

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
RANGE STANDARDIZATION AND AUTOMATION FIBER OPTIC
TRANSMISSION SYSTEM
VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA**

Agency: United States Air Force (USAF), space and Missile Systems Center

Cooperating Agency: Air Force Space Command

Background: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the Act (40 CFR 1500-1508), Department of Defense Directive 6050.1, Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, which implements these regulations in the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), and other applicable federal and local regulations, the US Air Force has conducted an assessment of the potential environmental consequences of the installation of the Range Standardization and Automation (RSA) Fiber Optic Transmission System (FOTS) at Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB).

Proposed Action: The Air Force proposes to install dual fiber optic cables along a route of approximately 6.6 miles to support the Range Standardization and Automation program at Vandenberg AFB. Approximately 1.9 miles of the route will be located off Vandenberg AFB in a Santa Barbara County road right of way.

Alternatives: One alternative for the cable system was considered in this assessment. This alternative was an alternate route on south Vandenberg AFB.

Summary of Findings: The environmental assessment evaluated the environmental effects for the following resources: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous materials/waste management, pollution prevention, geology and soils, water resources, socioeconomics, land use, noise, and health and safety. A summary of findings is presented below.

Air Quality: Air emissions from construction activities will be temporary and localized near construction sites. Estimated emissions will be no more than 0.002 percent of the Santa Barbara County baseline emissions inventory for any of criteria pollutants, and the proposed action is in conformity with the Clean Air Act and implementing regulations. Control measures will be implemented to minimize fugitive dust emissions.

Biological Resources: No significant native vegetation, sensitive plant communities, wetlands, or threatened or endangered plant and animal species occur within the alignments. There will be no disruption of such species in biological resources that are contiguous to the proposed alignment. Impacts to wetland areas along the route will be avoided by aerial crossings.

Cultural Resources: Additional archaeological investigation will be required. The requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be fully complied with prior to project implementation. A qualified archaeologist and a Native

American representative will monitor construction activities in the vicinity of five known archaeological sites.

Hazardous Materials/Waste Management: The construction contractor will manage all waste in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations, and the provisions of the Vandenberg AFB hazardous waste management plan. Construction at Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites or areas of concern will comply with federal, state, and local regulations concerning health and safety, Vandenberg AFB IRP requirements, and the provisions of health and safety plans for each site.

Solid Waste: An estimated 500 pounds of solid waste will be generated during construction. The construction contractor will dispose of all waste.

Pollution Prevention: The proposed action will comply with the Vandenberg AFB pollution prevention management plan that has been completed, but is currently being revised.

Geology and Soils: Construction activities will disturb approximately 2.8 acres. Construction techniques and erosion control measures will minimize the potential for erosion.

Water Resources: Construction techniques will minimize impacts due to erosion. Best management control practices for erosion and sediment control will be utilized during construction.

Socioeconomics: The construction will produce a net positive impact on socioeconomic factors.

Land Use: There will be no change in existing and proposed land uses.

Noise: Construction noise will be temporary and localized.

Health and Safety: All activities will be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, local, and installation regulations and guidelines.

Permits: Work clearance requests from Vandenberg AFB civil engineering will be required prior to excavation, including consultation with Vandenberg AFB IRP personnel. A road encroachment permit must be obtained from Santa Barbara County.

Finding and Conclusion: Following the review of the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action, the installation of approximately 6.6 miles of fiber optic cable on south Vandenberg AFB with a portion located in a Santa Barbara County road right of Way would not result in any significant impact. Based on information in the EA, this finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is issued. Preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed action. This FONSI and the supporting EA fulfill the requirements of NEPA, the CEQ implementing regulations, and AFI 32-7061. The EA and supporting determinations are on file at:

Vandenberg Air Force Base
31 CES/CEVPP
806 13th Street, Suite J
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-5242
ATTN: Environmental Coordinator

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CONCURRENCE PAGE**

Range Standardization and Automation Fiber Optic Transmission System
at Vandenberg Air Force Base CA

December 1997


I concur with the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Environmental Protection Committee Approval:


C. ROBERT KEHLER, Colonel, USAF
Chairman, Environmental Protection Committee
Vandenberg AFB, CA

5 Jan 98
Date

Judge Advocate Approval:


DAVID D. RATHGEBER, Lt Col, USAF
Staff Judge Advocate
Vandenberg AFB, CA

30 Dec 97
Date

Organization Approval:


SCOTT W. WESTFALL, Lt Col, USAF
Commander, Environmental Flight
Vandenberg AFB, CA

16 Nov 97
Date

Squadron Approval:


WILLIAM R. QUINN, Lt Col, USAF
Commander, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron
Vandenberg AFB, CA

25 Nov 97
Date