

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Army (Army) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Implementation of Energy, Water and Solid Waste Sustainability Initiatives at Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico. These initiatives are designed to increase installation sustainability at Fort Bliss while fostering regional coordination and cooperation to conserve energy and water, and reducing solid waste generation. The initiatives are part of Army's Net Zero project implementation and would not cause loss of training capability at Fort Bliss.

Under the Net Zero Initiative, Army installations would take actions to: produce as much renewable energy on the installation as the total energy used; limit the consumption of freshwater resources and maximize water reuse so as not to deplete the groundwater and surface water resources of the region in quantity or quality; and reduce, reuse, and recover solid waste streams, converting them to resource values with zero landfill utilization.

Although these activities would take place on Fort Bliss, they have the potential to affect the surrounding community. The Draft EIS assesses environmental impacts associated with the implementation of a number of policy, procedure, and project alternatives to increase energy, water and solid waste sustainability. The proposed actions that could reasonably be expected to move forward in the next three to eight years consist of implementation of conservation policies and procedures; construction of a reclaimed water distribution system; construction and operation of a waste-to-energy plant; construction and operation of a geothermal energy facility; and, construction of an electrical generation plant using dry-cooled concentrating solar power technology. The final alternative proposes implementation of other renewable energy technologies and planning projects compatible with installation planning criteria. It also addresses potential future renewable energy, water, and waste technology actions at a programmatic level.

The Department of the Army will conduct Public Meetings in El Paso, Texas (June 10-11, 2013) and Alamogordo, New Mexico (June 13, 2013), to describe the Energy, Water and Waste Sustainability Initiatives proposed by the Army for Fort Bliss in the Draft EIS. Representatives from Fort Bliss will be available to informally answer questions at a poster session before each meeting and after the initial presentation. Formal oral public comments from all interested parties will be taken during the public comment session of the meeting which will be transcribed for the record by a Court Reporter. The Army published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on May 17, 2013 for the Draft EIS. The public comment period to receive comments on the Draft EIS will last approximately 45 days from the date of the publication of the NOA in the Federal Register concluding on July 1, 2013.

Public meetings will be held at the following locations:

Monday, June 10, 2013  
Chapin High School Cafeteria  
7000 Dyer Rd, El Paso, TX 79904  
Parking is adjacent to the high school.

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mountain View High School Cafeteria  
14964 Greg Drive, El Paso, TX 79938  
Parking is available adjacent to the high school.

Thursday, June 13, 2013  
Otero County Administration Building, Room 221  
1101 New York Avenue, Alamogordo, N.M. 88310  
Parking is available adjacent to the building. The second floor meeting room is accessible via an elevator.

The doors at all venues will open at 6:00 p.m. Participants will be able to view posters and speak with Army representatives and scientists. Written information will be provided in English and Spanish. Spanish translators will also be available upon request. At 6:30 p.m. there will be opening remarks and a brief presentation about the Sustainability Initiatives; there will then be additional time afforded for participants to view posters and further interact with Army representatives and scientists. These representatives will contact shortly after the public meetings to follow up on information not immediately available at the meeting. At 7:00 p.m., the formal comment session will begin and participants will have the opportunity to present comments for the record. Comments will be recorded by a bilingual court reporter. Only comments received for the record will be considered as the EIS process goes forward.

The public may also provide comments for the record at the meetings in writing or by providing oral comments privately to the court reporter. If you have additional communication needs that require accommodation, please contact the person listed below by June 7, 2013.

Additional information about the Draft EIS and the public meetings can be found on the web at <http://www.ftblissnetzeroeis.net>. Information presented at the public meetings will also be posted after the completion of the meetings. Additional project information will be provided on the website as it becomes available.

Individuals who cannot attend the meetings, or who wish to, may submit their comments for the record and questions on the project website <http://www.ftblissnetzeroeis.net>, or by mail to John Kipp, Attn: FB Net Zero EIS, IMWE-BLS-PWE, Bldg. 624, Pleasonton Road, Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812

All comments must be submitted before the conclusion of the public comment period July 1, 2013. For additional information, contact Donita Kelley, Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office, at [donita.k.schexnaydre.civ@mail.mil](mailto:donita.k.schexnaydre.civ@mail.mil) or (915) 568-2497.