

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FLOODPLAIN

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) Nuclear Power Training Unit (NPTU) gives notice that the Navy is conducting an evaluation of a proposed action under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which involves construction in a 100-year floodplain to determine the potential effects that its activity in the floodplain would have on the human environment. The Navy will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988.

The proposed action is to construct several buildings on Joint Base Charleston (Figures 1-3) in an already-developed area south of Building 2701 that exists within an area designated as a 100-year floodplain, as shown in Figures 4 and 5. The proposed action includes demolition of fencing and asphalt currently located on the footprint of new proposed structures. As required by EO 11988, a more detailed description of the proposed action is attached to this notice.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplains, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Interested parties may submit written comments no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time on January 21, 2025 by email to [richard.yosinski@unnpp.gov](mailto:richard.yosinski@unnpp.gov) or by mail postmarked no later than January 21, 2025 to: Rich Yosinski, Site Program Office NPTU, 1260 Snow Pointe Road, Goose Creek, SC 29445.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed action is to construct several buildings at Joint Base Charleston (Figures 1-3) in areas that are already cleared and developed. The proposed building locations are shown in Figure 4. The proposed action includes:

1. Construction of a Site Storage Building
  - a. Building will replace and consolidate the existing storage areas throughout the site located on the IX-516 barge and container storage boxes.
  - b. Approximately 4,000 sq. ft. climate-controlled building
2. Construction of a Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) Office Complex
  - a. Temporary facility for NNSY employees to replace the space and function of the existing YC-1598 office barge
  - b. Complex will consist of ten 24 ft. x 40 ft. double-wide trailers, double-stacked on a slab foundation installed at the current elevation and the NNSY Office Complex trailers will be raised above the 10 ft flood plain elevation with blocking. The finished floor elevation of the NNSY Office Complex trailers will be above the 10 ft. 100-year flood plain.
3. Containerized Storage Area
  - a. The area will consist of twenty-five (25) 20 ft storage containers and one (1) 40 ft storage container
  - b. The twenty-five (25) 20 ft storage containers shall be procured new and installed (placed, leveled, connected to power as applicable, and anchored)
  - c. The 40 ft storage container is to be relocated from elsewhere on the NPTU Site (located east of Building 2314 (TSB-1)). Electrical power and anchoring will be installed.
  - d. Six (6) of the storage containers shall be climate controlled and include electrical power
  - e. An additional six (6) of the storage containers shall have electrical power installed nearby for future climate control capability
4. Optional Elements of the Proposed Action which may be implemented:
  - a. Helical piles with grade beams instead of slab foundation for the NNSY Office Complex to be determined as design progresses.

The proposed action also includes demolition of existing fencing, utilities, and pavement on the footprint of new proposed structures.

The existing barges will be left in place until the Navy has determined the future use, if any, for the barges. Additional NEPA documentation will be evaluated for execution at that time, since this proposed action is not dependent on taking action with regard to the barges.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide adequate office and storage facilities to replace spaces currently located on the IX-516 and YC-1598 barges

The Proposed Action is needed because the IX-516 barge will no longer be available for use starting August 2026, the YC-1598 barge will no longer be available for use starting December 2025, and the new facilities are needed because NPTU does not currently have spaces or facilities for these purposes.

The Navy is proposing the action in a floodplain (Figure 5) because the buildings are required to be within the NPTU site boundary, and the proposed area is the only already-cleared/developed area large enough to accommodate the proposed buildings without further impacts to the environment. Finished floor elevations of all facilities will be above the 100-year floodplain.



Figure 1: Region Map



Figure 2: Vicinity Map





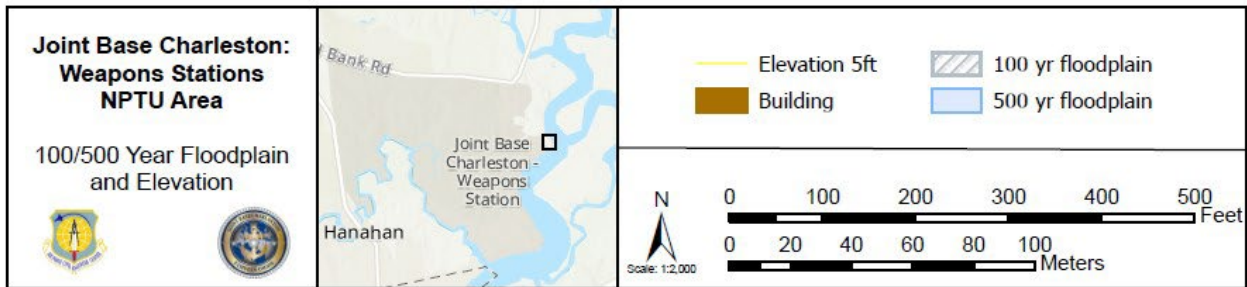
Figure 3: Aerial View of Construction Area





Figure 4: Aerial View of Construction Area with (approx.) locations of proposed buildings included





Prepared By: Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMMLY) Colorado State University Date: 12/5/2024 Contact: Travis Lyon;gregory.lyon.3.cdr@us.af.mil, Cooperative Agreement: Number W9126G-20-2-0004

**Figure 5. Floodplain Map**