



Environmental Assessment for the Consolidation Of Paint, Blast, And Rubber Operations At Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine



What Is The Navy Proposing ?

The Navy is proposing to consolidate painting, abrasive-blasting (surface preparation), and rubber fabrication to a single centralized location at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (the Shipyard) in Kittery, Maine. The Shipyard fully encompasses Seavey Island which sits at the mouth of the Piscataqua River between Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Kittery, Maine (see Figure 1). The Proposed Action would involve several buildings scattered across the Shipyard and would occur within the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Historic District.

Why Is The Navy Preparing An EA ?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of any proposed major Federal action. The Environmental Assessment (EA) will include:

- Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action;
- Proposed action and Alternatives;
- Existing conditions of the affected environment;
- Evaluation of impacts; and
- Minimization and mitigations measure to reduce or offset adverse impacts.

Why Is The Navy Proposing This Action ?

The Proposed Action is needed to provide more efficient, consolidated paint, blast, and rubber facilities to meet the current and future workload for submarine maintenance and other production work at the Shipyard. Currently, paint, blast, and rubber operations are spread throughout multiple buildings and temporary facilities, all of which are poorly configured and create operational inefficiencies. The consolidation of paint, blast and rubber operations into a single, strategically located facility, would allow for an efficient operational layout that would centralize work and maximize production.

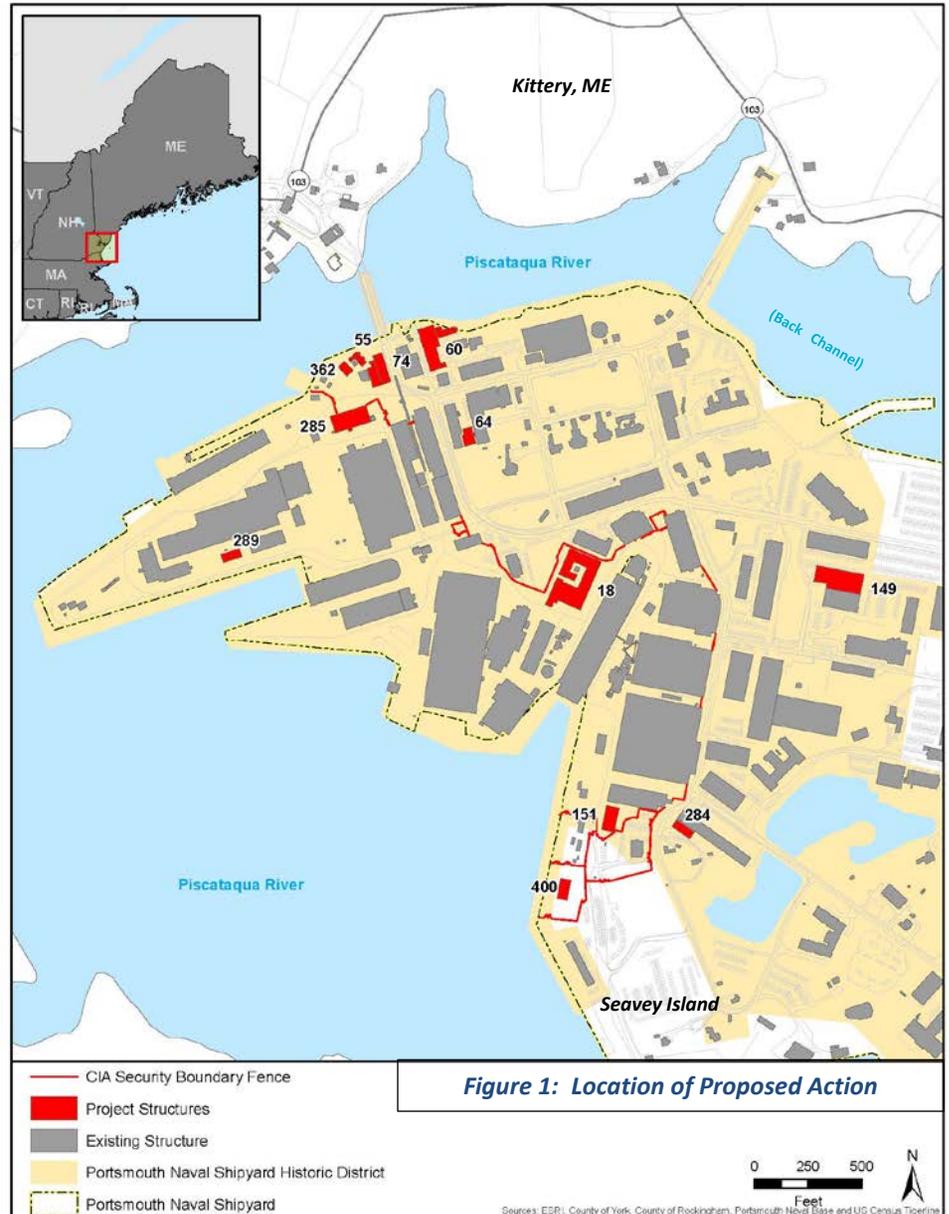


Figure 1: Location of Proposed Action



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What Is The Preferred Alternative ?

Under the preferred alternative, the Navy would construct an approximately 73,000 square foot building to provide consolidated space for painting, abrasive-blasting (surface preparation), and rubber fabrication operations. The new facility would be constructed at the same location as the current paint and blast facility (Building 285) and would contain industrial shop areas, as well as offices, break rooms, locker rooms, training and support spaces. Under the preferred alternative, the Proposed Action would:

- Demolish Buildings 149, 151, 284, 285, 289, 362, and 400;
- Partially demolish and renovate Buildings 60 and 74;
- Renovate Building 55; and
- Vacate Building 64 and a portion of Building 18.

Other Alternatives Evaluated:

The EA also evaluates an alternative that would be similar to the preferred alternative except that Buildings 149, 151 and 284 would not be demolished.

The “No-Action Alternative” will also be evaluated in the EA. Under this alternative, the Navy would not consolidate paint, blast and rubber fabrication operation into one, newly constructed facility and operations would continue under the current conditions.

Scope Of The EA:

The EA presents the existing conditions and evaluates the potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action. The EA will identify impact minimization and mitigation measure for resources adversely affected by the Proposed Action. The EA evaluates potential impacts on the natural and human environment including:

- Air Quality;
- Cultural Resources (Historic & Archaeological);
- Geological Resources (Soils);
- Hazardous Materials & Wastes;
- Infrastructure;
- Land Use;
- Noise;
- Public Health And Safety;
- Socioeconomics;
- Transportation;
- Visual Resources, And
- Water Resources (Groundwater).

The Navy is consulting on the Proposed Action with key agencies including: the Maine State Historic Preservation Office, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Coastal Management Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

For more information or to provide comments regarding this Proposed Action, please contact the Navy by Friday, January 06, 2017

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic

9324 Virginia Avenue,

Norfolk, Virginia 23511-3095

(ATTN: Paint, Blast, & Rubber Operations /

Mr. D. Krause, Environmental Planner, OPEV21:DK)

David.J.Krause1@navy.mil

No return replies will be provided. All comments will be addressed within the EA. Identifying information (names, addresses, eMail addresses, etc.) will be withheld to the extent permitted by law.