



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE
201 HWY 34 SOUTH
COLTS NECK, NEW JERSEY 07722-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Laurelwood Housing Area Access, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, New Jersey

United States Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle, Colts Neck, New Jersey is announcing the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) evaluating potential environmental effects of providing access between the Laurelwood housing area at NWS Earle, and an adjacent state primary or secondary road. The FEIS has been prepared by the Navy in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508); and Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 5090.1C *Environmental and Natural Resource Program Manual*. The purpose and need for the action is to satisfy the contractual obligation of a lease agreement for the Laurelwood housing area between the U.S. Navy and the private developer of the housing area. The Navy intends to satisfy this obligation by providing an easement for access adequate to allow the developer to construct a road from New Jersey Route 34 to the Laurelwood housing area. The action alternatives include four alignments that provide dedicated access to Laurelwood via new entrances on Route 34. The selected alternative alignment route and the Laurelwood housing area would be securely separated from the functioning installation. The No Action Alternative is also evaluated. Implementation of the proposed action is planned to take place prior to the end of April 2010 pursuant to the lease agreement. This FEIS addresses potential environmental impacts from activities that would occur under the No Action Alternative and the four action alternatives. Environmental resource topics evaluated include land use, socioeconomic, community facilities and services, infrastructure/utilities, traffic, air quality, noise, cultural resources, earth resources, biological resources, environmental health and safety, environmental justice, and security. The FEIS identifies the Navy's Preferred Alternative to provide access as Alternative 4.


The FEIS will be available to the public on April 10, 2009 at the libraries indicated below or accessed at the following public website: <http://www.laurelwoodeis.com>.

- Monmouth County Library (Eastern Branch), 1001 Route 35, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702-4398
- Monmouth County Library (Colts Neck), 1 Winthrop Drive, Colts Neck, NJ 07722-2225
- Tinton Falls Public Library, 664 Tinton Avenue, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

The mandatory waiting period for the FEIS will end on May 11, 2009, or 30 days after publication of the Notice of Weekly Receipts in the *Federal Register* by the Environmental Protection Agency. After the 30-day waiting period has ended, the Navy will announce its Record of Decision in the *Federal Register*. Please contact Laurelwood EIS Project Manager, NAVFAC Atlantic, Code EV21 KGB, 6506 Hampton Boulevard, LRA Building A, Norfolk, VA 23508, with further questions about the proposal.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,


G. A. MAYNARD
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Enclosure: FEIS for Laurelwood Housing Area Access