementation of the proposed action would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The public can view all documents related to the proposed project, the EA and FNSI on the ANC website at: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>.

For further information, contact the Public Affairs Office, Arlington National Cemetery, at 703-614-0024, 877-907-8585, or arlingtoncemetery.pao@army.mil.

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