

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA)

Name of Proposed Action

Environmental Assessment (EA): Construct Fire Station at Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB or Base), North Dakota.

Introduction

The 319 Air Refueling Wing proposes to construct a fire station at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota. A Final EA was completed in August 2003 for constructing a fire station, a radar approach control facility (RAPCON), and an air traffic control tower. A Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on October 2, 2003 by Colonel Steven E. Wayne, Grand Forks AFB Environmental Protection Committee Chairman. In the fall of 2004, new information pertaining to wetlands in the proposed location of the new fire station became available. This EA was prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed fire station construction on wetland resources.

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed new fire station is to consolidate fire protection activities at Grand Forks AFB. The current fire station is the main crash/fire rescue facility (Building 530) at Grand Forks AFB and was built in 1957. Demands on the existing fire station have increased as fire fighting techniques and equipment evolved. Fire fighting trucks are now larger than the existing building was designed to house. In addition, the current fire station neither meets current life safety codes nor provides a standard of living in accordance with the USAF Fire Station Design Guide. To meet USAF and Department of Defense airfield response time requirements (3 minutes for aircraft emergencies) for fire protection, use of a satellite station is required. The satellite facility is cramped and inefficient due to physically separated operations that defeat the goal of providing effective fire protection. A modern, efficient fire station is needed to house authorized airfield and Base structural firefighting vehicles, equipment, and on-duty firefighters living in the fire station.

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Alternatives analyzed include the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. Reasonable alternatives should locate the fire station in the airfield operations area without adverse impacts to flight operations or future land uses in the airfield operations area in accordance with the Base General Plan; provide direct access to the flight line and Base transportation system in order to provide emergency response services to aircraft, aircrews, and Base facilities; minimize the emergency response time and provide optimal visibility of the airfield; accommodate the equipment needs, unique functional requirements, and safety of firefighting personnel to support the firefighter's mission; and, locate the fire station outside the explosive quantity siting distance arcs.

The Proposed Action consists of the construction of a consolidated crash/structural fire station. The new fire station would be a consolidated facility to provide fire protection services for the airfield in the event of an aircraft accident or other need along the flight line

(e.g., fuel spill), and for fire protection and emergency response to the facilities for the rest of the Base. The new construction would include installation of underground utilities (i.e., gas, water, and electricity) and communications infrastructure, pavements for parking, access roads to the flight line and the Base transportation system, site improvements for drainage and landscaping, and Anti Terrorism/Force Protection measures.

The site described in the August 2003 EA was located north of 10th Avenue and west of Eielson Street. This site is located immediately south of a former landfill (Installation Restoration Program [IRP] Site FT-02, Old Sanitary Landfill Area) in an undeveloped area. Emergency vehicles would enter and exit the facility on 10th Avenue and proceed west to the flight line, or east to the rest of the Base. A parking lot for employees and visitors is currently planned for the east side of the developed area with traffic to and from the parking lot using a driveway that connects to Eielson Street. This area is currently undeveloped. It is covered with trees of varying sizes. It also contains several wetland areas. Several groundwater quality monitoring wells associated with IRP Site FT-02 are also located on this parcel.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Air Force would continue to operate an outdated fire station. The Proposed Action is the only alternative that meets the requirements of the Base and provides optimum protection of the environment and human health.

Summary of Environmental Consequences

Impacts to the recently delineated wetlands potentially resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action were evaluated relative to the existing environment. Efforts to minimize impacts to wetlands included shifting the location of the fire station from the location proposed in the August 2003 EA. Implementing the Proposed Action would potentially result in filling of approximately 0.03 acres of wetlands which is considered a minor, unavoidable, adverse impact.

Overall, the analysis for this EA indicates that construction of the proposed fire station would not result in, or contribute to, significant, adverse, cumulative impacts in the region.

Public Review and Interagency Coordination

The Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact/Finding of No Practicable Alternative were furnished to the agencies listed in Section 6.0 of the EA and were made available at the Grand Forks AFB Library and at the Grand Forks Public Library. Notices of Availability were published in the Grand Forks Herald and the Grand Forks AFB Leader on December 13, 2005 and December 16, 2005, respectively. All interested agencies, groups, and persons were invited to submit written comments on the Draft FONSI/FONPA and EA from December 13, 2005 through January 12, 2006. Comments were received from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, State Historical Society of North Dakota, North Dakota State Water Commission, US Fish and Wildlife, and the North Dakota Department of Health. None of the comments required changes to the Proposed Action or the discussion of environmental consequences in the EA.

Findings

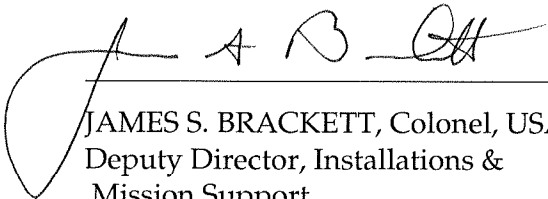
Finding of No Practicable Alternative

Considering the information contained herein (including the attached EA), in accordance with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, and pursuant to the authority delegated by the Secretary of the Air Force Order 791.1, I find that there is no practicable alternative to completing the Proposed Action within wetland areas. The Proposed Action, as designed, includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands.

Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process, I conclude that the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on the quality of the environment and that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

SIGNED:



JAMES S. BRACKETT, Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director, Installations &
Mission Support

15 MAR 2006

DATE

Attachment:
Environmental Assessment

Final Report

Environmental Assessment: Construct Fire Station at Grand Forks Air Force Base

Air Mobility Command

Contract No. F41689-02-D-0002

Delivery Order No. 0043

Prepared for

Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota

March 2006

CH2MHILL

CH2M HILL
135 S. 84th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53214

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE 15 MAR 2006		2. REPORT TYPE Environmental Assessment		3. DATES COVERED 15-01-2005 to 15-03-2006	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Environmental Assessment-Construct Fire Station Supplemental EA-Fire Station-Wetlands				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER F41689-02-D-0002	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S) Dave Rodebaugh; Allan Erickson				5d. PROJECT NUMBER F41689-02-D-0002	
				5e. TASK NUMBER 0043	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) CH2MHILL,135 South 84th Street,Milwaukee,WI,53214-1456				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) 319 Civil Engineer Squadron, 525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd, Grand Forks AFB, ND, 58205-6434				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) 319 CES/CEVA	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) 2005-177	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT 2005-177					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT 1	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 50	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

Executive Summary

Introduction

The 319 Air Refueling Wing proposes to construct a fire station at Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB), North Dakota. A Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for constructing a fire station, a radar approach control facility, and an air traffic control tower was completed in August 2003. Colonel Steven E. Wayne, Grand Forks AFB Environmental Protection Committee Chairman, signed a Finding of No Significant Impact on October 2, 2003. In the fall of 2004, new information pertaining to wetlands in the proposed location of the new fire station became available. This EA was prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed fire station construction on wetland resources.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the proposed new fire station is to consolidate fire protection activities at Grand Forks AFB. The existing station, which was built in 1957, is the main crash/fire rescue facility (Building 530) at the Base. Demands on the station have increased as fire fighting techniques and equipment evolved. Fire fighting trucks are now larger than those the existing building was designed to house. In addition, the existing station neither meets current life safety codes nor provides a standard of living in accordance with the U.S. Air Force (USAF) *Fire Station Design Guide* (USAF 1997). The fire station originally contained 9,350 square feet of space, but several building additions have brought the space total to 21,266 square feet. The utilities and building are outdated, difficult to maintain, and inefficient to operate. The station lacks adequate maintenance space. In winter, fire hoses must be laid out in office areas to dry. The vehicle stalls provide only 2 inches of clearance on either side for parking fire trucks. To meet USAF and Department of Defense (DoD) airfield response time requirements for fire protection—3 minutes for aircraft emergencies (Air Force Instruction 32-2001 [April 1999] and DoD Directive 6055.6 [October 2000])—a satellite station must be used. The satellite facility is cramped and inefficient because of physically separated operations that defeat the goal of providing effective fire protection. A modern, efficient fire station is needed to house authorized airfield and base structural firefighting vehicles, equipment, and on-duty firefighters living in the fire station.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed action consists of constructing a consolidated crash/structural fire station. The new fire station would be a consolidated facility to provide fire protection services for the airfield in the event of an aircraft accident or other need along the flight line (such as a fuel spill), and for fire protection and emergency response to the facilities for the rest of the Base. The new construction would include installation of underground utilities and communications infrastructure, pavements for parking, access roads to the flight line and the Base transportation system, site improvements for drainage and landscaping, and antiterrorism/force protection measures.

The site proposed in the August 2003 EA is located north of 10th Avenue and west of Eielson Street. It is located immediately south of a former landfill (Installation Restoration Program Site FT-02, Old Sanitary Landfill Area) in an undeveloped area. Emergency vehicles would enter and exit the facility on 10th Avenue and proceed west to the flight line, or east to the rest of the Base. A parking lot for employees and visitors is planned for the east side of the developed area with traffic to and from the parking lot using a driveway that connects to Eielson Street. That area currently is undeveloped and covered with trees of varying sizes. It also contains several wetland areas. Several groundwater monitoring wells associated with Site FT-02 also are located on the parcel.

Although the No-Action Alternative would not fulfill the purpose and need for the project under consideration, it was retained as a baseline for comparison of potential environmental effects. If the No-Action Alternative were selected, the antiquated fire station would remain in operation. The USAF would have to continue to use a facility that is inadequate in terms of providing room for the storage of vehicles and equipment. Continued use of the existing facility would be inconsistent with current design standards in terms of providing adequate living quarters for the fire fighters on 24-hour duty. In addition, space to maintain equipment would not be available, and fire fighting personnel would have to continue to use office space to dry hoses. The USAF would be forced to continue operating outdated buildings and utilities that are difficult to maintain and inefficient. Finally, the cramped, inefficient satellite fire station would continue to be used in order to meet emergency response time requirements. Use of this satellite facility would fail to meet one purpose of the project: to provide consolidated fire protection services at Grand Fork AFB.

Environmental Consequences

Two wetlands would be affected by the proposed action as a result of constructing driveways to the fire station. The proposed action would affect approximately 0.03 acre of palustrine emergent wetlands.

The site of the fire station described in the proposed action in the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower – Final EA* (USAF 2003) would affect 0.8 acre of wetlands. Section 4.14.1 of this EA describes actions that the Air Force has taken to reduce wetland impacts at the site.

The No-Action Alternative would not result in changes to existing conditions, so no impacts to wetlands would occur.

Conclusion

Implementation of the proposed action will result in no significant long-term effects on the quality of the natural or human environment. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared. The issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact and Finding of No Practicable Alternative is appropriate.

Contents

Executive Summary.....	iii
Acronyms and Abbreviations	vii
1. Purpose of and Need for Action	1-1
1.1 Introduction.....	1-1
1.2 Purpose of and Need for Action.....	1-2
1.3 Objectives for the Action	1-2
1.4 Location of Proposed Action.....	1-2
1.5 Scope of the EA	1-5
1.6 Decisions to be Made	1-5
1.7 Applicable Regulatory Requirements and Required Coordination.....	1-5
2. Alternatives.....	2-1
2.1 Selection Criteria for Alternatives	2-1
2.2 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study	2-1
2.3 Description of Alternatives	2-2
2.3.1 Proposed Action.....	2-2
2.3.2 No-Action Alternative	2-2
2.4 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Relevant to Cumulative Impacts.....	2-5
2.5 Identification of Preferred Alternative	2-5
2.6 Comparison of the Environmental Impacts of Alternatives.....	2-5
3. Affected Environment	3-1
3.1 Introduction.....	3-1
3.2 Air Quality	3-1
3.3 Noise.....	3-1
3.4 Water Resources.....	3-1
3.4.1 Wetlands.....	3-1
3.5 Biological Resources	3-2
3.6 Socioeconomic Resources	3-3
3.7 Cultural Resources	3-3
3.8 Land Use	3-4
3.9 Transportation Systems	3-4
3.10 Airspace/ Airfield Operations.....	3-4
3.11 Safety and Occupational Health.....	3-4
3.12 Environmental Management	3-4
3.13 Environmental Justice	3-4
4. Environmental Consequences.....	4-1
4.1 Introduction.....	4-1
4.2 Air Quality	4-1
4.3 Noise.....	4-1
4.4 Water Resources: Wetlands.....	4-1
4.4.1 Proposed Action	4-1
4.4.2 No Action Alternative	4-1

4.5	Biological Resources	4-2
4.6	Socioeconomic Resources.....	4-2
4.7	Cultural Resources	4-2
4.8	Land Use.....	4-2
4.9	Transportation Systems.....	4-2
4.10	Airspace/ Airfield Operations	4-2
4.11	Safety and Occupational Health	4-2
4.12	Environmental Management, including Geology, Soils, and Pollution Prevention.....	4-2
4.13	Environmental Justice and Protection of Children.....	4-3
4.14	Indirect and Cumulative Effects	4-3
4.14.1	Unavoidable Adverse Impacts.....	4-3
4.14.2	Relationship between Short-Term Uses and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity	4-4
4.14.3	Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources	4-4
5.	List of Preparers.....	5-1
6.	Agencies and Persons Consulted or Provided Copies	6-1
7.	References.....	7-1

Appendixes

A	USAF Form 813
B	Interagency Coordination
C	Agency and Public Review Comments
D	Notice of Availability

Tables

2-1	Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences	2-5
3-1	Summary of Wetland Systems at the Proposed Fire Station Site	3-3

Figures

1-1	Vicinity Map of Grand Forks AFB.....	1-3
1-2	Location of the Proposed Action	1-4
2-1	Proposed Action: Conceptual Layout	2-3

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFB	Air Force Base
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AMC	Air Mobility Command
ATC	Air Traffic Control
AT/FP	Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection
CECP	Base Development
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CES	Civil Engineer Squadron
CEV	Environmental Management Flight
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DoD	Department of Defense
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
FONPA	Finding of No Practicable Alternative
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GFAFB	Grand Forks Air Force Base
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
RAPCON	Radar Approach Control
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAF	U.S. Air Force

SECTION 1

Purpose of and Need for Action

1.1 Introduction

The 319 Air Refueling Wing proposes to construct a fire station at Grand Forks Air Force Base (AFB), North Dakota. A Final Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in August 2003 for constructing a fire station, a radar approach control facility (RAPCON), and an air traffic control tower. A Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on October 2, 2003, by Colonel Steven E. Wayne, Grand Forks AFB Environmental Protection Committee Chairman. In the fall of 2004, new information pertaining to wetlands in the proposed location of the new fire station became available (see below for further clarification of the new wetland information). This EA was prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed fire station construction on wetland resources.

The August 2003 EA for constructing a fire station, RAPCON, and air traffic control tower noted that there were three slight depressional wetlands at the proposed site of the fire station. The presence of three wetlands was based on observations during data gathering for the EA. However, the information contained in the EA was based on information from the 2000 Final Wetland Identification and Jurisdictional Report, which did not identify the presence of wetlands in the location of the proposed fire station. No further action was taken regarding the wetlands, and the Finding of No Significant Impact was signed.

A wetland inventory of Grand Forks AFB was conducted in 2004. The Wetland Inventory Report identified the presence of wetlands at the site and also determined that the drainage ditches should also be classified as wetlands. Based on the findings of the wetland inventory, wetland delineations were completed for wetlands that would be affected by the construction of a fire station. The Fire Station Wetland Delineation Summary Report (2005) documents the size and location of the wetlands. The analysis presented in this EA is based on that summary report.

With support of Air Mobility Command, the Base has prepared this EA in accordance with regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), Council on Environmental Quality, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 1500-1508, U.S. Air Force (USAF) Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), 32 CFR § 989, and Department of Defense (DoD) directives.

The purpose for this EA is to identify and analyze potentially adverse impacts as they relate to the new information on wetlands at the site of the proposed fire station. This EA is tiered off the *Construct Fire Station/Air Traffic Control Tower/RAPCON (Radar Approach Control) Final Environmental Assessment* (USAF 2003) and refers to the 2003 EA as appropriate for additional information. Changes to the air traffic control, RAPCON, or environmental controls portions, as described in the original EA, are not proposed and so these topics are not addressed herein.

1.2 Purpose of and Need for Action

The purpose of the proposed new fire station is to consolidate fire protection activities at Grand Forks AFB. The existing station, built in 1957, is the main crash/fire rescue facility (Building 530) at Grand Forks AFB. The utilities and building are outdated, difficult to maintain, and inefficient to operate. In addition, the existing station does not meet current life safety codes or standards of living according to the *USAF Fire Station Design Guide* (USAF 1997). The fire station originally contained 9,350 square feet of space but now occupies 21,266 square feet as the result of various additions.

Demands on the fire station have increased as fire fighting techniques and equipment have evolved. Fire fighting trucks are now larger than those the building was originally designed to house. Vehicle stalls provide only 2 inches of clearance on either side for parking fire trucks. Because adequate maintenance space is lacking, in winter fire hoses must be laid out in office areas to dry.

To meet USAF and Department of Defense (DoD) airfield response time requirements for fire protection—3 minutes for aircraft emergencies (Air Force Instruction 32-2001 [April 1999] and DoD Directive 6055.6 [October 2000])—a satellite station must be used. The satellite facility is cramped and inefficient because of the physically separated operations that defeat the goal of providing effective fire protection. A modern, efficient fire station is needed to house authorized airfield and base structural firefighting vehicles, equipment, and on-duty firefighters living in the fire station.

1.3 Objectives for the Action

The objectives for the action are to improve fire fighting capability, improve operations efficiency levels, reduce cost of operations, and improve safety. They will be achieved by demolishing the existing fire station and constructing a new one with the following characteristics:

- A location that allows response times to be met
- Location and size that allow Base fire fighting operations to be consolidated in one building
- A building layout that meets current design standards for modern Air Force fire stations
- A building properly sized for maintenance and care of modern fire fighting equipment
- A building designed to be compatible with the climate of Grand Forks

1.4 Location of Proposed Action

Grand Forks AFB is located in Grand Forks County, North Dakota and occupies 5,422 acres (Figure 1-1). The base is located north of U.S. Highway 2, about 15 miles west of the City of Grand Forks. The site selected for the new fire station is in an undeveloped area of the Base north of 10th Avenue and east of Eielson Street (Figure 1-2).

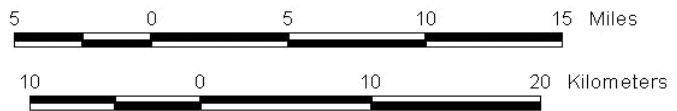
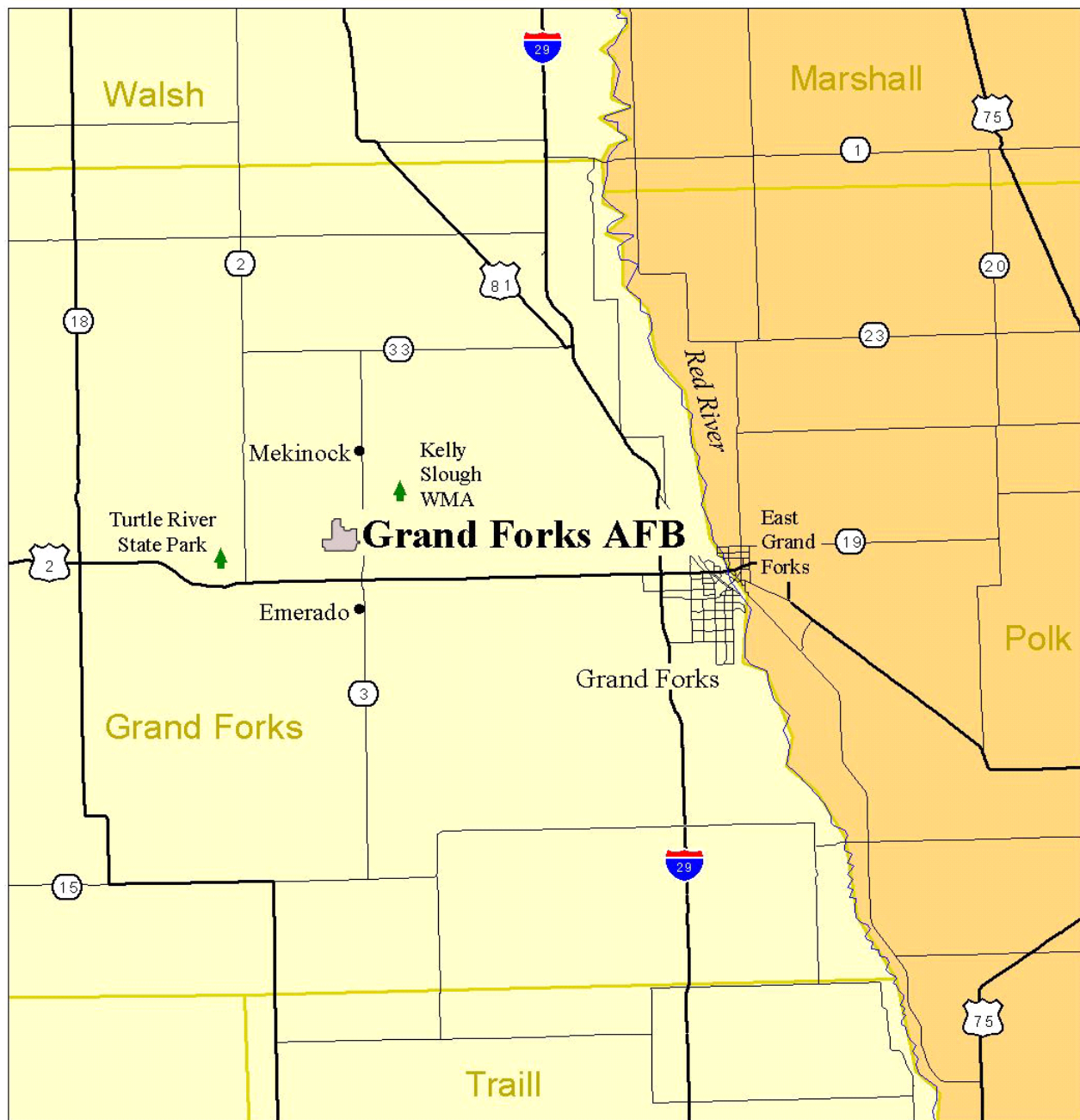
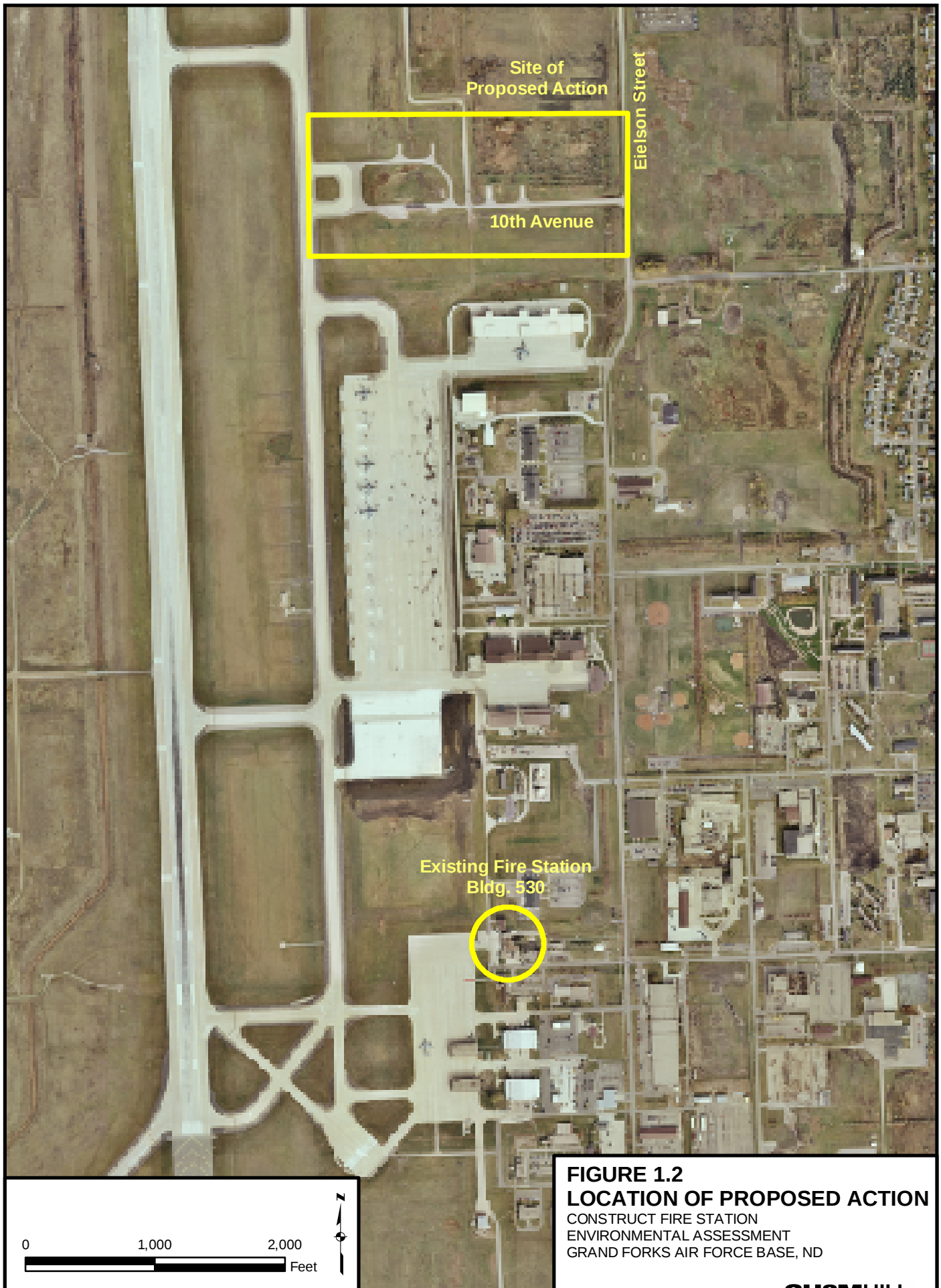


FIGURE 1.1
LOCATION MAP
 CONSTRUCT FIRE STATION
 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
 GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, ND



1.5 Scope of the EA

The 2003 EA evaluated the potential impacts of construction and demolition activities for replacement of the fire station, RAPCON and air traffic control tower at Grand Forks AFB. Potential impacts to the human and natural environment could be short-term, long-term, or cumulative. Consistent with 32 CFR 989 (EIAP), Grand Forks AFB provided a 30-day public review and comment period before finalizing the decision on the action. No comments were received from the public. More information about the scope of the 2003 EA can be found in the Construct Fire Station/ Air Traffic Control Tower/ RAPCON EA (USAF 2003).

The scope of this EA is to evaluate the impacts of the new fire station on the wetlands that were identified after the Finding of No Significant Impact for the 2003 EA was issued. A wetland inventory of the Base determined that wetlands are present on the site (USAF 2004); therefore, this EA was prepared to analyze potential impacts to those wetlands. The 2003 EA is incorporated by reference into this report. This document does not revise the conclusions drawn about the air traffic control tower, RAPCON building, or the environmental issues associated with demolishing the buildings to be replaced, so those actions are not discussed.

1.6 Decisions to be Made

The Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee at Grand Forks AFB is responsible for selecting the alternative to meet the objectives for the proposed action. Air Mobility Command's Director of Installations and Mission Support is responsible for deciding whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact or Finding of No Practicable Alternative for the proposed action, or to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. A decision to take action will result in the construction of a modern, efficient fire station that complies with design standards and is large enough to accommodate personnel and equipment. A decision to take no action will result in Grand Forks AFB continuing to fail to comply with the *USAF Fire Station Design Guide*.

1.7 Applicable Regulatory Requirements and Required Coordination

The EA was conducted in accordance with the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations, 40 CFR Sections 1500 through 1508, as they implement the requirements of NEPA, 42 U.S. Code Sections 4321 et seq., and 32 CFR 989 (EIAP). 32 CFR 989 directs Air Force officials to consider environmental consequences as part of the planning and decision-making process. Other environmental regulatory requirements relevant to the proposed action and alternative are also identified. Regulatory requirements under the following program, among others, are assessed:

- Clean Water Act—Requirements also include compliance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

Alternatives

2.1 Selection Criteria for Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives for providing a fire station at Grand Forks AFB that is efficient to operate, safe, and compliant with design standards should accomplish the following cost-effectively and with minimal impact to human health and natural resources:

- Locate the fire station in the airfield operations area without adverse impacts to flight operations or future land uses in the airfield operations area in accordance with the Base General Plan.
- Locate the fire station in an area with direct access to the flight line and base transportation system in order to provide emergency response services to aircraft, aircrews, and base facilities.
- Locate the fire station in a central area along the flight line for minimizing the emergency response time and optimizing the ability to observe the airfield.
- Design and situation of fire station facilities must accommodate the equipment needs, unique functional requirements, and safety of firefighting personnel to support the firefighter's mission, as prescribed by the *Fire Station Design Guide*.
- Locate the fire station outside the explosive quantity siting distance arcs.

2.2 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study

The 319 CES and Headquarters Air Mobility Command conducted basewide surveys to evaluate alternatives for the action as part of the 2003 EA for this action. Alternative sites that are west of the runway, south of the existing location, due east of the existing location, and in the northern part of the airfield were considered more closely. Those alternatives were eliminated from further consideration for the following reasons:

- Sites west of the runway would not provide direct access to the Base transportation system and therefore could not provide timely fire protection to facilities outside the airfield operations area. Airfield operating clear zone requirements would restrict the locations available on the west side of the runway to the southwestern corner of the Base. If a location in that area were selected, emergency response times would be unacceptable.
- Sites in northern parts of the airfield would fail to meet the requirement for the fire station to be centrally located in order to minimize response time to either end of the runway and optimize airfield observations.

- Alternative sites in the flight operations area, along the east side of the runway (north of the existing fire station, south of Redwood Drive, and east of Eielson Street) were considered, but those locations conflicted with existing facilities, future uses described in area development plans, and explosive quantity siting distance arcs.
- The undeveloped grassy site on the south side of 10th Avenue and west of Eielson Street would meet most of the selection criteria for the proposed action, but the Base General Plan has identified it as the future site for an aircraft maintenance hangar.

2.3 Description of Alternatives

Application of the selection criteria regarding performance and response times resulted in the elimination of most alternatives. Only one site met the performance and response criteria.

2.3.1 Proposed Action

The proposed action consists of constructing a consolidated crash/structural fire station (see Figure 1-1). The new station would provide fire protection services for the airfield in the event of an aircraft accident or other need along the flight line, and for fire protection and emergency response to all remaining base facilities. New construction would include underground utilities (gas, water, and electricity) and communications infrastructure, pavements for parking, access roads to the flight line and Base transportation system, site improvements for drainage and landscaping, and antiterrorism/force protection physical security.

The site is located in an undeveloped area north of 10th Avenue and west of Eielson Street. It lies immediately south of a former landfill (Installation Restoration Program Site FT-02, Old Sanitary Landfill Area). Figure 2-1 is a conceptual layout of the proposed fire station at this location. Emergency vehicles would enter and exit the facility on 10th Avenue and proceed west to the flight line, or east to the rest of the Base. A parking lot for employees and visitors is proposed for the east side of the developed area with traffic to and from the parking lot using a driveway that connects to Eielson Street. This area is undeveloped and covered with trees of varying sizes and types. It also contains several wetland areas. Several groundwater monitoring wells associated with Site FT-02 are located on the parcel. Design of the proposed fire station must not disrupt the drainage of landfill cap FT-02, nor the operation of the associated ground water monitoring wells.

2.3.2 No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would not fulfill the project's purpose and need, but it is carried forward as a baseline for comparison of potential environmental effects. If it were selected, Grand Forks AFB would continue to operate the antiquated fire station. The existing facility is inadequate in terms of providing room to store vehicles and equipment. Also, it would continue to be inconsistent with current design standards in terms of providing adequate living quarters for fire fighters on 24-hour duty. Space to maintain equipment would not be available, and fire fighting personnel would have to continue to use office space to dry hoses in winter. The USAF would continue to use buildings and utilities that are inefficient and difficult to maintain. Finally, the USAF would have to continue to use a cramped, inefficient satellite fire station to meet emergency response time requirements. Use of the satellite facility would fail to satisfy the desire providing consolidated fire protection services at Grand Fork AFB.

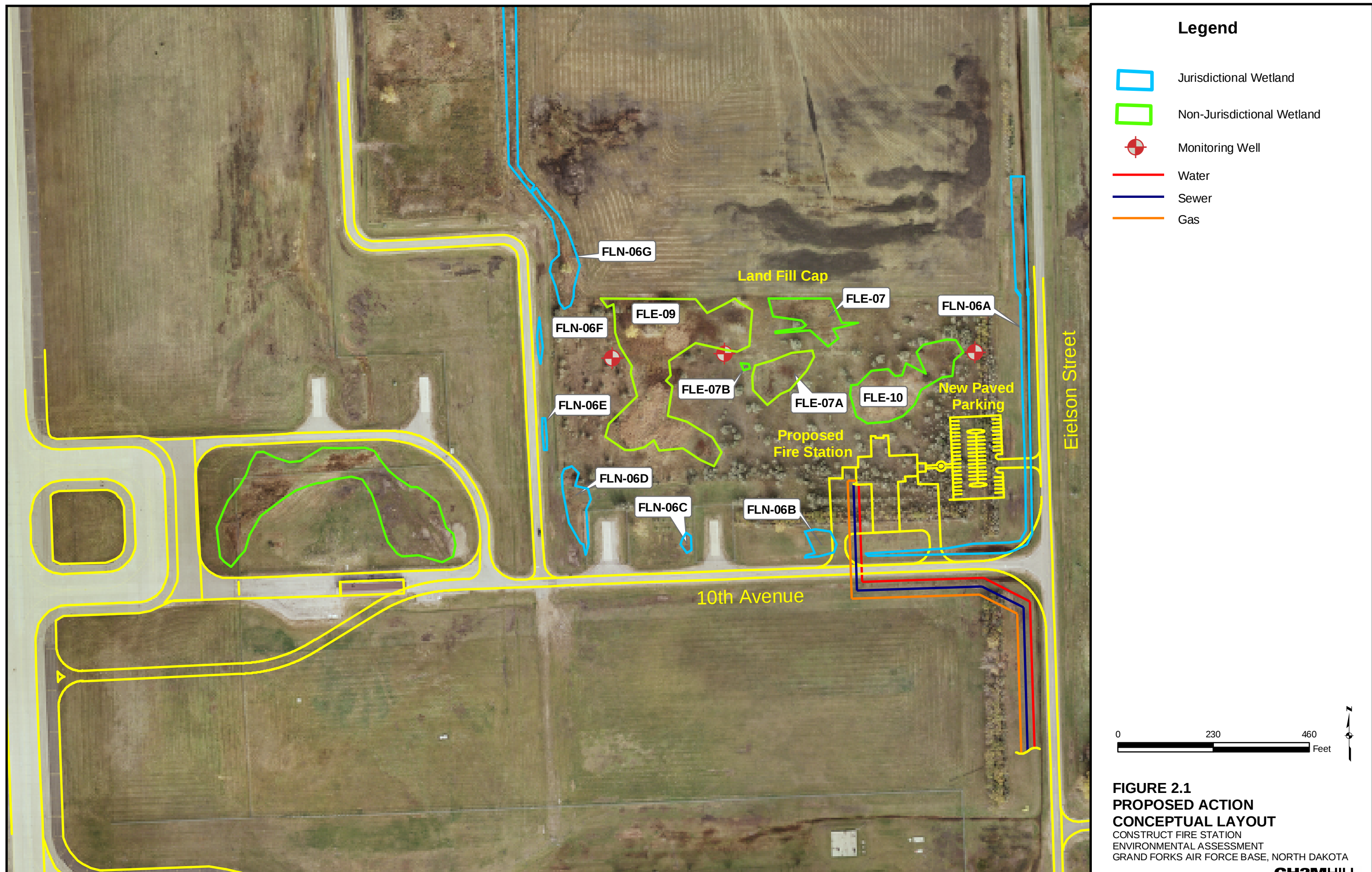


FIGURE 2.1
PROPOSED ACTION
CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT
CONSTRUCT FIRE STATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA

2.4 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Relevant to Cumulative Impacts

This EA has identified actions that were conducted in the past, are ongoing or in the planning stages, and future actions that are related to the proposed action. Details of the actions that have the potential to interact with the proposed action are included in Section 4.14, Indirect and Cumulative Effects.

2.5 Identification of Preferred Alternative

The USAF's preferred alternative is the proposed action described in Section 2.3.1. This alternative would result in the new fire station being constructed at the northwestern corner of the intersection of 10th Avenue and Eielson Street because that site best meets the selection criteria.

2.6 Comparison of the Environmental Impacts of Alternatives

Table 2-1 compares the environmental effects of the alternatives described above.

TABLE 2-1
Summary of Potential Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences

Resource/Issue	Proposed Action	No Action
Wetlands	Minor adverse impacts. 0.03 acre of wetland impact.	No impact

SECTION 3

Affected Environment

3.1 Introduction

The Finding of No Significant Impact for the 2003 EA was approved in October 2003. Where there is no difference from the previous environmental analysis, the description of the affected physical environment from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA* is incorporated by reference in the following sections.

3.2 Air Quality

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA* (USAF 2003).

3.3 Noise

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA* (USAF 2003).

3.4 Water Resources

This section, except for wetlands, is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA* (USAF 2003).

3.4.1 Wetlands

Wetlands on Grand Forks AFB occur in stormwater drainageways, low-lying depressions, and prairie potholes. Wetlands are highly concentrated in drainage ditches leading from the wastewater treatment lagoons to Kellys Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Those immediately east of the Base contain extensive emergent marshes. Most other wetland areas occur in the north central part of the Base at the end of the airfield and southwest of it, whereas the remaining areas are near the eastern boundary and southeastern corner of the Base.

The 2003 EA based its information about wetlands on the *Final Wetland Identification and Jurisdictional Report* (Grand Forks AFB 2000). The report indicated that about 24 acres of wetlands were delineated at Grand Forks AFB. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) determined that 12.2 acres of wetlands, located west of the runway, were jurisdictional.

During a 2004 wetland inventory conducted at Grand Forks AFB, 192 wetland areas were mapped on Grand Forks AFB property, comprising 301 acres. Most of the wetlands are less than 1 acre in size. Palustrine wetlands compose most of the total at 251 acres. Palustrine wetlands include all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, emergents, mosses, or lichens. Lacustrine wetlands associated with the Base sewage lagoons, but not the lagoons themselves, comprise roughly 47 acres. They are situated in a topographic depression and

lack trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses, or lichens. The remaining 3 acres are riverine wetlands found in the northwest corner of the Base near the Turtle River.

The wetland areas located during the 2004 survey were submitted to the USACE for jurisdictional review according to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. USACE determined that three wetlands in the vicinity of the proposed site were jurisdictional waters of the United States. Those determinations were based on the 2004 survey and on field review by USACE in May 2005 (see the May 23, 2005 letter from USACE in Appendix B). Development in or near any potential wetland area should include coordination with the North Dakota State Water Commission and the USACE. Any approved construction requires compliance with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

Stormwater drainage ditches and low-lying depressions on Grand Forks AFB generally have extensive though intermittently localized palustrine emergent marsh and palustrine scrub-shrub wetland habitat. This is the result of a decrease in elevation compared to the relatively flat terrain surrounding the Grand Forks AFB and the heavy clay soils that prevent rapid water absorption. The stormwater drainage ditches and low-lying depressions were not included in the *Final Wetland Identification and Jurisdictional Report* completed in 2000. Species most commonly associated with emergent marsh and scrub-shrub wetland areas include cattail (*Typha latifolia* and *T. angustifolia*), water smartweed (*Polygonum coccineum*), spike rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), water dock (*Rumex pseudonatronatus*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), Indianhemp dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*), sedge (*Carex* sp.), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), willow (*Salix exigua*), and cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) (Grand Forks AFB 2004).

The 2004 wetland inventory revealed the presence of wetlands at the site of the proposed action. The 2003 EA described them as slight depressional wetlands and did not include the drainage ditches that have since been identified as wetlands. As a result of the wetland inventory, wetland delineations were completed in 2005 for wetlands near the site of the proposed action. The *Fire Station Wetlands Delineation Summary Report* (CH2M HILL 2005) reported that 12 wetland areas are in the vicinity of the site, encompassing 3.5 acres. Ten wetlands were determined to be palustrine emergent wetlands and two palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands (see Table 3-1). Major contributors to the total wetland area at the site are the drainage ditches that were excavated during GFAFB construction. The ditches collect surface water runoff and high level groundwater expression throughout the growing season, and as a result support communities of hydrophytic vegetation, with the most often observed plant being spike rush (*Eleocharis* sp.). Because of the hydrologic interconnections of the ditches and their eventual drainage into navigable waterways, specifically the Turtle River, the ditches (wetlands FLN-06A to FLN-06G), though manmade, are deemed federally jurisdictional wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (USACE letter dated October 4, 2005). See Figure 2-1 for the location of the jurisdictional wetlands.

3.5 Biological Resources

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

TABLE 3-1
Summary of Wetland Systems at the Proposed Fire Station Site

Wetland Designation	Cowardin Classification	Dominant Vegetation	Comments
FLN-06A	PEM	Spike rush, water plantain	Emergent marsh type wetland located in an excavated drainage ditch adjacent to a road. ¹
FLN-06B	PEM	Spike rush	Emergent marsh type wetland located in an excavated drainage ditch adjacent to a road. ¹
FLN-06C	PEM	Spike rush	Emergent marsh type wetland located in an excavated drainage ditch adjacent to a road. ¹
FLN-06D	PEM	Spike rush	Emergent marsh type wetland located in an excavated drainage ditch adjacent to a road. ¹
FLN-06E	PEM	Spike rush	Emergent marsh type wetland located in an excavated drainage ditch adjacent to a road. ¹
FLN-06F	PEM	Spike rush	Emergent marsh type wetland located in an excavated drainage ditch adjacent to a road. ¹
FLN-06G	PEM	Spike rush	Emergent marsh type wetland located in an excavated drainage ditch adjacent to a road. ¹
FLE-07	PEM	Sedge, water smartweed	Emergent marsh type wetland adjacent to edge of landfill cap.
FLE-07A	PEM	Sedge, water smartweed	Emergent marsh type wetland.
FLE-07B	PEM	Water smartweed	Small prairie pothole wetland.
FLE-09	PSS	Cattail, water smartweed, sedge, willow	Emergent marsh / scrub shrub type wetland complex adjacent to edge of landfill cap.
FLE-10	PSS	Cattail, water smartweed, sedge, dogwood	Emergent marsh / scrub shrub type wetland complex located in a low elevation area not currently maintained by the GFAFB.

¹ USACE identified this wetland as jurisdictional under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

3.6 Socioeconomic Resources

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

3.7 Cultural Resources

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

3.8 Land Use

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

3.9 Transportation Systems

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

3.10 Airspace/Airfield Operations

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

3.11 Safety and Occupational Health

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

3.12 Environmental Management

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

3.13 Environmental Justice

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

SECTION 4

Environmental Consequences

4.1 Introduction

The site of the proposed action was evaluated in the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*. The Finding of No Significant Impact for the EA was signed in October 2003. Where there is no difference from the previous environmental analysis, the environmental consequences from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA* are incorporated by reference in the following sections.

4.2 Air Quality

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.3 Noise

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.4 Water Resources: Wetlands

This section, except for wetlands, is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.4.1 Proposed Action

Two wetlands (wetlands FLN-06A and FLN-06B) would be affected by the proposed action as a result of constructing driveways to the fire station (see Table 3-1 for a description of these wetlands). Approximately 0.03 acre from the two wetlands would be filled as a result of the proposed action. Both wetlands were determined to be jurisdictional by the USACE.

The site of the fire station described for the proposed action in the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA* and based on the recent wetland delineation would have affected 0.8 acre of wetlands. Section 4.14.1, Unavoidable Adverse Impacts, describes actions the USAF has taken to reduce the amount of wetland impacts at the site.

4.4.2 No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would not result in changes to existing conditions. Therefore, no impacts to wetlands would result from implementation of the No-Action Alternative.

4.5 Biological Resources

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.6 Socioeconomic Resources

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.7 Cultural Resources

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.8 Land Use

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.9 Transportation Systems

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.10 Airspace/Airfield Operations

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.11 Safety and Occupational Health

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.12 Environmental Management, including Geology, Soils, and Pollution Prevention

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.13 Environmental Justice and Protection of Children

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.14 Indirect and Cumulative Effects

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations state that the cumulative effects analysis within an EA should consider the potential environmental impacts resulting from “the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR §1508.7).

Cumulative effects are likely to arise when a relationship exists between a proposed action and other actions expected to occur in a similar location or during a similar time period.

Actions occurring within or adjacent to the region are considered relevant for cumulative effect analysis. The potential adverse impacts to resources of interest in this EA are minor.

The proposed action would have long-term adverse impacts to wetlands resources at Grand Forks AFB. Only one project is being considered by Grand Forks AFB at this time. The Base has proposed to construct flow control structures in the four stormwater ditches to allow emergency personnel to prevent or control discharge from the outfalls off the Base into adjoining navigable waterways. The Base needs to construct stormwater sampling points at outfalls to provide safe access to regulators and sampling personnel and to provide a specific point to complete mandated stormwater sampling. The specific point for sampling would improve quality assurance and quality control of stormwater sampling collection and analysis. This action is covered in a separate NEPA document (GFAFB 2005).

4.14.1 Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires federal agencies to avoid to the extent practicable, long-term and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands. The Order directs federal agencies to avoid new construction in wetlands unless there is no reasonable alternative and states that where wetlands cannot be avoided, the proposed action must include all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands. In accordance with federal agency policies and regulations for wetland preservation, the wetland mitigation strategies described below have either been implemented or will be implemented to reduce impacts to wetlands from implementation of the proposed action.

4.14.1.1 Wetland Avoidance

Wetlands account for 301 acres, or 6 percent, of the total land area that comprises Grand Forks AFB. Wetlands are predominantly located in undeveloped areas of the Base. None of the sites considered in the 2003 EA or discussed in this EA are devoid of wetlands. It is not possible to avoid wetland impacts completely and sufficiently address the purpose and need of the proposed action.

4.14.1.2 Minimize Wetland Impacts

The location of the proposed fire station, as proposed in the August 2003 EA, would have affected 0.8 acre of wetlands identified in the *Fire Station Wetlands Delineation Summary Report*. To minimize the amount of wetland impacts, the configuration of the fire station was altered and the entire footprint of the site was shifted towards the east and slightly south. This reconfiguration and shift reduced the amount of wetland impacts from 0.8 acre to 0.03 acre. The impacts would be predominantly from access driveways crossing the stormwater ditch on the east and on the south. These remaining impacts would be unavoidable. Additional measures to minimize the impacts to wetlands would be considered during the design of the fire station.

During construction, potential impacts to wetlands adjacent to the site would be minimized through use of erosion control best management practices. Typical erosion control measures, such as silt fence and ditch checks, would be used to prevent the release of construction site sediment to adjacent wetlands and drainage ditch. A formal erosion control plan would be developed during the design phase and would be part of the contract documents that the building contractor will need to adhere to during construction.

4.14.1.3 Wetland Compensation

Where there is no practicable alternative to filling wetlands, federal regulations require compensatory mitigation. Mitigation would involve construction of new wetlands or wetland restoration. Grand Forks AFB would mitigate the losses at either a wetland mitigation bank or at a suitable location on base. A formal mitigation plan would be developed during final design of the fire station. Application for a Section 404 permit shall be made to the USACE.

4.14.2 Relationship between Short-Term Uses and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

4.14.3 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

This section is hereby incorporated by reference from the *Construct Fire Station/RAPCON/Air Traffic Control Tower Final EA*.

SECTION 5

List of Preparers

Name	Education	Experience	Role
David Rodebaugh	B.S., Political Science M.S., Urban and Regional Planning	11 years	Environmental planner, EA task manager
Karin Lilienbecker	B.S., Environmental Science M.S., Biology	13 years	NEPA senior reviewer
Al Erickson	B.S., Civil Engineering M.S., Civil Engineering	22 years	Project manager
Corey Wilcox	B.S., Biology	5 years	Wetland biologist

SECTION 6

Agencies and Persons Consulted or Provided Copies

The following Air Force personnel were consulted during the preparation of this EA:

Diane Strom, Environmental Protection Specialist, NEPA/EIAP Program, 319 CES/CEV
Kristen Rundquist, Air Programs/Natural Resources Manager, 319 CES/CEV
Christopher Klaus, Stormwater, 319 CES/CEV
Heidi Nelson, Community Planner, 319 CES/CECP
Larry Olderbak, Restoration Project Manager, 319 CES/CEVR
Mark Hanson, Legal, 319 ARW/JA
Everett Crouse, Airfield Manager, 319 OSS/OSAA
Gary Johnson, Ground Safety, 319 ARW/SEG
Stephen Braun, REM, Special Programs, 319 CES/CEV
Lt Col Teresa Hollingsworth, Legal, AMC/JAV
Janice Carlson, Public Affairs, AMC/PADE

The following persons were provided copies of this EA for review and comment:

Bill Bicknell, Biologist
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
North Dakota Field Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

Dave Glatt, Section Chief
ND Department of Health
Environmental Health Section
1200 Missouri Ave.
P.O. Box 5520
Bismarck, ND 58506-5520

Merlen E. Paaverud
State Historic Preservation Officer
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck ND 58505-0830

Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer
North Dakota Department of Health
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept 301
Bismarck ND 58505-0200

Dean Hildebrand, Commissioner
North Dakota Game and Fish
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck ND 58505-5095

Dale Frink
State Engineer and Secretary of the State
Water Commission
900 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505

SECTION 7

References

Department of Defense (DoD). 2000. DoD Directive 6055. DOD Fire and Emergency Services Program.

Grand Forks Air Force Base (Grand Forks AFB). 2005. Fire Station Wetlands Delineation Summary Report. Prepared by CH2M HILL, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Grand Forks Air Force Base (Grand Forks AFB). 2004. Wetland Inventory for Grand Forks Air Force Base. Prepared by CH2M HILL, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Grand Forks Air Force Base (Grand Forks AFB). 2000. Final Wetland Identification and Jurisdictional Report. Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota.

U.S. Air Force (USAF). 2005. Environmental Assessment. Stormwater Control and Devices at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota. Prepared by CH2M HILL for Air Mobility Command. Milwaukee, WI.

Grand Forks Air Force Base (Grand Forks AFB). 2005. Environmental Assessment. Natural Resource Actions at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota. Prepared by CH2M HILL for Air Mobility Command. Milwaukee, WI.

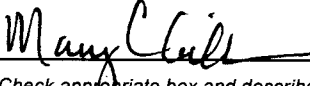
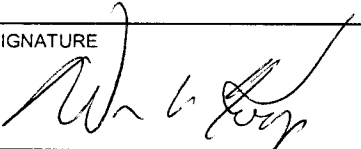
U.S. Air Force (USAF). 2004. Environmental Assessment. Deicer Recovery at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota. Prepared by the 319 Civil Engineer Squadron. Grand Forks, ND.

Grand Forks Air Force Base (Grand Forks AFB). 2003. *Environmental Assessment. Construct Fire Station/Air Traffic Control Tower/RAPCON [Radar Approach Control] at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota*. Prepared by Geo-Marine Inc. for the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency and Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence. Brooks City-Base, TX.

Air Force Instruction 32-2001. 1999. The Fire Protection Operations and Fire Prevention Program.

Fire Station Design Guide. 1997. Prepared by the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency and Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence. Brooks City-Base, TX.

Appendix A
USAF Form 813

REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS		Report Control Symbol RCS: 2005-177			
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) 319 CES/CEVA	2. FROM (Proponent organization and functional address symbol) 319 CES/CD	2a. TELEPHONE NO. 701-747-4761			
3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION Construct Fire Station, JFSD200501					
4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION (Identify decision to be made and need date) RCS # 03-012 analyzed the environmental impact of Construction of a new Fire Station and FONSI was signed 2 Oct 03. In 2004 a wetlands delineation revealed wetlands located on site chosen for Fire Station. Supplemental EA for FONPA requested/funded.					
5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES (DOPAA) (Provide sufficient details for evaluation of the total action.) Evaluate the affect of construction of the new Fire Station to the wetlands located in the site proposed for construction, on the northwest corner of Eielson St and 10th Ave.					
6. PROPONENT APPROVAL (Name and Grade) MARY C. GILTNER, GM-13 Deputy Base Civil Engineer	6a. SIGNATURE 	6b. DATE 29 Jul 05			
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 This action is not "regionally significant" and does not require a conformity determination in accordance with 40 CFR 93.153(1). The total emission of criteria pollutants from the proposed action are below the de minimus thresholds and less than 10 percent of the Air Quality Region's planning inventory.					
19. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FUNCTION CERTIFICATION (Name and Grade) WAYNE A. KOOP, R.E.M., GS-13 Environmental Management Flight Chief	19a. SIGNATURE 	19b. DATE 15 Jul 05			

- 4.0 Purpose and Need for Action, RCS #2005-177, Construct Fire Station, JFSD200501
- 4.1 Purpose of the Action (mission objectives-who proposes to do what, where, when): A modern, efficient fire station is required to house all authorized airfield and base fire fighting vehicles, drive-through stalls, personnel, alarm center, training, administration, storage, and fire hose tower. Location will be on the flightline and centrally located to meet airfield response times. Sleeping areas must not discharge directly into vehicle stalls, adequate shower and lavatory facilities required for male and female firefighters, and suitable living space for cooking, dining, relaxing, and physical fitness.
- 4.2 Need for the Action (why this action is desired or required-why here, why now): The 1957-vintage main crash/fire rescue facility is severely undersized, has an unsafe, inefficient maze layout, inadequate vehicles-stall clearances, and does not meet current codes for life safety and standards of living. Building systems including HVAC are obsolete, difficult to maintain, and inefficient. Station lacks adequate maintenance space; hoses must be laid out in office areas for drying in the winter. The main station does not meet airfield response time requirements. This project does meet the criteria/scope specified in Air Force Handbook 32-1084, "Facility Requirements". An economic analysis has been prepared comparing alternatives of status quo, new construction, and adding to and altering the existing facilities. Based on the net present values and benefits of the respective alternatives, new construction was found to be the most cost effective over the life of the project. Cost estimate was developed using PACES. Supporting facility costs exceed 25% of the total cost because of the following extraordinary requirements: existing wet lands need mitigation, road upgrades providing crash/fire vehicle direct access to the flightline, burying power lines in vicinity of new construction, longer than normal utility/infrastructure runs for water, sewer, natural gas, and communications, significant fill and site work required to correct a low elevation of the entire fire station site, demolition of substandard facilities including asbestos/lead with total site restoration.
- 4.3 Objectives for the Action (what goal do you wish to accomplish): Construct a new Fire Station.
- 4.4 Related EISs/EAs and other documents (similar projects in the past): RCS # 2003-012, Fire Station/Control Tower / RAPCON; and numerous catex actions for repairs to existing fire station.
- 4.5 Decision that must be made: Location to construct Fire Station.
- 4.6 Applicable Regulatory Requirements and Required Coordination-- required permits, licenses, entitlements: Contractor must submit a Work Clearance Request, Stormwater Protection Plan, Dust Control Plan, Spill Control Plan, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to the CEV Water Program Manager and Contracting Officer.
- 5.0 Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives
- 5.1 Description of the proposed action (in brief, introduction): Construct a new Fire Station on the northwest corner of Eielson Street and 10th Avenue.
- 5.2 Selection criteria for Alternatives
- 5.2.1 Minimum mission requirements: effectiveness, timeliness, cost effective, legality, safety, efficiency, force protection.
- 5.2.2 Minimum environmental standards : noise, air, water, safety, HW, vegetation, cultural, geology, soils, socioeconomic.
- 5.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study: West of the runway, south of the runway, north of the runway, east of the current fire station
- 5.4 Description of proposed alternatives
- 5.4.1 No-action alternative: Adequate fire protection for Air Force aircraft and facilities will not be provided. Firefighter response will continue to be hindered by an improperly located, unsafe, inefficient fire station. Obsolete, cramped facilities will continue to adversely impact morale and retention of military and civilian firefighters.
- 5.4.2 Proposed Action: Construct a consolidated crash/structural fire station to house fire protection vehicles, equipment, personnel, alarm center, all support areas, at the northwest corner of Eielson St and 10th Ave. It requires reinforced masonry walls, brick exterior, sloped standing seam metal roof, underground utilities & communications infrastructure, pavements, emergency vehicle access roads/pavements, wet land mitigation, landscaping, parking lot, site improvements. Demolish buildings 530 and 606 (2,427 SM), asbestos/lead removal, and site restoration. Antiterrorism/force protection requirements meeting DoD Unified Facilities Criteria. The existing satellite fire station will be converted to a flight line kitchen facility.
- 5.4.3 Another Reasonable Action Alternative: Construct the fire station on the southwest corner of Eielson St and 10th Ave.
- 5.5 Description of Past and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Relevant to Cumulative Impacts: There are several other construction and demolition projects occurring on Grand Forks AFB in the same time frame. These projects are addressed under separate NEPA documents.
- 5.6 Recommendation of preferred alternative: Construct the Fire Station on the northwest corner of Eielson St and 10th Ave.
11. Solid Waste: A short-term increase in solid waste generation in the form of construction debris will result from this alternative. Disposal of trash and construction debris would be accomplished by the contractor, off base, in an approved disposal area.

Appendix B
Interagency Coordination



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
1513 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BISMARCK ND 58504-6640

May 23, 2005

North Dakota Regulatory Office

200560039

Ms. Kristen Rundquist
Department of the Air Force
319th Civil Engineer Squadron
525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd
Grand Forks AFAB, North Dakota 58205-6434

Dear Ms. Rundquist:

This is in reference to your request for Department of the Army [DA] jurisdictional determination for wetlands located on the Grand Forks Air Force Base, Grand Forks County, North Dakota.

Based on the information you provided to this office and further review of wetlands through field review by Ms. Patsy Crooke on 13 May 2005, it has been determined the above mentioned project areas do contain Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional wetland areas. Those wetland areas determined to be jurisdictional waters of the U.S. are as follows:

FLN-06, FLW-01, FLW-02, FLW-06, FLE-07, FLE-08, FLE-09, FLE-15, SES-16, SES-17, LS-01, LS-02, LS-03, HS-01, HS-02, AND HS-03.

If plans include impacts to any of these wetland areas, in accordance with 33 C.F.R. 320-330, a Department of the Army permit would be required prior to commencing construction activities associated with the proposed project that would result in impacts to these waters of the United States. If however, construction activities associated with a project are designed to avoid impacts to waters of the United States, a Department of Army permit would not be required.

If we can be of further assistance or should you have any questions regarding our program, please do not hesitate to contact me by letter or phone at (701)-255-0015.

Sincerely,

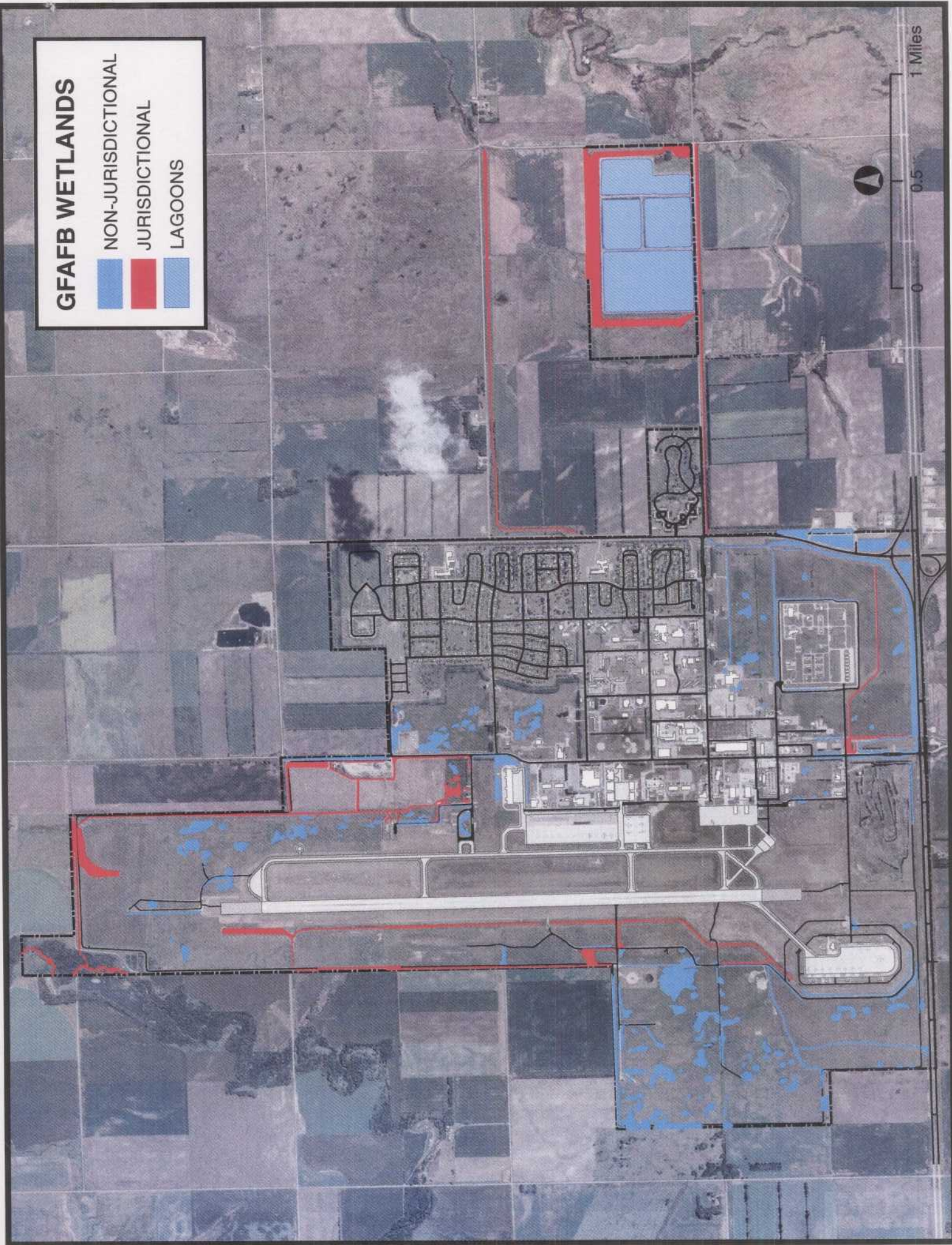
Daniel E. Cimarosti
Regulatory Program Manager
North Dakota Regulatory Office

GFAFB WETLANDS

NON-JURISDICTIONAL

JURISDICTIONAL

LAGOONS





REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
1513 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BISMARCK ND 58504-6640

October 4, 2005

North Dakota Regulatory Office

200560499

Ms. Kristen Rundquist
Department of the Air Force
319th Civil Engineer Squadron
525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd
Grand Forks AFAB, North Dakota 58205-6434

Dear Ms. Rundquist:

This is in reference to your request for Department of the Army [DA] jurisdictional determination for wetlands located on the Grand Forks Air Force Base, Grand Forks County, North Dakota. Specifically these wetlands are located in Section 23, Township 153 North, Range 53 West where a firestation will be located.

Based on the information you provided to this office and further review of information in our office, it has been determined the above mentioned project area does contain Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional wetland areas. Those wetland areas determined to be jurisdictional waters of the U.S. are as follows:

FLN-06A through FLN-06G These wetlands have a hydrologic connections to drainages to the Turtle River, which is a tributary to the Red River of the North, a navigable water of the U.S.

Wetlands FLE-07, FLE-07A, FLE-07B, FLE-09 and FLE-10, according to your documentation and field reviews, do not have this hydrologic connection to waters of the U.S., and therefore are not jurisdictional and would not require a Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

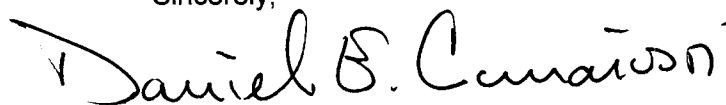
If plans include impacts to any of these wetland areas that are jurisdictional, in accordance with 33 C.F.R. 320-330, a Department of the Army permit would be required prior to commencing construction activities associated with the proposed project that would result in impacts to these waters of the United States. If however, construction activities associated with a project are designed to avoid impacts to waters of the United States, a Department of Army permit would not be required.

If you disagree with this jurisdictional determination, you have the right to appeal the decision. If you would like more information on the jurisdictional appeal process, contact this office

If we can be of further assistance or should you have any questions regarding our program, please do not hesitate to contact me by letter or phone at (701)-255-0015.

Page 2
Ms. Kristin Rundquist

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel E. Cimarosti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

Daniel E. Cimarosti
Regulatory Program Manager
North Dakota Regulatory Office

Appendix C
Agency and Public Review Comments



CH2MHILL

CH2M HILL

135 South 84th Street

Suite 325

Milwaukee, WI 53214-1456

Tel 414-27.2426

Fax 414.272.4408

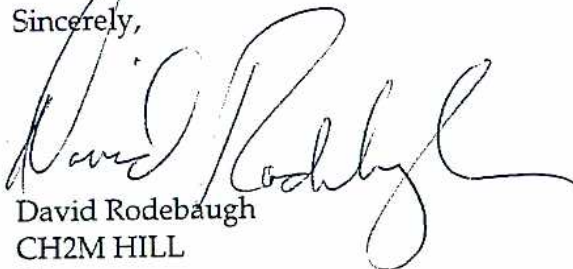
December 9, 2005

Mr. Dean Hildebrand
Commissioner
North Dakota Game and Fish
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Mr. Hildebrand,

CH2M HILL is under contract with the United States Air Force to conduct an environmental analysis for constructing a fire station at Grand Forks Air Force Base. Enclosed you will find the Draft Final Environmental Assessment for Construct a Fire Station at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota. The 30-day public comment period begins on December 13, 2005. Comments should be returned by January 12, 2006.

Sincerely,



David Rodebaugh
CH2M HILL
Planner

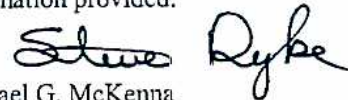
MKE/Document4



North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

We have reviewed the project and foresee no identifiable conflict with wildlife or wildlife habitat based on the information provided.

(for)



Michael G. McKenna
Chief, Conservation & Communication Division
Date: 12/29/05



**STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA**

John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota

North Dakota
State Historical Board

Marvin L. Kaiser
Williston - President

Albert I. Berger
Grand Forks - Vice President

Chester E. Nelson, Jr.
Bismarck - Secretary

Gereld Gerntholz
Valley City

A. Ruric Todd III
Jamestown

Diane K. Larson
Bismarck

John E. Von Rueden
Bismarck

Sara Otte Coleman
*Director
Tourism Division*

Kelly Schmidt
State Treasurer

Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

Douglass Prchal
*Director
Parks and Recreation
Department*

David A. Sprynczynatyk
*Director
Department of
Transportation*

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
Director

*Accredited by the
American Association
of Museums*

December 13, 2005

Mr. David Rodebaugh
CH2MHill
135 South 84th Street, suite 325
Milwaukee, WI 53214-1456

**ND SHPO97-0527MA: Draft Final Environmental Assessment for Construct
a Fire Station at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota**

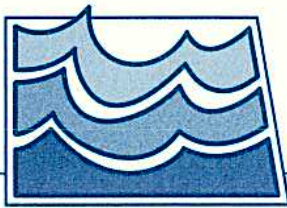
Dear Mr. Rodebaugh;

We reviewed ND SHPO97-0527MA: "Draft Final Environmental Assessment
for Construct a Fire Station at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota,"
and concur with a "No Historic Properties Affected" determination, provided the
project is of the nature specified and takes place in the legal description outlined
and mapped in the draft report. We look forward to receipt of the final report.

If you have any questions please contact Susan Quinnell, at (701) 328-3576.

Sincerely,

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)



North Dakota State Water Commission

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE, DEPT 770 • BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505-0850 • 701-328-2750
TDD 701-328-2750 • FAX 701-328-3696 • INTERNET: <http://www.swc.state.nd.us/>

December 29, 2005

David Rodebaugh
CH2M Hill
135 S 84th Street
Suite 325
Milwaukee, WI 53214-1456

Dear Mr. Rodebaugh:

This is in response to your request for review of environmental impacts associated with the constructing a fire station at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

The proposed project has been reviewed by State Water Commission staff and the following comments are provided:

- The property is not located in an identified floodplain and it is believed the project will not affect an identified floodplain.
- All waste material associated with the project must be disposed of properly and not placed in identified floodway areas.

There are no other concerns associated with this project that affect State Water Commission or State Engineer regulatory responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide review comments. If you have any questions, please call me at 328-4969.

Sincerely,

Larry Knudtson
Research Analyst

LJK:ds/1570



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
Gold Seal Center, 918 E. Divide Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947
701.328.5200 (fax)
www.ndhealth.gov



January 3, 2006

Mr. David Rodebaugh, Planner
CH2MHILL
135 South 84th Street, Suite 325
Milwaukee, WI 53214-1456

Re: Draft Final EA for Construction of a Fire Station
at Grand Forks Air Force Base, Grand Forks County

Dear Mr. Rodebaugh:

This department has reviewed the information concerning the above-referenced project submitted under date of December 9, 2005, with respect to possible environmental impacts.

This department believes that environmental impacts from the proposed construction will be minor and can be controlled by proper construction methods. With respect to construction, we have the following comments:

1. Care is to be taken during construction activity near any water of the state to minimize adverse effects on a water body. This includes minimal disturbance of stream beds and banks to prevent excess siltation, and the replacement and revegetation of any disturbed area as soon as possible after work has been completed. Caution must also be taken to prevent spills of oil and grease that may reach the receiving water from equipment maintenance, and/or the handling of fuels on the site. Guidelines for minimizing degradation to waterways during construction are attached.
2. Projects disturbing one or more acres are required to have a permit to discharge storm water runoff until the site is stabilized by the reestablishment of vegetation or other permanent cover. Further information on the storm water permit may be obtained from the Department's website or by calling the Division of Water Quality (701-328-5210). Also, cities may impose additional requirements and/or specific best management practices for construction affecting their storm drainage system. Check with the local officials to be sure any local storm water management considerations are addressed.

The department owns no land in or adjacent to the proposed improvements, nor does it have any projects scheduled in the area. In addition, we believe the proposed activities are consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Air Pollution for the State of North Dakota.

Environmental Health
Section Chief's Office
701.328.5150

Division of
Air Quality
701.328.5188

Division of
Municipal Facilities
701.328.5211

Division of
Waste Management
701.328.5166

Division of
Water Quality
701.328.5210

Mr. David Rodebaugh

2.

January 3, 2006

These comments are based on the information provided about the project in the above-referenced submittal. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may require a water quality certification from this department for the project if the project is subject to their Section 404 permitting process. Any additional information which may be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the process will be considered by this department in our determination regarding the issuance of such a certification.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. David Glatt", written over a horizontal line.

L. David Glatt, P.E., Chief
Environmental Health Section

LDG:cc
Attach.



Construction and Environmental Disturbance Requirements

These represent the minimum requirements of the North Dakota Department of Health. They ensure that minimal environmental degradation occurs as a result of construction or related work which has the potential to affect the waters of the State of North Dakota. All projects will be designed and implemented to restrict the losses or disturbances of soil, vegetative cover, and pollutants (chemical or biological) from a site.

Soils

Prevent the erosion of exposed soil surfaces and trapping sediments being transported. Examples include, but are not restricted to, sediment dams or berms, diversion dikes, hay bales as erosion checks, riprap, mesh or burlap blankets to hold soil during construction, and immediately establishing vegetative cover on disturbed areas after construction is completed. Fragile and sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian zones, delicate flora, or land resources will be protected against compaction, vegetation loss, and unnecessary damage.

Surface Waters

All construction which directly or indirectly impacts aquatic systems will be managed to minimize impacts. All attempts will be made to prevent the contamination of water at construction sites from fuel spillage, lubricants, and chemicals, by following safe storage and handling procedures. Stream bank and stream bed disturbances will be controlled to minimize and/or prevent silt movement, nutrient upsurges, plant dislocation, and any physical, chemical, or biological disruption. The use of pesticides or herbicides in or near these systems is forbidden without approval from this Department.

Fill Material

Any fill material placed below the high water mark must be free of top soils, decomposable materials, and persistent synthetic organic compounds (in toxic concentrations). This includes, but is not limited to, asphalt, tires, treated lumber, and construction debris. The Department may require testing of fill materials. All temporary fills must be removed. Debris and solid wastes will be removed from the site and the impacted areas restored as nearly as possible to the original condition.



CH2MHILL

CH2M HILL

135 South 84th Street

Suite 325

Milwaukee, WI 53214-1456

Tel 414-27.2426

Fax 414.272.4408

December 9, 2005

Mr. Jeffrey Towner
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Dakota Field Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

Dear Mr. Towner,

CH2M HILL is under contract with the United States Air Force to conduct an environmental analysis for constructing a fire station at Grand Forks Air Force Base. Enclosed you will find the Draft Final Environmental Assessment for Construct a Fire Station at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota. The 30-day public comment period begins on December 13, 2005. Comments should be returned by January 12, 2006.

Sincerely,

David Rodebaugh
CH2M HILL
Planner

MKE/Document4

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
ND FIELD OFFICE**

Project as described will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. No endangered or threatened species are known to occupy the project area. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT PLANS FOR REVIEW.

1/11/06
Date

Jeffrey K. Towner
Jeffrey K. Towner
Field Supervisor

North Dakota
Department of Commerce

Community Services

Economic
Development & Finance

Tourism

Workforce Development



Century Center

1600 E. Century Ave

Suite 2

PO Box 2057

Bismarck, ND 58502-2057

Phone 701-328-5300

Fax 701-328-5320

www.ndcommerce.com



March 22, 2006

Diane M. Strom
Dept. of the Air Force
319 CES/CEVA, Room 128
525 Tuskegee Airmen Blvd.
Grand Forks AFB, ND 58205-6434

"Letter of Clearance" In Conformance with the North Dakota Federal Program
Review System - State Application Identifier No.: ND060322-0098

Dear Ms. Strom:

SUBJECT: FONSI/FONPA - Construction of Fire Station at Grand Forks AFB,
ND

The above referenced FONSI/FONPA has been reviewed through the North Dakota
Federal Program Review Process. As a result of the review, clearance is given to the
project only with respect to this consultation process.

If the proposed project changes in duration, scope, description, budget, location or
area of impact, from the project description submitted for review, then it is necessary
to submit a copy of the completed application to this office for further review.

We also request the opportunity for complete review of applications for renewal or
continuation grants within one year after the date of this letter.

Please use the above SAI number for reference to the above project with this office.
Your continued cooperation in the review process is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Boyd".

James R. Boyd
Manager of Governmental Services
Division of Community Services

bb

Appendix D
Notice of Availability

Affidavit of Publication
State of North Dakota, County of Grand Forks

David Austin of said State and County being first duly sworn, on oath says:
That he is Advertising Director of Grand Forks Herald, Inc., publisher of the Grand
Forks Herald, Morning Edition, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and
published in the City of Grand Forks, in said County and State, and has been during the
time hereinafter mentioned, and that the advertisements of

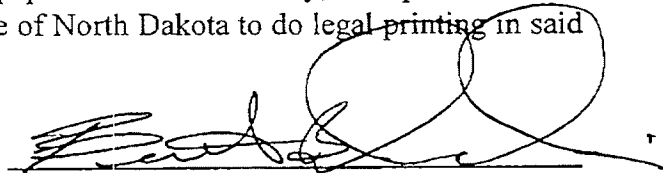
CH2M HILL

Run Date Tuesday 12-13-05 Location in paper Main, 2x8" ad under G.P rate@ \$19.82
per inch total investment \$317.20

January 17, 2006

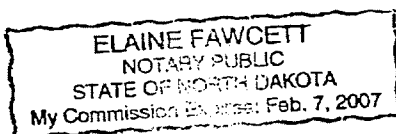
and that the full amount of the fee for the publication of the annexed notice insures
solely to the benefit of the publishers of said newspaper; that no agreement or
understanding for a division thereof has been made with any other person and that no
part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

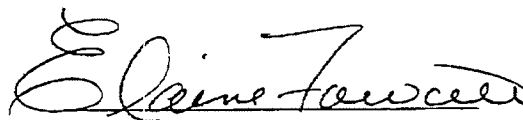
That said newspaper was, at the time of the aforesaid publication, the duly
elected and qualified Official Newspaper within said County, and qualified in
accordance with the law of the State of North Dakota to do legal printing in said
County and State.



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17 day of

January A. D. 2006




Notary Public, Grand Forks, ND

cent as the trial's outcome shook investors worried about the company's liability in the thousands of pending Vioxx cases; Merck has already lost one state-level case and won another.

Only one of the nine jurors refused to absolve Merck of liability, two jurors who voted in favor of the drugmaker told The Associated Press.

One of the jurors, Amanda Toungate, said she didn't believe the drug caused Richard "Dicky" Irvin's 2001 death, but added that Merck should have done a better job telling patients about Vioxx's risks.

"He had too many other risk factors," said Toungate.

Merck lead attorney Phil Beck said that he could not confirm the 8-1 jury split because the judge instructed lawyers not to contact the jurors.

"If it is accurate, it's very gratifying; 8-to-1 is good enough to win in almost every state court in the country, including Texas. But in the federal system you need to win 9-0 and hopefully next time we'll get all nine votes," he told the Associated Press.

Vioxx before Merck what had become seller from the market when a separate study showed it a risk of heart attack taken for 18 months.

"You can't lie to the New England Medicine and get a said plaintiff's Beasley. "We look the next trial."

Beck said last week's verdict from the medical trial would be a "non-issue" and that Merck all the updated safety data the Food and Drug Administration before the judgment was published.

The jury's inability to reach a unanimous verdict was unrelated to revelations that came last week, after deliberations. The journal report that authors of a study of three patients' health data they submitted to the journal, making it clear Vioxx caused four times as many heart attacks as the placebo.

GRAND FORKS

More eateries open in mall food court

Four more eateries have opened in The Dakota Cafe Food Court in the Columbia Mall, just in time for the holidays.

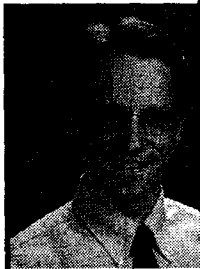
Subway, Crazy Bread by Little Caesar Pizza, TCBY and Great American Cookie now are open. Magic Chopstix, offering Asian specialties, opened Nov. 3.

The food court features a huge, open limestone fireplace and a large plasma screen television.

Other new amenities at the mall include a colorful, self-contained play area for children located in the west court near Amy's Hallmark and Radio Shack.

New, expanded restrooms and a family restroom also are open near the mall office on the west side of the mall.

— Herald staff report



Introducing

Mark Peterson

Grand Forks Native - graduate of UND School of Medicine, 15 years of experience, Board Certified in Family Medicine



Introducing

Ramil Mansour

Resident of Grand Forks, Formerly at Grand Forks, 7 years of experience, Board Certified in Family Medicine

• SERIOUS INJURY • WRONGFUL DEATH
• BUSINESS LAWSUITS

Grand Forks Appointments Arranged
Call 1-888-LAW-5556
Or 701-352-2810

SEE WEB SITE FOR RECENT CASES
www.graftonlawyer.com

Licensed in ND & MN

PUBLIC NOTICE

Availability of Environmental Assessment
and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for
Construct Fire Station
Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota

The Air Force has conducted an assessment of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with constructing a consolidated crash/structural fire station here.

The new fire station would provide services for the airfield in the event of an aircraft accident or fuel spill, and for fire protection and emergency response to the rest of the base. The new construction would include installation of underground utilities and communications infrastructure, pavements for parking, access roads to the flight line and the base transportation system, site improvements for drainage and landscaping, and antiterrorism/force protection measures.

Based on the environmental assessment, it was determined that the proposed action would result in no significant impact to the quality of the natural or human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required and a draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) has been prepared. In accordance with Air Force regulations, a finding of no practicable alternative (FONPA) has also been prepared for minor wetland impacts.

The draft final EA and draft FONSI/FONPA are available for review and comment for 30 days, from December 13, 2005 through January 12, 2006, at the Grand Forks Public Library (2110 Library Circle, Grand Forks, ND 58201, telephone 701-772-8116) and at the Grand Forks AFB Library.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Public Affairs Officer, 319 ARWPA, 375 Steen Blvd., Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota 58205-6434; telephone (701) 747-5017; or e-mail PA@grandforks.af.mil.

Written comments should be sent to the above address or email no later than January 12, 2006 to ensure consideration. The vice commander of Air Mobility Command will review all comments received by that date before making a decision to sign the final FONSI.

Public Notice:

J&G landscaping is the contractor responsible for removing snow and ice in industrial and common areas and vacant units in military family housing. Schmitz Inc. is responsible for removing snow and ice from base streets and parking lots.

To help these contractors do a quality, timely and safe job housing residents should remove exterior door mats, extension cords and any other obstructions that could hinder operations. Foreign objects can become projectiles that can cause serious injuries. Residents should also avoid park in streets after snowfall or at vacant housing

units until the contractor has had time to clear snow.

Give special consideration to children and yourself while outdoors and snow removal operations are ongoing. Monitor where snow igloos are built and where children play. Being too close to the road and snow next to the berm is a recipe for injury! Individuals delivering early morning papers should also wear reflective clothing.

For details call J&G Landscaping at 594-2669 for sidewalk snow or ice and Schmitz Inc. at 594-8985 for street/parking lot snow or ice. Government Quality Assurance office 747-664.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ashley Coomes

Sharing the love

Base community volunteers prepared more than 700 dozen holiday cookies baked, packaged and delivered to Airmen.

Environmental assessment on base

The Air Force has conducted an assessment of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with constructing a consolidated crash and structural fire station.

The new fire station would provide services for the airfield in the event of an aircraft accident or fuel spill, and for fire protection and emergency response to the rest of the base. The new construction would include installation of underground utilities and communications infrastructure, pavements for parking, access roads to the flightline and the base transportation system, site improvements for drainage and landscaping, and anti-terrorism and force

protection measures.

Based on the environmental assessment, it was determined that the proposed action would result in no significant impact to the quality of the natural or human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required and a draft finding of no significant impact has been prepared. In accordance with Air Force regulations, a finding of no practicable alternative has also been prepared for minor wetland impacts.

The draft final EA and draft FONSI and FONPA are available for review and comment for 30 days, from Dec. 13, to Jan. 12, at the Grand Forks Public

Library (2110 Library Circle, Grand Forks, ND 58201, telephone 772-8116) and at the Grand Forks Air Force Base Library.

If you have any questions or comments please contact the public affairs officer, 319 ARW/PA, 375 Steen Blvd., Grand Forks AFB, N.D., 58205-6434; telephone 747-5017; or e-mail PA@grandforks.af.mil.

Written comments should be sent to the above address or email no later than Jan. 12, to ensure consideration. The vice commander of Air Mobility Command will review all comments received by that date before making a decision to sign the final FONSI.

25¢ Wings!

Plus all the
free popcorn
you can eat!



Mon-Fri 9PM-11PM you can enjoy spicy buffalo or
barbecue wings for only 25¢ a piece.

