FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
FOR DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS
113, 130, 140, 141, 256 257 AND BORESIGHT TOWER,
NEW BOSTON AIR FORCE STATION, NEW HAMPSHIRE

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared for a Proposed Action and four alternatives, including the no action alternative, to demolition Buildings 113, 130, 140, 141 (West wing), 256, 257 and the Boresight Tower at New Boston Air Force Station, New Hampshire. In order to support the proposed scheduled demolition of these buildings, the demolitions must begin in November 2010 and are planned to conclude by the end of 2011. The EA titled *Environmental Assessment for Demolition of Buildings 113, 130, 141 (West wing), 256, 257 and the Boresight Tower at New Boston Air Force Station, New Hampshire, September 2010* is attached and incorporated by reference to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) at New Boston Air Force Station (NBAFS), New Hampshire proposes to demolish Building 113 (radio equipment shelter), Building 130 (former waste water treatment plant), Building 140 (generator shelter), west wing of Building 141 (former Logistics building), Building 256 (fuel vault), Building 257 (fueling station), and the Boresight Tower, remove associated infrastructure and establish a mowed lawn or allow natural re-vegetation. The purpose of the proposed action is to eliminate buildings and equipment that are no longer needed to accomplish the USAF mission at NBAFS; the proposed action would also reduce overall annual operations and maintenance costs.

Potential impacts to the natural and human environment associated with the demolition of Buildings 113, 130, 140, 141(portions), 256, 257, the Boresight Tower and associated infrastructure at NBAFS are assessed in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled "*Environmental Assessment For Demolition of Buildings 113, 130, 140, 141 (West wing), 256, 257, and the Boresight Tower at New Boston Air Force Station, New Hampshire*". The EA was prepared in accordance with specific tasks and procedures of the USAF Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR 989), as it applies to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S.C. §§4321-4347).

The EA evaluated the environmental consequences of the proposed demolition of several buildings. The alternatives include the proposed action, the alternatives, and the no action alterative.

The EA analyzed the potential for impacts to air quality, noise levels, topography, geology, soils, water resources, ecological resources (including threatened and endangered species and wetlands), cultural resources, land use, recreation, visual resources, socioeconomics, and health and safety. Based on a comparison of alternatives, the proposed action is preferred over the other alternatives. The general public was given a 15-day period September 20, 2010 to

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13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

14. ABSTRACT

The proposed action evaluated in this environmental assessment (EA) is the demolition of Building 113 (radio equipment shelter), Building 130 (former waste water treatment plant) Building 140 (generator shelter), West wing of Building 141 (former Logistics building) Building 256 (fuel vault), Building 257 (fueling station), the Boresight Tower, removal of associated infrastructure and the addition of 500 square feet of pavement adjacent to Building 134. The action could start during late 2010 or spring of 2011 and should conclude by 2012. The proposed action is needed to eliminate operation and maintenance costs for unnecessary structures on New Boston Air Force Station (NBAFS). Four other alternatives were evaluated including: Alternative 2, complete demolition of Building 141 leaving pavements, Alternative 3 demolition of Building 141 and construction of a new building, Alternative 4, repair of Building 141 and Alternative 5 no action (i.e., maintain buildings). This EA evaluated the potential impacts to air quality, noise levels, topography, geology, soils, water resources, ecological resources, cultural resources, land use, recreation, visual resources, socioeconomics, and health and safety. On the basis of this assessment, it was determined that the proposed action would result in only minor to negligible localized, short-term, or temporary impacts to the environment as compared to alternatives 2-5. The demolition of Buildings 113, 130, 141 (West wing), 256 257, and the Boresight Tower would result in a negligible to minor incremental addition to impacts that have occurred from other construction activities in the vicinity of NBAFS and would create and adverse effect to a contributing element to the NBAFS Cold War Historic District.

15. SUBJECT TERMS

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
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October 4, 2010 to comment on the proposed action and the EA. No comments were received from the public on the draft EA.

On the basis of the assessments presented in the EA, the proposed action would not result in any significant impacts to the environment. The project would result in an adverse effect to a contributing element to the New Boston Air Force Station Cold War District which would be mitigated through agreement with the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources and completion of a Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record.

Based upon the reviews and the assessments detailed in the EA, it has been determined that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be required for the demolition of Buildings 113, 130, 140, 141 (west wing), 256, 257, and the Boresight Tower at New Boston Air Force Station, New Hampshire.

22 NOV 10
Date

CLARK H. RISNER, Lt Col, USAF
Commander

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS 113, 130, 141 (WEST WING), 256, 257, AND THE BORESIGHT TOWER
AT NEW BOSTON AIR FORCE STATION, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Prepared by

23 SOPS/CEA

U.S. Department of the Air Force

New Boston Air Force Station

New Hampshire

September 2010

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFSCN	Air Force Satellite Control Network
ANL	Argonne National Laboratory
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
CO2	carbon dioxide
CTV	cable television
CY	Calendar Year
EA	environmental assessment
EIAP	environmental impact analysis process
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MSL	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NBAFS	New Boston Air Station
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHDHR	New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
O_3	ozone
OSHA	Occupational Health and Safety Act
PAL	Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
Pb	lead
PES	Parsons Engineering Sciences, Inc.
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 µm
PM_{10}	particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 µm
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SOPS	Space Operations Squadron
SAAQS	State of New Hampshire Ambient Air Quality Standards
USAF	United States Air Force
UXO	unexploded ordnance

UNITS OF MEASURE

cm	centimeter(s)
dB	decibel(s)
dBA	unit of weighted sound-pressure level
ft	foot (feet)
h	hour(s)
ha	hectare(s)
in.	inch(es)
km	kilometer(s)
km^2	square kilometer(s)
kV	kilovolt
L_{dn}	day-night weighted equivalent sound level
L_{eq}	equivalent steady sound level
m	meter(s)
m^2	square meter(s)
m^3	cubic meter(s)
mi	mile(s)
mi^2	square mile(s)
mm	millimeter(s)
μm	micrometer(s)
yd^3	cubic yard(s)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS 113, 130, 140, 141, 256, 257, AND THE BORESIGHT TOWER
AT NEW BOSTON AIR FORCE STATION, NEW HAMPSHIRE

prepared by

23 SOPS/CEA
U.S. Department of the Air Force
New Boston Air Force Station, New Hampshire

ABSTRACT

The proposed action evaluated in this environmental assessment (EA) is the demolition of Building 113 (radio equipment shelter), Building 130 (former waste water treatment plant), Building 140 (generator shelter), West wing of Building 141 (former Logistics building), Building 256 (fuel vault), Building 257 (fueling station), the Boresight Tower, removal of associated infrastructure and the addition of 500 square feet of pavement adjacent to Building 134. The action could start during late 2010 or spring of 2011 and should conclude by 2012. The proposed action is needed to eliminate operation and maintenance costs for unnecessary structures on New Boston Air Force Station (NBAFS). Four other alternatives were evaluated including: Alternative 2, complete demolition of Building 141 leaving pavements, Alternative 3, demolition of Building 141 and construction of a new building, Alternative 4, repair of Building 141 and Alternative 5 no action (i.e., maintain buildings). This EA evaluated the potential impacts to air quality, noise levels, topography, geology, soils, water resources, ecological resources, cultural resources, land use, recreation, visual resources, socioeconomics, and health and safety. On the basis of this assessment, it was determined that the proposed action would result in only minor to negligible localized, short-term, or temporary impacts to the environment as compared to alternatives 2-5. The demolition of Buildings 113, 130, 141 (West wing), 256, 257, and the Boresight Tower would result in a negligible to minor incremental addition to impacts that have occurred from other construction activities in the vicinity of NBAFS and would create and adverse effect to a contributing element to the NBAFS Cold War Historic District.

1. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action evaluated in this environmental assessment (EA) is the demolition of Building 113 (radio equipment shelter), Building 130 (former waste water treatment plant), Building 140 (generator shelter), Building 141 (former Logistics building), Building 256 (heating fuel vault for Building 141) Building 257 (fueling station), the Boresight Tower, removal of associated infrastructure and pavement of approximately 500 square feet at Building 134. The proposed action is needed to eliminate operation and maintenance costs for structures and equipment which are no longer needed to support mission requirements. The Boresight Tower and associated buildings (113 and 140) no longer support the USAF satellite communication mission; the Tower currently is used for military and civilian radio communication which can be mounted in other more cost effective locations on the base. Building 130 (former waste water treatment plant and lab) was replaced by a septic system and is no longer needed. The water lab function would be relocated to another building. Building 141 (former Logistics building) is currently used for heated storage and an armory is no longer needed. The armory would be relocated to another building and portions of 141 would be demolished while other portions would be retained for cold storage. Building 257 is no longer need for fuel storage; it has been replaced by a smaller aboveground fuel storage and dispensing station.

This EA evaluates the environmental consequences of implementation of the proposed action. This EA was prepared in accordance with specific tasks and procedures of the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR 989), as it applies to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC §§4321-434 7). The 23 SOPS Commander will decide whether the EA results in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or whether further study is required.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

This section provides a brief description of the proposed action and the no action alternative (Section 2.2.2).

2.1 Alternative 1, Proposed Action

The proposed action evaluated in this EA is the demolition of Building 113 (radio equipment shelter), Building 130 (former waste water treatment plant), Building 140 (generator shelter), Building 141 (former Logistics building), Building 256 (fuel vault), Building 257 (fueling station), the Boresight Tower, removal of associated infrastructure and the addition of 500 square feet of pavement adjacent to Building 134. Demolition activities would follow standard practices to comply with Federal, State, and local environmental and health and safety regulations. The demolition contractor would be responsible for the safe removal and legal off-site disposal of materials that cannot be salvaged.

Table 1 Building Information

Building number	Year constructed	Function	Square feet	Area disturbed
Building 113	1960	Equipment shelter	36	< 1/100 acre
Building 130	1993	Waste water treatment plant	2,496	< 1/4 acre
Building 140	1972	Generator shelter	60	< 1/100 acre
Building 141	1974	Logistics	10,400	< 1 acre
Building 256	1989	Heating fuel storage	277	Included in 141
Building 257	1989	Fuel pump &2- 2500 gal tanks	437	Included in 141
Boresight Tower	1971	Communication & calibration	144	< 1 acre

Figure 1. Location of Proposed Action and Alternative Action

Figure 2. Building 141 (Storage) and Building 257 (Fuel Storage)

Figure 3. Building 130, Waste Water Treatment Plant

Figure 4. The Boresight Tower

Figure 5. Building 113, Land Mobile Radio Support Building

Figure 6. Building 140, Generator building

2.2 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

2.2.1 Other Alternatives Considered

Several alternatives were considered by 23 SOPS to meet the USAF facility needs at New Boston AFS. The alternatives differ in the reuse of the Building 141 and surrounding grounds and pavements. The alternatives are presented in the following sections.

2.2.1.1 Alternative 2

Alternative 2 would be to completely demolish of Building 141 leaving only existing pavements. This alternative would reduce operational expenses related to maintenance and heating of Building 141. Selection of this alternative would cause the USAF to construct a new facility for cold storage at some later time rather than reusing portions of the existing steel framing.

2.2.1.2 Alternative 3

Alternative 3 would be to demolish Building 141 and construct a new building of similar size. Construction of a new facility was evaluated, it would replace the existing building with a new building with approximately the same amount of space. It was determined the cost of replacement was prohibitive, nearing $1 million dollars and the USAF does not currently have a requirement for the building space.

2.2.1.3 Alternative 4

Alternative four would be to repair Building 141 and continue using the structure for cold storage. Based on cost an estimated cost of $348,000 the project is viable although the USAF currently does not need the entire building for cold storage and would incur some operations cost related to the additional building size compared to other alternatives.

2.2.1.4 Alternative 5, No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the buildings would continue to be used for the current use and the Boresight Tower would continue to be used for communications. The USAF would

continue to expend funding to maintain the buildings. As the facilities age some would require substantial maintenance to remain in a safe working condition. The Boresight Tower, fuel tanks within Building 257 and associated fuel pumps would potentially need significant overhauls because of their age and potential corrosion associated with weathering.

2.2 Comparison of Alternatives

A summary comparison of the expected environmental impacts of the proposed action, and no action alternatives is presented in Table 1. Additional discussion of these environmental impacts is provided in Section 4.

Only minor or negligible impacts are expected to result from the proposed action. The impacts would be localized and of short duration, and would be a small incremental addition to the impacts that have resulted from other construction projects and associated landscaping within the Operations Area of NBAFS.

Table 2. Summary Comparison of Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action, Alternative Actions, and No Action Alternatives

Environmental Parameter	Impacts				
	Alternative 1 ***Proposed Action***	**Alternative 2** ***Demolish 141***	**Alternative 3** ***New building***	**Alternative 4** ***Repair 141***	**Alternative 5** ***No action***
Air Quality and Noise	Minor dust and engine emissions during demolition. No violations are expected of federal and state ambient air quality standards for criteria pollutants. Occasional short-term noise from truck traffic and equipment operation	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	No impact
Topography, Geology, and Soils	Localized minor terrain changes from grading. Localized minor soil erosion and compaction.	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	No impact
Water Resources	Potential for localized minor increases in turbidity and sedimentation during demolition and construction activities.	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	No impact
Ecological Resources	Potential minor indirect impact to wetlands resulting from sediment runoff during demolition. No impacts to listed threatened or endangered species. Potential for minor disturbance to Blanding's turtle, Eastern Hognose Snake, and other species. Creation of approximately 1/4 acre of maintained lawn at Building 130 favoring species which prefer open habitat.	Same as proposed action	Potential minor indirect impact to wetlands resulting from sediment runoff during demolition and construction. No impacts to listed threatened or endangered species. Potential for minor disturbance to Blanding's turtle, Eastern Hognose Snake, and other species. Creation of approximately 1/4 acre of maintained lawn at Building 130 favoring species which prefer open habitat.	Same as proposed action	No impact

Summary Comparison of Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action, Alternative Actions, and No Action Alternatives Continued

Environmental Parameter	Impacts				
	Alternative 1 ***Proposed Action***	**Alternative 2** ***Demolish 141***	**Alternative 3** ***New building***	**Alternative 4** ***Repair 141***	**Alternative 5** ***No action***
Ecological Resources Continued	Localized minor noise and visual disturbance to wildlife during demolition. Elimination of light pollution from the Boresight Tower strobe light.		Localized minor noise and visual disturbance to wildlife during demolition. Elimination of light pollution from the Boresight Tower strobe light.		
Cultural Resources	Adverse affect to the Boresight Tower which is a contributing element to the NBAFS Cold War historic district. Mitigation required.	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	No impact
Socioeconomic	Negligible, short-term benefits to the local economy during the demolition period. No environmental justice impacts.	Similar to proposed action	Similar to proposed action	Similar to proposed action	No impact
Health and Safety	Negligible potential for accidents to construction/demolition workers. Some asbestos abatement to take place in Building 141.	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	Same as proposed action	No impact

3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section presents a general description of NBAFS and the resources that could be affected by the construction of the underground electrical and communications distribution system. The descriptive material is drawn mostly from various EAs and natural resources reports that pertain to the NBAFS (e.g., ANL 1990, 1997, 1999; PES 1995, 1996).

3.1 Location, History, and Current Mission

NBAFS is located in south-central New Hampshire about 19 km (12 mi) west of Manchester. The 1,144-ha (2,826-acre) site is located within the towns of New Boston, Amherst, and Mont Vernon in Hillsborough County (Figure 1). The 17.7 ha (44 acres) Operations Area, that the proposed demolition is located in the northeast portion of the station and at the family camp.

As one of the worldwide network of satellite command and control stations of the Air Force Satellite Control Network (AFSCN), the current mission of NBAFS is to serve as a remote tracking station for military and communications satellites. The 23 Space Operations Squadron (SOPS) at NBAFS provides launch, operation, and on-orbit support for more than 160 military satellites, communication satellites, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other allied nation satellites, and for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space Shuttle missions.

From 1942 until 1956 the site (then known as the New Boston Bombing and Gunnery Range) was used as an air-to-ground bombing and strafing range. The USAF acquired rights to the site in 1957 for use as a satellite tracking station. In 1959, the 6594th Instrumentation Squadron was activated at NBAFS. Squadron activities began in 1960 with use of mobile radar units until the permanent facilities were constructed and in operation by 1964. In the early 1960s, the Operations Area was cleared of unexploded ordnance (UXO) before the permanent facilities for the satellite tracking mission were constructed. The site was formerly under the jurisdiction of the USAF Systems Command, and moved under the USAF Space Command in 1987 (PES 1995). The satellite tracking mission is conducted from the

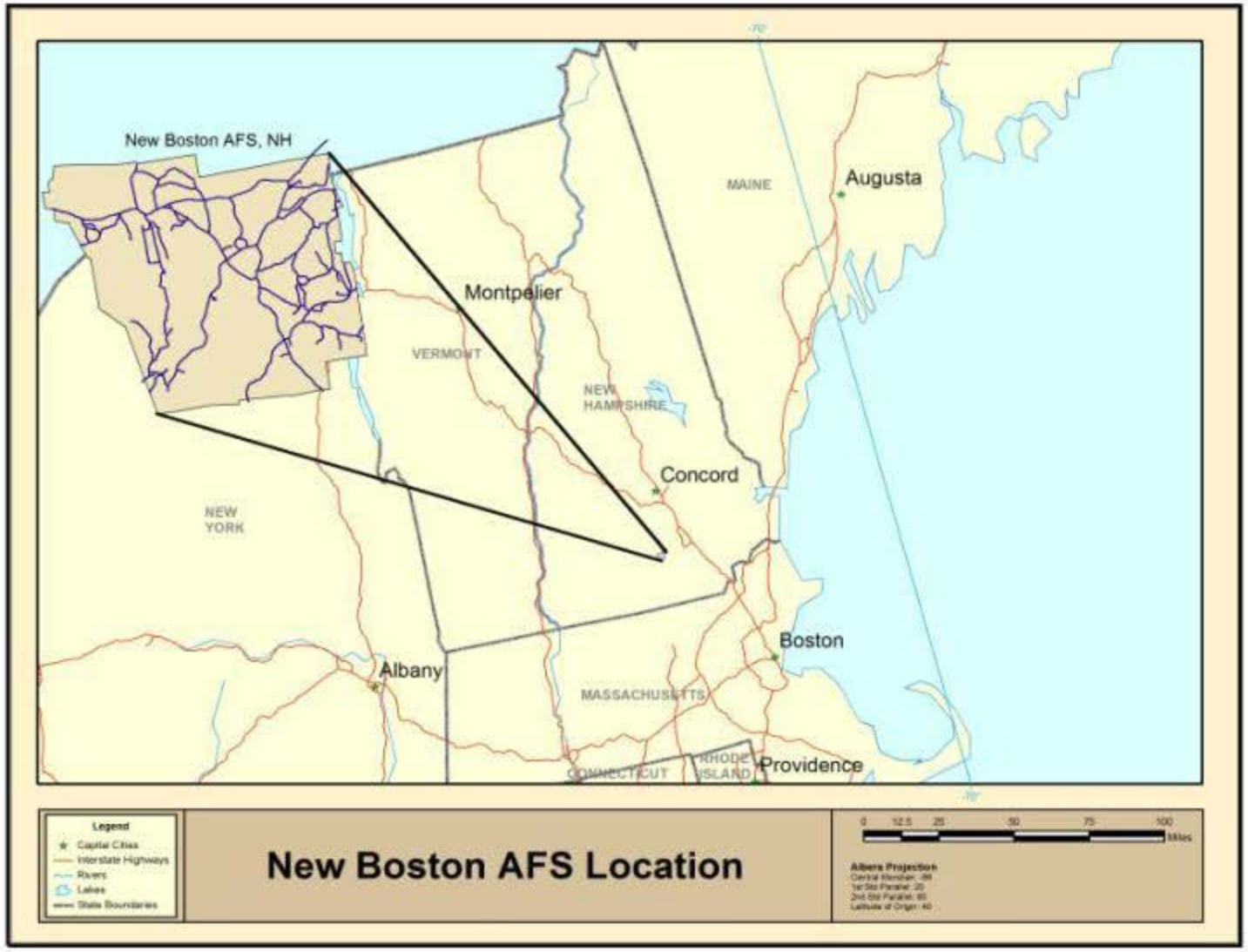

Figure 7. Location of New Boston Air Station, New Hampshire

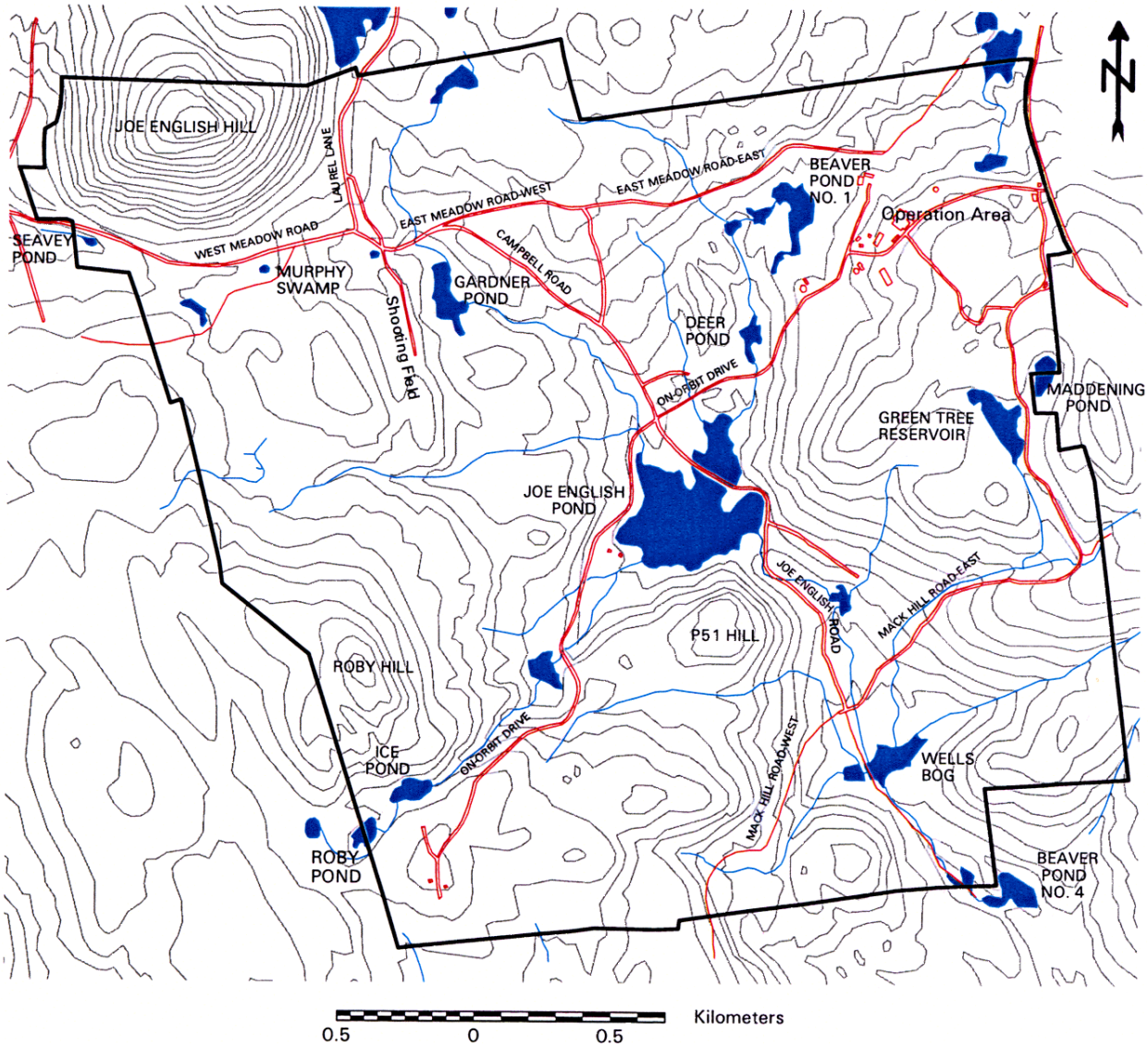

Figure 8. Station Boundaries, Roads, Facilities, and Natural Features on New Boston Air Station, New Hampshire (Source: ANL 1997)

operations area. The remainder of NBAFS supports military training exercises, recreation, and natural resource management (ANL 2000).

3.2 Climate, Air Quality, and Noise

3.2.1 Climate

The region around the NBAFS is characterized by a humid continental climate. Precipitation is distributed throughout the year, with no particular wet or dry season. Coastal storms can be a serious weather hazard in southeastern New Hampshire, decreasing in importance northward (Ruffner 1985). Such storms generate very strong winds and heavy rain or snow. Storms of tropical origin affect or threaten New Hampshire about once every 2 to 3 years. Thunderstorms occur 15 to 30 times per year. Ice storms occur in the winter but are usually of short duration. However, a few widespread and prolonged ice storms have occurred. Based on the data for the 9,130 km^2 (3,530 mi^2) area that includes the NBAFS, less than two tornadoes occur per year. The localized area effected by a tornado averages only 0.29 km^2 (0.11 mi^2; Ramsdell and Andrews 1986) (ANL 2000).

3.2.2 Air Quality

The State of New Hampshire Ambient Air Quality Standards (SAAQS) are identical to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria air pollutants: sulfur oxides (as sulfur dioxide [SO_2]), particulate matter with aerodynamic diameters of $\leq$10 µm and equal to 2.5 µm (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ respectively), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O_3), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), and lead (Pb) (Sanborn 1998). In 1996, New Hampshire discontinued Pb monitoring because Pb concentrations were well below the NAAQS and at the lowest levels of the detection limit (ANL 2000). The Amherst portion of New Boston AFS is currently in a non-attainment area for NAAQS 8 hour Ozone; the remainder of the installation is in an attainment area for all pollutants.

Permitted air pollution sources at NBAFS include two backup electrical generators at the power plant (Building 157), two backup electrical generators in Building 142 and one backup electrical generator in Building 164.

3.2.3 Noise

Currently, no quantitative noise-limit regulations exist in New Hampshire (ANL 1999). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines recommend an L_{dn} (the day-night weighted equivalent sound level) of 55 dBA[1], which is considered sufficient to protect the public from the effect of broad-band environmental noise in typically quiet outdoor and residential areas (EPA 1974). For protection against hearing loss in the general population from non-impulsive noise, the EPA guidelines recommend an L_{eq}[2] of 70 dBA or less per day over a 40-year period.

No noise monitoring data are available from the area around the NBAFS site. However, the acoustic environment around the NBAFS site can be considered that of a rural location, having typical residual sound levels of approximately 30 to 35 dBA (Liebich and Cristoforo 1988). The closest off-site residences to the Operations Area occur immediately adjacent to the site boundary along Chestnut Hill Road. Ambient noise levels at these residences would be substantially increased at times when traffic passes by (ANL 2000).

3.3 Topography, Geology, and Soils

NBAFS is located within an area of hilly and mountainous terrain. The main physiographic features on NBAFS are Chestnut Hill in the northeastern section, Roby Hill in the southwestern section, and Joe English Hill in the northwestern section. Within the center of the station is Joe English Pond (Figure 8).

The bedrock geology underlying NBAFS consists of Pre-Quaternary metamorphic and igneous rocks. Generally, the bedrock is buried beneath glacial drift. Till is the dominant surficial deposit, composed of an unsorted to poorly sorted mixture of clay, silt, sand, pebble, cobbles, gravel, and boulders. However, swamp deposits and recent alluvium are also present. Glacial striations and drumlins (elongate or oval hills) are present throughout the area, providing

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[1] dBA is a unit of weighted sound-pressure level, measured by the use of the metering characteristics and the "A" weighting specified in the *American Standard Specification for Sound Level Meters ANSI SI.4-1983* and *Amendment S1.4A-1985* (Acoustical Society of America 1983, 1985).

[2] L_{eq} is the equivalent steady sound level that, if continuous during a specific time period, would contain the same total energy as the actual time-varying sound. For example, L_{eq}(1-h) is the 1-hour equivalent sound level.

evidence of the general north to south glacial movement. Chestnut Hill is one such glacial feature, a drumlin (PES 1995).

Over 90 percent of the soils on NBAFS were formed in glacial till; the remainder formed in outwash plains, kame terraces, or stream valleys. Soils formed in glacial till tend to be fine-textured and dense and contain many stones. Soils covering about one-half of NBAFS are classified as stony or very stony. The soils at NBAFS tend to be highly resistant to erosion if stabilized by vegetative cover. However, the soils have moderate to extreme erosion potential in bare areas due to the fine texture of the soils and steep slopes present in portions of NBAFS. Activities that disturb or remove vegetation are likely to increase the erosion hazard, particularly on slopes (ENSR 1993).

The soils in the project area include: (1) Chatfield-Hollis-Canton complex, 8-15% slopes, and (2) Chatfield-Hollis-Canton complex, 15-25% slopes (Bond and Handler 1981). None of these soils meet the requirements for prime farmland. Depth to bedrock is 25 to 51 cm (10 to 20 in.) for Hollis soils, 51 to 102 cm (20 to 40 in.) for Chatfield soils (ANL 2000).

3.4 Water Resources

Most of NBAFS is located within the Joe English Brook watershed. The station contains a number of open waters and stream segments (intermittent and perennial; Figure 8). Within the vicinity of the proposed action there are no well defined drainages and no jurisdictional wetlands (ANL 1990).

The major aquifer system at NBAFS is in the bedrock. Groundwater levels at NBAFS range from 22 m (73 ft) below land surface to flowing artesian conditions near Joe English Pond.

No Federal Emergency Management Agency data are available for floodplains within NBAFS (PES 1995). However, major flood events (i.e., 100- to 500-year flood) would principally affect areas associated with Joe English Pond and Joe English Brook (PES 1995).

3.5 Ecological Resources

The NBAFS has been identified as a Category I installation by both the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This classification indicates that the NBAFS has habitat suitable for conserving and managing fish and wildlife. An

Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan has been prepared to guide management of the natural resources of NBAFS using an ecosystem approach. The relatively high biodiversity supported on NBAFS is attributable to the presence of generally undisturbed lands throughout much of the site and to the types of low-impact activities that occur on the station.

Several comprehensive surveys have been conducted to determine the habitats and biotic composition of NBAFS—wetland delineations (PES 1996) and a biodiversity survey (ANL 1997), Eastern Hognose surveys, bat surveys and rare turtle surveys. The following discussion of ecological resources emphasizes those resources in and around the project locations.

Most of the developed land at NBAFS (buildings, roads, and parking lots interspersed with mowed lawns and landscaped plantings) is limited to the operations area and the Family camp. The herbaceous cover in these areas are either cultivated lawn grasses in level areas or a variety of planted grasses and forbs on slopes (hard fescue, birdsfoot trefoil, crown vetch, and white clover). In addition to grass, the operations area and family camp includes landscape plantings of native tree and shrub species (e.g., white pine, maples, dogwood, and junipers). The landscaped lawns in the operations area and family camp provide habitat for wildlife. Deciduous and mixed forests are the primary undeveloped habitats in the project area. Northern red oak is the dominant species in the deciduous forest. Other tree species include sugar maple, white oak, black birch, beech, and paper birch (ENSR 1993). In addition to these deciduous trees, mixed forest habitat includes eastern white pine and eastern hemlock in the tree canopy (ANL 1997).

Wildlife species in the project area are typical for the station and region. Commonly encountered species include mourning dove, blue jay, black-capped chickadee, American robin, rufous-sided towhee, dark-eyed junco, house finch, raccoon, coyote, Eastern chipmunk, woodchuck, red squirrel, red-backed vole, and white-tailed deer (ANL 1997).

The threatened, endangered, and rare species known to occur on NBAFS are listed in Table 2 (Appendix A). A discussion of these species and the eight rare natural communities that occur at NBAFS is provided in ANL (1997) and summarized in ANL (1999). None of the rare natural communities are located near the project area. The Blanding's turtle (state endangered), Eastern Hognose Snake (state endangered) and whip-poor-will are the only rare or listed species that are known to occur near the proposed project area. The Blanding's turtle is typically found in wetland habitats (DeGraaf and Rudis 1986), but is occasionally found in other habitats as they move between wetlands (ANL 1997). The whip-poor-will prefers to nest in open, dry woodland

often near openings (ANL 1997). The Eastern Hognose snake is well documented throughout the installation including occasional use of man-made buildings.

3.6 Cultural Resources

Archaeological investigations within the Merrimack River system have documented prehistoric sites dating from the Paleo period (10,000-8000 B.C.). The streams and wetlands present at NBAFS and its high natural resource potential made it a suitable location for both temporary single-purpose foraging locations and possible multi-component campsites (i.e., sites containing evidence of several occupational periods). Two prehistoric sites and four isolated finds were recorded at NBAFS during subsurface testing (PAL 1993).

Fifty historic sites occur on NBAFS (24 rural homesteads, 3 industrial complexes, and 15 civic sites [roads and cart-paths, bridges and stone culverts, dams, stone walls, school, and trash dumps] and 8 military [plane crashes, practice ranges, observation Towers and other structures]). These sites are all located in the NBAFS Archaeological District, a multi-component district approved by Air Force command and the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer. It is the multi-component nature of district (homesteads and farms, stonewall lined roads and cart-paths, the school site and mills) that add significantly to the districts integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The contributing properties can be found all over the district but are concentrated centrally around Joe English Pond and in the northwest and southeast corners of the facility. A few other contributing properties are clustered together in the southwest corner around Roby and Ice Pond. Historic period roadways link many of the identified contributing properties while the multitudes of stone walls found on the property identify ownership, boundaries, and land uses associated with the agriculture related properties.

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) within the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) has indicated that seven buildings within the Operations Area may contribute to an historic district that is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (Muller 1998).

Past activities at NBAFS have resulted in some impacts to cultural resources. Evidence of looting, erosion, past military training and other damaging activities has been reported at several of the sites. The specific causes of the damages and time that they occurred are not known.

3.7 Land Use, Recreation, and Visual Resources

Facilities that support the satellite-tracking operations at NBAFS occupy about 17.7 ha (44 acres) of the 1,144 ha (2,826 acre) site (ANL 1997). Over the years, NBAFS has been restoring the remainder of the land to a natural state, while maintaining a proper balance between natural resource enhancements and recreational and military training use of the station. Facilities located within the operations area include three enclosed satellite dish antennae, satellite-control buildings, and satellite-tracking and communications buildings. Support facilities include maintenance and administration buildings, a fire station, and storage facilities. The unimproved portions of NBAFS are not used to actively support mission operations (ANL 1999).

Recreational use of NBAFS is restricted primarily to active and retired military staff and their families and certain members of the public. Numerous active and passive outdoor recreational opportunities are available at NBAFS, including nature watching, fishing, swimming, camping, hiking, rock climbing, hunting, archery, boating, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, ice skating, sledding, and snowmobiling (ANL 1990). Currently approximately half of NBAFS is closed to recreational use due to unexploded ordnance remediation activities carried out under the USAF Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP).

The land immediately surrounding NBAFS is heavily wooded, representing some of the least developed and most rural portions of New Boston, Amherst, and Mont Vernon. However, the primary land use designated for the area is low-density residential use (PES 1995). Low-density, single-family homes on parcels typically over one acre; undeveloped lands; and several active farms (particularly along Chestnut Hill Road and Joe English Road) occur in the immediate vicinity of NBAFS.

Because of the limited land area required to support satellite-tracking operations, most of NBAFS provides a natural setting (e.g., the forests, hills, wetlands, and ponds). Visual resources are therefore rated as excellent, with scenic vistas evident from the station's higher elevations.

3.8 Socioeconomics

About 150 people are employed by NBAFS (10 military and the remainder civilian or civilian contract employees). Although rural in character, the three communities that surround NBAFS have experienced population growth because of their location within one of the most

rapidly expanding areas of New England. To accommodate this growth, residential development is expected to continue in the neighborhoods surrounding NBAFS. The communities that surround NBAFS represent three affluent communities the household median income for Amherst was $89,384 (in 1999 dollars), Mont Vernon was $71,250 and New Boston was $66,020 all well above the state median household income of $49,467 according to 2000 US Census (www.census.gov).

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Potential impacts from the proposed alternative that were evaluated in this EA include: (1) air quality impacts; including noise increases; (2) disturbance of land, from excavation, grading, and backfilling; (3) land use alterations and limitations; (4) habitat modification; and (5) damage to cultural and archaeological resources. The demolition contractor would have to comply with all Federal, State, and local regulations pertaining to the environment (e.g., air, noise, solid wastes, water; USAF 2009). Adherence to these regulations would mitigate the potential for adverse demolition impacts. Nevertheless, some environmental impacts would be unavoidable. The following sections discuss these potential environmental impacts and their significance.

4.1 Air Quality and Noise

4.1.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Localized, short-term air quality impacts that would occur during demolition include the generation of fugitive dust and engine exhaust emissions. A small number of heavy equipment and vehicles would be involved, so total emissions would be rather small. Therefore, the potential impacts on ambient air quality in the vicinity of the NBAFS site would be minor and of short duration. No violations of applicable federal and state ambient air quality standards are expected.

Noise impacts would occur from the use of machinery and vehicles and demolition. Demolition would occur mostly during weekday, daytime hours, thus much of the demolition noise would be masked by background noises. Noise impacts associated with demolition activities would be minor and of short duration.

Demolition specifications for this project would minimize air and noise impacts during demolition. Water could be used for dust suppression if conditions warrant. No burning of materials and debris would be permitted. Also, demolition vehicles would be required to

function properly (e.g., exhaust systems with no leaks). Maximum use would be made of low-noise emission products, as certified by the EPA.

4.1.2 Effects of Alternative 2

The impacts to air quality and noise from completely demolishing Building 141 (Alternative 2) would not differ substantially from alternative 1. Noise impacts would be primarily the same with possibly some addition time duration associated with demolishing all of Building 141. Air quality impacts would not differ substantially from Alternative 1; any impacts would be localized and short term.

4.1.3 Effects of Alternative 3

The impacts to air quality and noise from constructing a new building in the Building 141 area (Alternative 3) would not differ substantially from alternative 1. Noise impacts would occur over a much longer time because the project would include demolition of the existing structure and construction of a new building. Air quality impacts would not differ substantially from Alternative 1; any impacts would be localized and short term.

4.1.4 Effects of Alternative 4

The impacts to air quality and noise from repairing Building 141 (Alternative 4) would not differ substantially from alternative 1. Noise impacts would be similar with less noise from heavy demolition equipment and associated truck traffic. Air quality impacts would not differ substantially from Alternative 1; any impacts would be localized and short term.

4.1.5 Effects of Alternative 5 (No Action)

The No Action alternative would not cause any changes to current noise levels on NBAFS. There would be no new impacts to air quality.

4.2 Topography, Geology, and Soils

4.2.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Localized terrain changes would result from grading the project area at Building 130 after demolition, erosion would be negligible due small amount of soil being disturbed. The use of erosion fences, hay bales, geotextile fabric, sediment basins, diversion ditches, berms, and temporary revegetation, as described in the demolition specifications for this project, would further reduce impacts to soils.

The demolition staging area would be located on a paved or graveled surface. By refueling demolition equipment in this area, the potential for impacts from fuel-handling spills would be minimized. Vehicles and other equipment would be required to be clean and properly operating (e.g., no fuel or hydraulic leaks and motors reasonably clean of excess grease) to prevent leaks. Fuel oil and petroleum storage tanks would be surrounded by appropriately sized earthen berms to contain any spills or leaks. In the event of a spill or leak, response would be in accordance with established Air Force and State regulations.

4.2.2 Effects of Alternatives 2-4

Alternative 2 (Demolish Building 141), Alternative 3 (Construct new building), and Alternative 4 (Repair Building 141), effects to topography, geology and soil would not differ from Alternative 1.

4.2.3 Effects of Alternative 5

The principle difference between Alternative 1 and Alternative 5 (No Action) would be the lack of disturbance to soils at Building 130 and the surrounding area. The Building would remain and the surface area of the building would continue to be an impervious surface, shedding water to the surrounding area during storm events. All other surfaces around Building 141 would continue to be impervious as is the case in all other alternatives.

4.3 Water Resources

4.3.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Localized minor to negligible increases in turbidity and sedimentation of surface waters in the project vicinity could occur during periods of soil disturbance. The major source for these impacts would be runoff from excavated soil at Building 130, particularly during inclement weather, but erosion control practices required for this project would prevent significant impacts.

Demolition would not be expected to affect groundwater resources (e.g., change the depth to groundwater, alter groundwater flow direction, affect groundwater recharge, or impact groundwater quality). As discussed in Section 4.2, the potential for spills from fuel handling would be minimized through preventative actions and approved spill response procedures.

4.3.2 Effects of Alternatives 2-4

Alternative 2 (Demolish Building 141), Alternative 3 (Construct new building), and Alternative 4 (Repair Building 141), effects to water resources would not differ from Alternative 1.

4.3.3 Effects of Alternative 5

The principle difference between Alternative 1 and Alternative 5 (No Action) would be the lack of disturbance to soils at Building 130 and the surrounding area. The Building would remain and the surface area of the building would continue to be an impervious surface, shedding water to the surrounding area during storm events. Building 130 would continue to be used for a water testing lab and the waste water treatment function and equipment would continue to be mothballed. Leaving Building 130 intact would leave open the option of reactivating (with proper permits) the waste water treatment plant which would cause increased flow and nutrient input in downstream wetlands.

4.4 Ecological Resources

4.4.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Impacts to ecological resources would be limited primarily to the immediate demolition area. Dust and other particulates associated with demolition, which could affect adjacent vegetation, would be produced over a short period of time and would be confined to a narrow corridor. Dust control measures (Section 4.1) would minimize any associated impacts.

Wildlife in the immediate project vicinity would be disturbed during demolition by noise and visual disturbances from equipment, blasting, and demolition personnel. These disturbances could cause short distance movements of wildlife, scare birds off their nests, or otherwise disrupt normal wildlife activities. However, because of the temporary and localized nature of these disturbances, their impacts are expected to be negligible.

Minor impacts to wildlife also could result from habitat alteration associated with the proposed action.

Impacts to aquatic and wetland habitats and biota are expected to be temporary, minor, and indirect. No direct impacts (e.g., dredge or fill activities) to jurisdictional wetlands would occur. Demolition practices required by NBAFS would minimize erosion and sedimentation.

Some of the listed and rare wildlife species and neotropical migrant bird species (afforded protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act) are distributed widely across the station and could occur in the project area (ANL 1999). The Blanding's turtle (state endangered) and Eastern Hognose Snake (state endangered) are the only rare or listed species that have been reported from the project area (Section 3.5). Individuals of these species in the immediate project area could be disturbed during project demolition, but demolition personnel would be notified of their potential occurrence and would be required to notify NBAFS staff if any individuals were observed in the project area. The fact that most of this area is currently developed greatly reduces the potential for impact. There would be a small chance of incidental take of hognose snake or Blanding’s turtle if either wandered in the project area un-noticed. Any impacts that would occur would be minor, and would not jeopardize the survival of these species at NBAFS.

The demolition contractor would be responsible for meeting restoration requirements set forth by NBAFS including grading and establishing lawn at Building 130.

4.4.2 Effects of Alternatives 2-4

Alternative 2 (Demolish Building 141), Alternative 3 (Construct new building), and Alternative 4 (Repair Building 141), effects to ecological resources would not differ from Alternative 1.

4.4.3 Effects of Alternative 5

None of the impacts associated with disturbance to ecological resources would occur if the project were not implemented. If the action does not take place wildlife would continue to use habitat surrounding the project area with little disturbance; the chance of a incidental take of hognose snake or Blanding's turtle would be eliminated.

4.5 Cultural Resources

4.5.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The proposed project would result in an adverse affect to the Boresight Tower which is a contributing resource to the NBAFS Cold War District. Earth-moving activities and the use of heavy equipment could potentially encounter previously undiscovered historic and prehistoric artifacts. The potential to discover artifacts is low as the project area has previously been subjected to disturbance. Nevertheless, if cultural materials are unexpectedly encountered during demolition, operations would cease in the immediate area of the discovery until permission to resume work is given by NBAFS.

The proposed action would require concurrence by the NH Division of Historic Resources (State Historic Preservation Officer) and completion of some form of mitigation. The proposed mitigation would be completion of a Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record.

4.5.2 Effects of Alternatives 2-4

Alternative 2 (Demolish Building 141), Alternative 3 (Construct new building), and Alternative 4 (Repair Building 141), effects to cultural resources would not differ from Alternative 1.

4.5.3 Effects of Alternative 5

None of the impacts associated with disturbance to cultural resources would occur if the project were not implemented. If the action does not take place the Boresight Tower would continue to be a contributing element of the NBAFS Cold War District. There would be no disturbance to soil and no potential to disturb surface or subsurface artifacts.

4.6 Land Use, Recreation, and Visual Resources

4.6.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The proposed project would result in a localized minor short-term loss followed by a long-term minor net gain in natural resources (Section 4.4). This would not conflict with any plans or goals for natural resource management at NBAFS. No changes in the satellite-tracking mission would occur. Demolition would be conducted in a manner that would minimize possible interference with normal station operations (e.g., the staging area would be located at an NBAFS-approved area).

Short-term visual effects during the demolition would consist of views of demolition personnel and equipment. Removal of buildings, utilities, asphalt, and other items associated with the buildings would improve compatibility of views with the surrounding landscape. The proposed project would have no effects on land use in the area surrounding NBAFS.

4.6.2 Effects of Alternative 2-4

Alternative 2 (Demolish Building 141), Alternative 3 (Construct new building), and Alternative 4 (Repair Building 141), effects to land use, recreation and visual resource would not differ from Alternative 1.

4.6.3 Effects of Alternative 5 (No Action)

Alternative 5 would have no impact on land use, recreation or visual resources.

4.7 Socioeconomics

4.7.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The proposed action would require about 1000 man-hours of labor over a period of about two months at a base project demolition cost approximate of $500,000. All demolition activities would be confined to NBAFS. The nature and duration of the proposed demolition project would not cause any significant adverse socioeconomic impacts to the local population, labor force, or economy. Because only a small work force would be required, impacts on the capacities of public services (e.g., schools, police, fire protection) would not occur. The demolition project would provide minor employment benefits and associated increase in cash flow to the local economy.

Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" (February 11, 1994), requires federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. No environmental justice impacts would be expected to either minority or low-income populations, since the proposed project would have no impact on the population immediately surrounding NBAFS.

4.7.2 Effects of Alternative 2

Completely demolishing Building 141 in addition the other facilities would have approximately the same short-term impact on the local economy as Alternative 1.

4.7.3 Effects of Alternative 3

Demolishing Building 141 and replacing it with a new building (Alternative 3) would increase the amount of funding spent in the local economy approximately two fold ($900,000).

Construction of a new building, although short term would be expected to cause additional employment in the local area especially in the building trades.

4.7.4 Effects of Alternative 4

Repair of Building 141 (Alternative 4) would reduce the amount of man hours spent on demolition but would provide for additional funding in the construction field and be expected to last over a slightly longer period.

4.8 Health and Safety

4.8.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Health and safety issues related to the demolition routinely center on the potential or perceived effects from exposure to asbestos, lead paint, and other hazardous materials. Approximately 1300 square feet of wallboard containing asbestos and 1300 square feet of floor tile containing asbestos will need to be remediated in Building 141. The potential would exist, albeit small, for serious injuries or fatalities to workers during demolition. The contractor would be responsible for complying with all Occupational Safety and health Act (OSHA) requirements and for instructing employees on accident prevention and safety. Any work that has potential to disturb sub-surface UXO would require a trained escort per Department of Defense and USAF rules.

4.8.2 Effects of Alternative 2

The complete demolition of Building 141 (Alternative 2) in addition to the other facilities would have similar effects to Alternative 1.

4.8.3 Effects of Alternative 3

Construction of a new Building 141 (Alternative 3) would have similar effects during the demolition phase. Other hazards associated with construction including falls, cuts, hazardous material use would have potential to impact workers.

4.8.4 Effects of Alternative 4

Repair of Building 141 (Alternative 4) would have similar impacts to Alternative 3 and Alternative 1 associated with demolition of the other structures and repair work on Building 141.

4.8.5 Effects of Alternative 5 (No Action)

Selection the no action alternative would result in the elimination of all possible impacts to health and safety.

4.9 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Resources that would be committed irreversibly or irretrievably during demolition of Buildings 113, 130, 141, 256, 257, and the Boresight Tower would include materials that could not be recovered or recycled and materials or resources that would be consumed or reduced to irrecoverable forms. Use of fuel, oil, and other materials during demolition would constitute an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of those resources. The Boresight Tower would represent a permanent loss of a contributing element to the cold war district.

4.10 Relationship between Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity

This section evaluates the effect of the proposed short-term use of the environment for the demolition of Buildings 113, 130, 141 (West wing), 256, 257, and the Boresight Tower on the long-term productivity of this same land and its resources. Demolition of the buildings would eliminate costly maintenance requirements and eliminate inefficient use of energy (heat and power). Most adverse impacts to the environment would be temporary (e.g. increased noise).

The only short-term socioeconomic impacts would be those associated with the employment of demolition workers over a period of about two months. Long-term socioeconomic impacts would be negligible.

4.8 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are those impacts to the environment that result from the incremental effect of the proposed project when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable

future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated for either the proposed or alternative actions.

The elimination of the Boresight Tower a cold war resource coupled with other changes to NBAFS facilities resulting from continued modernization could result in the eventual elimination of the cold war district.

The potential impact on ambient air quality from demolition emissions (e.g., fugitive dust and engine exhaust emissions) would be a negligible short-term increase in emissions occurring from other activities at NBAFS and within Hillsborough County. However, emissions associated with the proposed action would be mostly confined to the immediate project area since most emissions would be released near ground level. Emission rates would be low, so potential impacts on ambient air quality would be minor. Under the proposed and alternative actions, some demolition noise could be detectable. However, these activities would occur infrequently, so cumulative noise impacts would be localized and temporary in nature.

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APPENDIX A. LISTED AND RARE SPECIES ON NEW BOSTON AIR STATION

Table 3 Federally Listed, State Listed, and Rare Species of Plants and Animals Found on New Boston Air Station, New Hampshire.[a]

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
Plants				
Fern-leaved false foxglove	*Aureolaria pedicularia* var *intercedens*	-[b]	LE	S1
Moths				
No common name	*Aphareta purpurea*	-	-	S2
Orange-spotted idia	*Idia diminuendis*	-	-	S2S4
Butterflies and Skippers				
Appalachian brown	*Satyrodes appalachia*	-	-	S1?
Delaware skipper	*Atrytone logan*	-	-	S3S4
Mulberry wing	*Poanes massasoit*	-	-	S1S3
Little glassywing	*Pompeius verna*	-	-	SU
Reptiles				
Blanding's turtle	*Emydoidea blandingii*	-	LE	S3
Spotted turtle	*Clemmys guttata*		LT	S2
Wood turtle	Glyptemys insculpta		SC	S3
Eastern hognose snake	*Heterodon platirhinos*	-	LE	S3
Birds				
Pied-billed grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*	-	LE	S1B/ZN
American bittern	*Botaurus lentiginosus*	-	-	S3B
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	-	LT	S2B/ZN
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*		LE	S1
Northern harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	-	LT	S2B
Whip-poor-will	*Caprimulgus vociferus*	-	-	S3B
Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis			S3

Mammals

Small footed bat	*Myotis leibii*	LE	S1
Northern long-eared	*Myotis septentrionalis*		S3
Silver haired bat	*Lasionycteris noctivagans*		S3B
Tricolored bat	*Pipistrellus subflavus*		S1N,SUB

[a] Federal and state listing status codes and state ranks are defined in Table A.2 (Appendix A). State ranks do not confer any official or legal status to a species. These ranks are assigned by the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory to provide information on the population status of species within the state.

[b] A dash (-) indicates that the status is not applicable to that species. A question mark (?) indicates that the status shown is expected, but not known with certainty.

Source: ANL (1997), modified 2010.

Table 4. Species Listing Status and Ranking Codes Used by the Federal Government and the State of New Hampshire.

Federal Listing Status Codes[1]

LE Listed as Endangered Species in the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Defined as any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

PE Proposed for addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants as Endangered Species.

LT Listed as Threatened Species. Defined as any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

PT Proposed for listing as Threatened Species.

C Candidate Species for addition to the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Taxa for which the USFWS currently has substantial information on hand to support the biological appropriateness of proposing to list the species as endangered or threatened.

LTSA Threatened due to similarity of appearance.

NL Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

State Listing Status Codes[2]

LE Endangered; those native species whose prospects for survival in New Hampshire are in immediate danger because of a loss or change in habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition, disease, disturbance or contamination. Assistance is needed to ensure continued existence as a viable component of the State's wildlife community.

LT Threatened; those species which may become endangered if conditions surrounding them begin, or continue to deteriorate.

SC Special concern; those species which do not meet the definition of threatened or endangered species but, because of their beauty, commercial value, excessive collecting, or other factors, require monitoring or regulation.

State Rank Codes[3]

S1 Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining individuals), or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction.

S2 Imperiled because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences), or because of other factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

S3 Either very rare and local throughout its range, or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range, or vulnerable to extinction throughout its range because of other factors; in the range of 21 to 100 occurrences.

S4 Apparently secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

Table 2 (continued).

State Rank Codes[3] (continued)

S5 Demonstrably secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

SU Possibly in peril, but status uncertain; more information needed.

SH Historically known; may be rediscovered.

State Rank Modifiers

A Accidental in the state; including species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded very infrequently, hundreds or thousands of miles outside their usual range.

B Breeding status for a migratory species. Example: S1B, SZN - breeding occurrences for the species are ranked S1 (critically imperiled) in the state, nonbreeding occurrences are not ranked in the state.

E An exotic established in the state; may be native in nearby regions.

N Non-breeding status for a migratory species. Example: S1B,SZN - breeding occurrences for the species are ranked S1 (critically imperiled) in the state, non-breeding occurrences are not ranked in the state.

Z Ranking not applicable.

? Ranking suspected, but uncertain.

---

[1]List maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[2]List maintained by the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game

[3] State species ranking codes do not confer any official or legal status to a species. These ranks are developed by the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory to provide information on the population status of species within the state.

APPENDIX B. CORRESPONDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
50TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

JUL – 9 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH H. MUZZEY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
19 PILLSBURY STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03302-2043

FROM: 23 SOPS/CC
317 CHESTNUT HILL ROAD
NEW BOSTON AIR FORCE STATION, NH 03070-5125

SUBJECT: Finding of Adverse Effect for Demolition of Several Facilities at New Boston Air Force Station (NBAFS), New Hampshire

1. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we are informing your office of the U.S. Air Force (USAF) proposal to demolish the Bore-sight Tower, Building 113 (former guard house currently used for radio equipment), Building 140 (generator shelter), Building 141 (former Logistics building), Building 257 (accompanying fueling station), and Building 130 (former waste water treatment plant).

2. The 1999 Survey and Evaluation of Cold War Resources determined the Bore-sight Tower to be a contributing property to the Cold War Historic District at NBAFS. All other buildings proposed for demolition were determined noncontributing to the Cold War Historic District.

3. NBAFS determined the demolition of the Bore-site tower constitutes an adverse effect on a historic property. NBAFS proposes to document the tower and buildings to the New Hampshire Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record Standards. The specifics of the documentation would be identified in a Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Air Force, your office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, if they choose to be a signatory to the agreement.

4. If you have any questions, please contact my Natural Resources Planner, Mr. Stephen Najjar, at (603) 471-2346.

CLARK H. RISNER, Lt Col, USAF
Commander

2 Attachments:
1. Location of NBAFS and project area.
2. Images of facilities proposed for demolition

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
50TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)

23 AUG 10

MEMORANDUM FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTENTION: KATHERINE KERR
1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW SUITE 803
OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON DC 20004

FROM: 23 SOPS/CC
317 Chestnut Hill Road
New Boston AFS NH 03070-5125

SUBJECT: Finding of Adverse Effect for Demolition of Several Facilities at New Boston Air Force Station (NBAFS), New Hampshire

1. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we are informing your office of the United States Air Force (USAF) proposal to demolish the Bore-sight Tower, Building 113 (former guard house currently used for radio equipment), Building 140 (generator shelter), Building 141 (former logistics building), Building 257 (accompanying fueling station), and Building 130 (former waste water treatment plant).

2. The 1999 Survey and Evaluation of Cold War Resources (Parsons Engineering Science) determined the Bore-sight Tower to be a contributing property to the cold war historic district at NBAFS. All other buildings proposed for demolition were determined noncontributing to the cold war historic district.

3. The USAF determined the demolition of the Bore-sight Tower constitutes an adverse effect on a historic property. The State of New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources (NHDHR) was provided with a finding of adverse effect on July 9, 2010 and has concurred by default for this project. To mitigate the adverse effect, the USAF proposes to document the Bore-sight Tower to the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines for HABS/HAER. The specifics of the documentation would be identified in a Memorandum of Agreement between the USAF, the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, if you choose to be a signatory to the agreement.

4. If you have any questions, contact my Natural Resources Planner, Mr. Stephen Najjar, at (603) 471-2346.

CLARK H. RISNER, Lt Col, USAF
Commander

Attachments:
1. Location Map of NBAFS and Project Area.
2. Images of Facilities Proposed for Demolition

Preserving America's Heritage

September 13, 2010

Lieutenant Colonel Clark H. Risner
Commander, USAF
23 SOPS/CC
317 Chestnut Hill Road
New Boston AFS, NH 03070-5125

Ref: Proposed Demolition of Various Facilities at New Boston Air Force Station, New Hampshire

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Risner:

On August 30, 2010, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) received your documentation for the referenced project. Unfortunately, the background documentation included with your submission does not meet the specifications listed in Section 800.11(e). We, therefore, are unable to determine whether Appendix A of the regulations, *Criteria for Council Involvement in Reviewing Individual Section 106 Cases*, applies to this undertaking. Accordingly, we request that you submit the following information so that we can determine whether our participation is warranted.

- A description of the undertaking and its area of potential effects, including photographs, maps, drawings, as necessary;
- A description of the steps to identify historic properties;
- A description of the affected historic properties, including information on the characteristics that qualify them for the National Register; and
- Copies or summaries of any views provided by consulting parties and the public, including comments from Indian tribes and the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Upon receipt of the additional information, we will notify you within 15 days of our decision. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Katharine Kerr at 202-606-8534, or via email at kkerr@achp.gov.

Sincerely,

Raymond V. Wallace

Raymond V. Wallace
Historic Preservation Technician
Office of Federal Agency Programs

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 803 □ Washington, DC 20004
Phone: 202-606-8503 □ Fax: 202-606-8647 □ achp@achp.gov □ www.achp.gov

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2878

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H40(4506)

September 7, 2010

Mr. Jonathan F. Ruhan, Archaeologist
Department of the Air Force
New Boston Air Force Station
317 Chestnut Hill Road
New Boston, NH 03072

Dear Mr. Ruhan:

Thank you for your inquiry to the National Park Service (NPS) concerning the level of Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation required for the New Boston Air Force Station and Building 108/109, Building 102 and the Bore Site Tower; **NPS project #1751.** To expedite our review, please refer to this name and **NPS project number** in all correspondence.

The documentation on the enclosed list will be sufficient for compliance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer and the Department of the Air Force, and accepted by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This documentation must be prepared in accordance with Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) guidelines, copies of which are enclosed. We have enclosed the Heritage Documentation Programs Guidelines (April 2008) which include an explanation of the new outline formats for HAER, the Northeast Area Office HAER Guidelines (April 1995) which include examples of formatted pages, and the Northeast Field Area Photo Guidelines (December 1996) for your use as our regional office HAER guidelines have not yet been updated to reflect the new outline format reports. When the documentation is completed, it must be submitted to this office for review. Incomplete or incorrect reports will be returned for revision.

You had provided drafts of the documentation for the B-Side Antenna and the Boresight Tower and we have provided review comments on the formatting of these drafts. The sample pages in the Northeast Area Office HAER guidelines should help you in understanding what the final pages should look like. We have also enclosed four cover sheets – one for the overview and one for each individual structure.

Please be advised that records in the HABS/HAER collection were created for the U.S. Government and are considered to be in the public domain. Preparers of HABS/HAER documentation, both written and photographic, are reminded that it is their responsibility to secure any necessary permissions for further desired use or reproduction of copyrighted materials included within the HABS/HAER documentation. For this reason, all preparers are required to complete and return **one copy of the enclosed "Release and Assignment" form for each repository,** which transfers and assigns to the National Park Service all rights included but not limited to copyrights in the HABS/HAER materials being submitted. Please note that should these releases not be obtained, the written and/or photographic documentation may not include this material.

When the documentation is accepted, we will transmit the material to the Library of Congress for inclusion in the HABS/HAER collection. Please contact this office at (215) 597-6484, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Alicia McCann

for Catherine Turton
HABS/HAER Coordinator

Enclosures

cc:
NH SHPO
HABS/HAER, WASO
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Najjar, Stephen J Civ USAF AFSPC 23 SOPS/CEA

From: Ruhan, Jonathan F Civ USDA WMNF 23 SOPS/CEN
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2010 3:02 PM
To: Najjar, Stephen J Civ USAF AFSPC 23 SOPS/CEA
Subject: FW: Eligibility Determination for Cold War Resources at NBAFS

-----Original Message-----
From: Peterson, Nadine [mailto:Nadine.Peterson@dcr.nh.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2010 2:24 PM
To: Ruhan, Jonathan F Civ USDA WMNF 23 SOPS/CEN
Cc: Feighner, Edna; Ryan, Mary Kate; St.Louis, Christina
Subject: RE: Eligibility Determination for Cold War Resources at NBAFS

Dear Jonathan:

The DHR concurs with your eligibility determination for buildings and structures 100, 102, 105/106 (A-Side antenna) 108/109 (B-Side antenna) 142/143 (SATCOM) and the Bore Sight Tower which concludes that the above resources are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Nadine Peterson

Nadine Peterson

Preservation Planner

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources

19 Pillsbury Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-271-6628

About the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources: New Hampshire's "State Historic Preservation Office" was established in 1974 as the Division of Historical Resources. The historical, archaeological, architectural and cultural resources of New Hampshire are among its most important environmental assets. Historic preservation promotes the use, understanding and conservation of such resources for the education, inspiration, pleasure and enrichment of New Hampshire's citizens. For more information, visit us online at www.nh.gov/nhdhr <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr> or by calling (603) 271-3483.

1

From: Ruhan, Jonathan F Civ USDA WMNF 23 SOPS/CEN [mailto:Jonathan.Ruhan@newboston.af.mil]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2010 12:46 PM
To: Peterson, Nadine
Subject: Eligibility Determination for Cold War Resources at NBAFS

Hi Edna and Nadine,

Nadine, you probably got a copy from Edna already, but I am send this to you get your email address corrected in my email program. I have your email addresses correct in my contact list, but my email program was automatically pulling up incorrect addresses I had used for you in the past. Thanks, you can just ignore this paragraph

I am following up on the conversation I had with Edna last Thursday 8/19/2010 regarding the formal eligibility determination for Cold War Resources locate at NBAFS. The Cold War resources were documented in the report titled Survey and Evaluation of Cold War Resources New Boston Air Station, New Boston, New Hampshire, February 1999. Edna asked me to send this note showing the report title, as I was unable to send an electronic copy due to file size.

The resources included are Buildings and structures 100, 102, 105/106 (A-Side antenna) 108/109 (B-Side antenna) 142/143 (SATCOM) and the Bore Sight Tower. Based on the documentation provided in this report the US Air Force has determined the above listed Cold War resources eligible to the National Register of Historic Resource.

Determining the eligibility of these resources is Stipulation 1. of the PA among NBAF and your office we are seeking the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officers concurrence with the Determination.

2

According to Stipulation 2. Of the PA NBAFS will complete HABS/HEAR documentation for the above listed Cold War Resources.

If you have any questions please contact me at the number listed below.

Jonathan Ruhan

Heritage Resource Specialist

New Boston Air Force Station

(603) 471-2347

jonathan. ruhan@newboston.af.mil

Jonathan Ruhan

Heritage Resource Specialist

New Boston Air Force Station

(603) 471-2347

jonathan. ruhan@newboston.af.mil

APPENDIX C. REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS (AF FORM 813)

REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Report Control Symbol RCS:

INSTRUCTIONS: *Section I to be completed by Proponent; Sections II and III to be completed by Environmental Planning Function. Continue on separate sheets as necessary. Reference appropriate item number(s).*

SECTION I - PROPONENT INFORMATION

1. TO *(Environmental Planning Function)*	2. FROM *(Proponent organization and functional address symbol)*	2a. TELEPHONE NO.
23 SOPS/CEA	23 SOPS/CEP	471-2425

3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION
2009 Demolition bundle: RNGF 09-3010, RNGF 09-3011, RNGF 09-3013, RNGF 09-3014

4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION *(Identify decision to be made and need date)*
The Boresight tower (09-3010), Bldg 257 (09-3011), Bldg 130 (09-3013), and Bldg 141 (09-3014) have gone beyond their service life and are no longer utilized as designed. Facilities are no longer necessary and too expensive to continue to operate.

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES *(DOPAA) (Provide sufficient details for evaluation of the total action.)*
All four facilities will be demolished, major associated underground structures will be removed, and demolished materials will be recycled and/or disposed of in landfill. Following the demolition, the area will be covered with topsoil, (continued on reverse)

6. PROPONENT APPROVAL *(Name and Grade)*	6a. SIGNATURE	6b. DATE
GARRETT C. STUMB, Major, USAFR		20090616

SECTION II - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY. *(Check appropriate box and describe potential environmental effects including cumulative effects.) (+ = positive effect; 0 = no effect; " = adverse effect; U= unknown effect)*	+	0	-	U
7. AIR INSTALLATION COMPATIBLE USE ZONE/LAND USE *(Noise, accident potential, encroachment, etc.)*	☐	☑	☐	☐
8. AIR QUALITY *(Emissions, attainment status, state implementation plan, etc.)*	☐	☑	☐	☐
9. WATER RESOURCES *(Quality, quantity, source, etc.)*	☐	☑	☐	☐
10. SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH *(Asbestos/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity-distance, bird/wildlife aircraft hazard, etc.)*	☐	☑	☐	☐
11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE *(Use/storage/generation, solid waste, etc.)*	☐	☑	☐	☐
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES *(Wetlands/floodplains, threatened or endangered species, etc.)*	☐	☑	☐	☐
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES *(Native American burial sites, archaeological, historical, etc.)*	☐	☐	☑	☐
14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS *(Topography, minerals, geothermal, Installation Restoration Program, seismicity, etc.)*	☐	☑	☐	☐
15. SOCIOECONOMIC *(Employment/population projections, school and local fiscal impacts, etc.)*	☐	☑	☐	☐
16. OTHER *(Potential impacts not addressed above.)*	☐	☐	☐	☐

SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DETERMINATION

17. ☐ PROPOSED ACTION QUALIFIES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) # _____ ; OR
☑ PROPOSED ACTION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR A CATEX; FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED.

18. REMARKS
- Boresight tower is probably a cold war resource.
- General conformity analysis is not needed, project in an attainment area.

19. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FUNCTION CERTIFICATION *(Name and Grade)*	19a. SIGNATURE	19b. DATE
		9-17-09

AF IMT 813, SEP 99, CONTINUATION SHEET

(Continued from item 5) graded to provide site drainage, and seeded with native grasses. Underground utility lines will be mechanically capped.

No other options were considered, since maintaining outdated facilities is an unnecessary drain on resources as well as a waste of energy and carbon dioxide output to the environment.

V1 PAGE OF PAGE(S)