

the registrability of a mark). When these entities provide legal advice, prepare trademark applications, or file submissions on behalf of others, they are likely engaging in unauthorized practice of law and unauthorized representation of others before the USPTO. Practice of law before the Office in trademark matters is described in 37 CFR 11.5(b)(2).

The USPTO has the authority to regulate the conduct of proceedings before the Office and the conduct of those who appear before the Office in proceedings, including practitioners and non-practitioners. See 5 U.S.C. 500(d)(2) (Federal agencies may sanction those “individuals who appear in a representative capacity before the agency”); 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2)(A) (the USPTO has the authority to establish regulations that “shall govern the conduct of proceedings in the Office”); and 35 U.S.C. 3(b)(2)(A) (the Commissioner for Trademarks has the authority to manage and direct all aspects of trademark operations).

Some customers appear to rely on non-attorney entities for legal advice without realizing that the non-attorney entity cannot represent trademark applicants before the USPTO or that the entity’s behavior could undermine the validity of their application or registration. Furthermore, these non-attorney entities are also routinely providing signatures on trademark submissions that violate the USPTO’s rules. Under these rules, submissions must be personally signed, and therefore, signatures are non-delegable. 37 CFR 2.193(a), 11.18; Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure § 611.01(c). Authorizing someone who is not the signatory to sign a trademark submission jeopardizes the validity of the submission and may affect the validity of the entire application or registration.

The USPTO has imposed sanctions and terminated pending applications that contain violations of USPTO rules, without regard to whether the applicant was aware of the rule violations perpetrated by those making submissions on their behalf. These trademark applicants have been misled and defrauded by actors filing submissions at the USPTO, purportedly on their behalf but clearly against the owner’s interest and, in most cases, without the owner’s knowledge. To discourage reliance on non-attorney entities and to adhere to the Lanham Act and the USPTO rules more closely, the USPTO is limiting user roles through the ID verification process for a *USPTO.gov* account to those authorized under USPTO rules to make trademark

submissions filings for the owner (*i.e.*, the owner and the owner’s representative authorized to practice law before the USPTO in trademark matters).

Katherine K. Vidal,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2022–14435 Filed 7–8–22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for O’Brien Road Access Modernization (ORAM), Within the Fort Meade Complex, Maryland

AGENCY: National Security Agency, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of intent; notice of public scoping; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The DoD announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential effects associated with proposed access and infrastructure upgrades at the National Security Agency’s (NSA) campus on Fort George G. Meade, Maryland (hereafter referred to as Fort Meade). The purpose of the proposed project is to increase efficiencies and capacity for required security processing of deliveries and traffic entering the NSA campus. Additionally, major construction projects have generated changes in Fort Meade traffic distribution, resulting in extensive delays for inspection and access. Publication of this notice begins a scoping process that identifies and determines the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS. This notice requests public participation in the scoping process and provides information on how to participate.

DATES: The public is invited to provide comments on the scope of the EIS during a 45-day public scoping period. Comments will be accepted until August 25, 2022.

In light of changing public health requirements, a narrated presentation will be made available in lieu of an in-person meeting. Information will be made available on the project website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/oram>. For further information, see “Scoping Process” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below).

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the scope of the EIS and comments on the scoping process may

be submitted by any of the following methods:

Mail: ORAM EIS, c/o: HDR 2650, Park Tower Drive, Suite 400, Vienna, VA 22180;

Email: ORAM@hdrinc.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeffrey Williams, Sr. Environmental Engineer, jdwill2@nsa.gov 301–688–2970.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: NSA is a tenant DoD agency on Fort Meade, occupying approximately 840 acres of the 5,107.7 acres of base property. Renovation and upgrade of inspection and access facilities for NSA is required to meet increased mission and security capacity. The existing Vehicle Control Inspection Facility (VCIF) and Vehicle Control Point 5 (VCP5) represent two significant entry points for access to the NSA campus. Both facilities require replacement due to process inefficiencies and insufficient capacity to meet current and future demand. Original sizing of the VCIF was to provide inspection facilities only for NSA deliveries and traffic. Post 9/11, a decision was made that NSA would inspect both Fort Meade and NSA deliveries. Additionally, major construction activities on Fort Meade have generated increases in traffic access and inspection throughout the installation. These conditions have resulted in extensive delays at the VCIF and traffic back-ups onto Maryland State Route 32. The design of VCP5 on O’Brien Road is also outdated and provides insufficient access capacity between the NSA campus and Fort Meade. Relocation of the Fort Meade Access Control Facility (ACF) on Mapes Road was included to facilitate the design and construction of the roadway system, as well as minimize environmental impacts.

Proposed Action and Alternatives: The proposed action would consist of: construction of a new VCIF with adjacent visitor control center; construction of a new Mail Screening Facility (MSF) adjacent to the VCIF; construction of a new VCP5; reconfiguration of the Mapes Road ACF; roadway improvements to provide enhanced routing and separation of traffic between NSA and Fort Meade; and associated infrastructure including sidewalks, inspection canopies, dog kennels, surface parking areas, stormwater management facilities, utilities, and related infrastructure.

It is anticipated that two build alternatives will be analyzed in detail through the EIS process that will involve distinct configurations of

project elements within the same general area on the NSA campus and Fort Meade. The No Action Alternative (not undertaking the proposed improvements) will also be analyzed in detail to provide a baseline for comparison with the action alternatives.

This notice of intent is required by 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1501.9 and briefly describes the Proposed Action and possible alternatives and our proposed scoping process. The EIS will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations in 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508, and DoD Instruction 4715.9 (Environmental Planning and Analysis).

Significant Issues: Environmental issues to be analyzed in the EIS will include potential effects on air quality, stream and wetland resources, forests, cultural resources, hazardous waste and materials, and transportation. Consultations to be incorporated into the preparation of the Draft EIS will include, but are not necessarily limited to, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Scoping Process: Public scoping is an early and open process for identifying and determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Scoping begins with this notice and continues through the 45-day public comment period.

As part of the public scoping process, in lieu of a public scoping meeting, a narrated presentation about the project and how to provide scoping comments will be made available on August 3, 2022, for a two-day period. The presentation will be made available on the project website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/oram>.

Upon completion of the scoping process, DoD will prepare a Draft EIS, and will publish a **Federal Register** notice announcing its public availability. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be available for public review by mid-2023. If you want the notice to be sent to you, please submit your request in writing (see **ADDRESSES** section in this notice). There will also be an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIS. Additionally, it is anticipated that a public meeting would be held after publication of the Draft EIS to present the Draft EIS and receive public comments regarding the document. NSA will consider all comments received and then prepare a Final EIS. As with the Draft EIS, NSA will announce the availability of the Final EIS and once again provide an

opportunity for review and comment. The Final EIS and a Record of Decision on the Proposed Action are expected in late 2023.

Dated: June 30, 2022.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2022-14726 Filed 7-8-22; 8:45 am]

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ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

AGENCY: U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

ACTION: Sunshine Act notice; notice of public roundtable agenda.

SUMMARY: U.S. Election Assistance Commission Roundtable Discussion: Disability and the Digital Divide in The Voting Process.

DATES: Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 11:00 a.m. Eastern.

ADDRESSES: Virtual via Zoom.

The roundtable discussion is open to the public and will be livestreamed on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpN6i0g2rIF4ITWhwvBwwZw>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kristen Muthig, Telephone: (202) 897-9285, Email: kmuthig@eac.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose: In accordance with the Government in the Sunshine Act (Sunshine Act), Public Law 94-409, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552b), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) will conduct a virtual roundtable discussion on a new study analyzing the digital divide between citizens with and without disabilities during the 2020 through 2022 election period.

Agenda: The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) will hold a roundtable discussion on a new study released by the EAC and the Program for Disability Research at Rutgers University. The report highlights new data on computer and internet use, sources of information on the voting process used in 2020, accessibility of information sources, preferred ways of getting an answer to a question about the voting process, trust in information sources, sources of information on candidates and issues, expectations about voting and information sources in 2022, and knowledge of rights for accessible information.

The event will include presentations of the findings from professors Lisa

Schur and Douglas Kruse from Rutgers University.

The full agenda will be posted in advance on the EAC website: <https://www.eac.gov>.

Background: In February 2021, the EAC released the “Disability and Voting Accessibility in the 2020 Elections,” a comprehensive national report identifying advancements and gaps in accessibility for voters with disabilities. The study focused on polling place access, mail and absentee voting accessibility, election administration challenges, COVID-19 obstacles, and community involvement. In July 2021, the EAC released “The Fact Sheet: Disability and Voter Turnout in the 2020 Elections,” a supplemental report with Rutgers University that used data from the federal government’s Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement for November 2020 to calculate disability turnout and identify trends.

Status: This roundtable discussion will be open to the public.

Amanda Joiner,

Acting General Counsel, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

[FR Doc. 2022-14836 Filed 7-7-22; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Nuclear Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an open meeting of the Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee. The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Tuesday, August 2, 2022; 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Hilton Washington DC National Mall The Wharf, 480 L’Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Luke Branscum, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-4290; email: Luke.Branscum@nuclear.energy.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Committee: The Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy on national policy and scientific aspects of nuclear issues of concern to DOE.