



COMMANDER, NAVY REGION NORTHWEST

Public Affairs Office
1100 Hunley Road, Silverdale, WA 98315-1100
Phone: (360) 396-1630 Fax: (360) 396-7127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Release #19-0329

March 29, 2019

NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT; NAVY TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETINGS

SILVERDALE, Wash — The U.S. Navy has prepared a draft supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to reassess the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting proposed ongoing and future military readiness activities within the NWTT Study Area, referred to as the “Study Area.” Military readiness activities include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities, referred to as “training and testing.” The Navy welcomes substantive public comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Proposed Action:

The Navy’s Proposed Action is to conduct training and testing activities at sea and in associated airspace within the Study Area beyond 2020. These activities continue to include the use of active sound navigation and ranging, known as sonar, and explosives while employing marine species mitigation measures. Proposed activities are similar to those conducted in the Study Area for decades and analyzed in the 2015 document.

The purpose of the Proposed Action, which remains the same as the 2015 analysis, is to conduct training and testing activities to ensure the Navy can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, consistent with Congressional direction in section 8062 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

In the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated new, relevant information, such as more recent marine mammal density data and new scientific information, and updated the environmental analyses as appropriate. The Navy prepared the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS to support the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- Conduct training and testing activities, at sea and in associated airspace, at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2020.
- Accommodate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

The Study Area remains unchanged since the 2015 NWTT Final EIS/OEIS. The Study Area is comprised of established maritime operating areas and warning areas in the northeastern Pacific

Ocean, including areas within the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. The Study Area includes air and water space within and outside Washington state waters and established special use airspace, Navy pierside and harbor locations within Washington state waters, and air and water space outside the state waters of Oregon and Northern California. In the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy analyzed only those training and testing activities conducted at sea and in associated airspace within the Study Area.

Visit the project website at www.NWTTEIS.com to download the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, view other project information, and submit substantive comments online.

Availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and public comment period:

The Navy is seeking public review and comment on the Proposed Action and alternatives as well as the accuracy and adequacy of the environmental analysis. The Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS is available for public review online at www.NWTTEIS.com and at the following locations:

Washington:

- Everett Main Library
- Gig Harbor Library
- Jefferson County Library, Port Hadlock
- Kitsap Regional Library, Poulsbo
- Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way, Bremerton
- North Olympic Library System, Forks Branch
- Lopez Island Library
- Oak Harbor Public Library
- Port Angeles Main Library
- Port Townsend Public Library
- San Juan Island Library
- Timberland Regional Library, Aberdeen
- Timberland Regional Library, Hoquiam

Oregon:

- Astoria Public Library
- Driftwood Public Library
- Newport Public Library
- Oregon State University, Guin Library Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Tillamook Main Library

Northern California:

- Fort Bragg Branch Library
- Humboldt County Public Library, Arcata Branch Library
- Humboldt County Public Library, Eureka Main Library
- Redwood Coast Senior Center

Southeastern Alaska:

- Juneau Public Library, Downtown Branch
- Ketchikan Public Library

The Navy will accept comments throughout the public comment period from **March 29, 2019**, to **May 28, 2019**. All comments must be postmarked or received online by **May 28, 2019**, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. All comments submitted during the public comment period will become part of the public record, and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Comments may be submitted online at www.NWTTEIS.com, at the public meetings, or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
Attention: NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
3730 N. Charles Porter Ave.
Building 385
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

Open house public meetings:

The Navy will hold eight open house public meetings to provide information, answer questions, and give the public an opportunity to comment on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The public may arrive at any time between **5 and 8 p.m.**, as there will not be a presentation or formal oral comment session. A stenographer will be available for the public to facilitate one-on-one oral comments; written comments can be submitted at any time during the meetings.

The open house public meetings will be held at the following locations:

Washington:

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Hampton Inn Seattle/Everett
Downtown Salish Room
2931 W. Marine View Drive
Everett, Wash.

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Ridgetop Middle School Cafeteria
10600 Hillsboro Drive NW
Silverdale, Wash.

Friday, April 26, 2019

Naval Elks Lodge #353
131 E. First St.
Port Angeles, Wash.

Oregon:

Monday, April 29, 2019

Astoria High School Student
Commons
1001 W. Marine Drive
Astoria, Ore.

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Newport Performing Arts Center
Lobby
777 W. Olive St.
Newport, Ore.

Northern California:

Thursday, May 2, 2019

Red Lion Hotel Eureka Ballroom
1929 Fourth St.
Eureka, Calif.

Friday, May 3, 2019

Dana Grey Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
1197 Chestnut St.
Fort Bragg, Calif.

Southeastern Alaska:

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Ted Ferry Civic Center Naha and
Alava Bays
888 Venetia Ave.
Ketchikan, Alaska

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact Ms. Julianne Stanford, Public Affairs Officer, at 360-396-1630 or julianne.stanford@navy.mil.

Media availability:

Media will have an opportunity to speak with key project personnel before each meeting at 4:30 p.m. Media interested in attending or seeking further information should contact Ms. Julianne Stanford, 360-396-1630 or julianne.stanford@navy.mil.