



# ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT for Activities Beginning in 2018



### NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PROCESS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Using the best available science and methods of analysis, the U.S. Navy is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting naval training and testing activities within the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area, including activities that involve the use of active sonar and explosives. Most of these training and testing activities have been previously analyzed and authorized, and are similar to the types of activities that have been occurring in the Study Area for decades.



#### THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires U.S. federal agencies to identify and consider the potential environmental impacts on the human, natural, or cultural environment before making a decision on a proposal. In compliance with NEPA, the Navy is preparing an EIS/OEIS to analyze potential environmental impacts associated with conducting training and testing activities in the AFTT Study Area.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement is an important part of the NEPA process, and there are a number of opportunities for the public to participate throughout the development of the EIS/OEIS.

Public and agency input allows decision makers to benefit from local knowledge and consider local issues and concerns. The public participates in the NEPA process during the following stages by:

- **Scoping Period:** Helping to identify environmental issues and potential alternatives
- **Draft EIS/OEIS Public Review and Comment Period:** Evaluating and commenting on the environmental analysis of the Proposed Action and alternatives

Government agencies, elected officials, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to participate and comment in any of the following ways:

- Submit comments via the project website at: **www.AFTTEIS.com**
- Mail comments to:  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic  
Attention: AFTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
Code: EV22LDN  
6506 Hampton Blvd.  
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Comments must be postmarked or received online by **Jan. 12, 2016**, for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS.



**The Navy is committed to facilitating public and agency input for a high-quality environmental analysis document.**

Public involvement is a fundamental part of the development of the AFTT EIS/OEIS. The Navy welcomes and appreciates your comments.



## NEPA PROCESS AND TIMELINE

MILESTONE	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT SCHEDULE
Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS/OEIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiated the public involvement phase of the NEPA process</li> </ul>	Nov. 12, 2015
▶ Scoping Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides an early and open public process for identifying, defining, and prioritizing issues to be evaluated in the EIS/OEIS</li> <li>Includes opportunities to learn more and submit comments</li> </ul>	<b>COMMENT PERIOD:</b> Nov. 12, 2015 – Jan. 12, 2016
Draft EIS/OEIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presents the analysis of potential environmental impacts for each identified alternative</li> </ul>	Spring 2017
▶ Draft EIS/OEIS Public Review and Comment Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides 60 days for the public to comment on the analysis presented in the Draft EIS/OEIS</li> <li>Includes public meetings and other opportunities to learn more and submit comments</li> </ul>	Spring 2017
Final EIS/OEIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes updates to the Draft EIS/OEIS and responses to public comments received during the Draft EIS/OEIS comment period</li> </ul>	Summer 2018
30-Day Wait Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides 30 days after the Final EIS/OEIS is published before the Navy may take final action</li> </ul>	Summer 2018
Record of Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the 30-day wait period and consideration of public comments</li> <li>Includes selection of an alternative by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment)</li> </ul>	Fall 2018

▶ Opportunities for Public Review and Comment    ■ Complete    ■ In Progress     Next Steps



For more information about the AFTT EIS/OEIS and how to submit comments, visit [www.AFTTEIS.com](http://www.AFTTEIS.com).