



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR MOBILITY COMMAND
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST**

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Attn: Draft Environment Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for Energy Savings Performance at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of energy conservation measures (ECMs) for electrical power and energy savings at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) through an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) (Proposed Action). The EA has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that implement NEPA, and the USAF's Environmental Impact Analysis Process. The EA considered the potential consequences to human health and the natural environment. One action alternative has been evaluated. The No Action Alternative was carried forward in accordance with the requirements of the CEQ's implementing regulations for NEPA. Based on this analysis, the USAF has prepared a proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Proposed Action would modernize and optimize base building systems while providing resiliency and mission continuity through a mix of distributed generation, energy efficiency, infrastructure and targeted microgrid operation for critical loads.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to increase JB MDL's energy security, resiliency, and conservation. The Proposed Action is needed to comply with federal energy directives such as the Energy Policy Act of 2005; Executive Order 13834, *Efficient Federal Operations*; and Department of Defense Instruction 4170.11, *Installation Energy Management*. It is also needed to support the goals of the *2017-2036 Air Force Energy Flight Plan*, which are to improve resiliency, optimize demand, and assure supply.

The proposed project is expected to commence in late 2021 or early 2022 and be completed in 3 years. The ECMs proposed on McGuire include the following: two ground-mounted solar PV arrays, one at North Run (approximately 25 acres) and one at Back Nine (approximately 26 acres); carport solar PV panels on one existing carport and one constructed carport; roof-mounted solar PV panels on approximately 20-30 buildings; and, one microgrid control system (MCS), one battery energy storage system (BESS), and two natural gas generators near existing substations. The ECMs proposed on Fort Dix include roof-mounted solar PV panels on approximately 10 to 15 buildings. The ECMs proposed on Lakehurst include the following: one ground-mounted solar PV array on approximately 12 to 15 acres; roof-mounted solar PV panels on approximately 10 to 15 buildings; and, one MCS, one BESS, and one backup stand-by generator near the existing substation. The EA provides more details on the Proposed Action.

You are encouraged to submit comments on the Draft EA and proposed FONSI for inclusion and consideration during the NEPA compliance process. We look forward to and welcome your participation in this process. Please respond within 30 days of receipt of this letter to ensure your concerns are adequately addressed in the EA and FONSI.

Please send your written responses to me at carl.champion.1@us.af.mil and I will coordinate responses with our staff. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Carl Champion
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