

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration****Job Corps: Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the New Job Corps Center Located off of Schoolland Woods Road in Exeter, RI**

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the New Job Corps Center to be located off of Schoolland Woods Road in Exeter, Rhode Island.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulation (40 CFR Part 1500-08) implementing procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Job Corps, in accordance with 29 CFR 11.11(d), gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared and the proposed plans for a new Job Corps Center will have no significant environmental impact. This Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by November 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Any comment(s) are to be submitted to Michael O'Malley, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-4659, Washington, DC, 20210, (202) 219-5468 ext. 115 (this is not a toll-free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the EA and additional information are available to interested parties by contacting Marcus Gray, Regional Director, Office of Job Corps—Region I, JFK Federal Building, Room E-350, Boston, MA 02203, (617) 565-2179 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the proposed re-use of a small portion of the former Ladd Center for the proposed Exeter Job Corps Center. The EA identifies the subject property for the proposed facility as an approximately 19.65-acre site located on Schoolland Woods Road, west of South County Trail Route 2, in Map ID 67, Block 4, Lot 1, in the City of Exeter, Washington County, Rhode Island. The proposal is to refurbish selected buildings of the former Ladd Center and construct additional buildings to create a campus setting in a rural location. The

remainder portion of the former Ladd Center (approximately 270 acres) is targeted for commercial property development by the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

The site of the proposed Exeter Job Corps Center is located in a rural area in northern Washington County, which lies in the southern portion of the State of Rhode Island. The site is currently developed with facilities from the former Ladd Center, which served as an institution for the care and rehabilitation of developmentally disabled persons of the State of Rhode Island. The State of Rhode Island has owned the site since at least 1907. The facilities were constructed between the years of 1914 and 1965. All of the buildings have been abandoned for the past eight to ten years. These buildings will require extensive renovation but were built for specific uses that will mirror the Job Corps' needs.

The proposed Exeter Job Corps Center will be a partially new and partially refurbished facility utilizing a campus setting. The facility will consist of several buildings which will support a proposed capacity of 200 Resident Students. The buildings will include dormitories, vocational shops, maintenance and warehouse facilities, a cafeteria, a physical fitness center, administration and support facilities, and classroom facilities. The gross area of the facility will be approximately 111,110 square feet (This square footage does not include the proposed outdoor recreation areas). The developed site will be approximately 19.65-acres of land, which will be leased for a 50-year term by the Department of Labor from the State of Rhode Island.

The construction/renovation of the Job Corps Center on this abandoned, developed site would be a positive asset to the area in terms of environmental and socioeconomic improvements, and long-term productivity. The proposed Job Corps Center will be a new source of employment opportunity for people in the Exeter, Rhode Island area. The Job Corps program provides basic education, vocational skills training, work experience, counseling, health care and related support services. This program is designed to graduate students who are ready to participate in the local economy.

The proposed project will not have any significant adverse impact on any natural system or resource. All construction or development activities that will possibly impact jurisdictional wetland areas will be in compliance with all federal and state requirements. No state or federal, proposed or listed,

threatened or endangered species have been located on the subject property.

The site will require an archaeological assessment in order to conform with the National Historic Preservation Act. According to the Rhode Island Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission, the site lies in a very sensitive area concerning cultural resources. One (1) known pre-colonial Indian site (RI-931) is located at the northwest corner of the Former Ladd Center parcel. Another known site, (RI-962), lies nearby. Neither of these known historic sites is located on or adjacent to the proposed Job Corps Center. The environmental characteristics of the location (well-drained soils, level topography and abundance of freshwater wetlands) strongly suggest the presence of additional archaeological sites. The EDC is currently conducting an archeological assessment for the overall Ladd Center redevelopment. The construction and operation of the proposed facility will be conducted to minimize adverse impacts to historically significant or archeologically sensitive areas. The Department of Labor will design and develop the project in compliance with all State and Tribal Historic Preservation requirements.

Air quality and noise levels should not be affected by the proposed development project in this Special Zoning District in Exeter, Rhode Island. Due to the nature of the proposed project, it would not be a source of air pollutants or additional noise, except possibly during construction of the facility. The proposed Job Corps Center will not significantly increase the vehicle traffic in the vicinity. If air and noise pollution permits are required, all pollution sources will be permitted in compliance with applicable pollution control requirements.

The proposed project will not have any significant adverse impact on the surrounding water utility infrastructure, represented by water, sewer, and storm water systems. Water will be provided by the existing on-site wells and distribution system. The Rhode Island Department of Health provides water quality testing of public drinking water. The groundwater classification is GA/GAA groundwater, which is suitable for direct human consumption. On-site systems include three (3) wells, two (2) pumping stations and two (2) storage tanks. The site is currently equipped with an eight (8) inch loop that is reportedly adequate for the proposed usage. The condition of the distribution systems will require testing and possible upgrading by the EDC as necessary.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)

has indicated to the Department of Labor that an on-site sewage treatment and disposal system will be required for the proposed Job Corps Center. The sewage treatment and disposal system for the Job Corps Center will be constructed in accordance with all applicable RIDEM design, permitting, and modeling requirements. The sewage treatment and disposal system will be designed and constructed to minimize impacts to the local ground water overlay district. The EDC has indicated that the abandoned off-site sewage digester will be de-commissioned as necessary to comply with all applicable State and Federal regulations.

Storm water runoff from parking lots, sidewalks, and other structures will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the RIDEM Office of Water Resources/Permitting and the EPA program, and is not anticipated to adversely impact area surface-water quality. Currently, the proposed site is minimally equipped with storm sewers and catch basins. The majority of the site is composed of a natural surface (unpaved) which does not contribute significant run-off to the nearby jurisdictional wetlands. Additional storm sewers will be built as necessary to manage storm water flow from the Job Corps Center.

The State of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Inc. jointly operate the State Central Landfill. The State of Rhode Island is in the process of closing the smaller local landfills and centralizing all solid waste to the Central Landfill location. Representatives of the RIDEM Solid Waste Program reported that the Central Landfill has no specific estimated remaining life due to phased expansions of the landfill. Each city, such as the City of Exeter, has transfer stations where private citizens must bring all solid waste. Private transporters can be hired to transport waste to these stations or the Central Landfill. The majority of commercial operations hire private transporters and this will be the case for the proposed Job Corps facility.

The State of Rhode Island has a current recycling program called the "OSCAR" or "Blue-Basket" Program. Statewide participation in the recycling program is mandatory. The above-mentioned private transporters will also transport recyclable materials. The Job Corps Center will participate in all mandated recycling programs.

Narragansett Electric provides electric service to the project area. Providence Gas Company provides natural gas to the area, and Diamond State Telephone Company provides telephone service. All of these utilities have facilities in

the vicinity, which are adequate to provide the required service. The proposed demands on the building utilities are not expected to have a significant adverse affect on the environment.

This portion of Washington County has a variety of transportation resources. Three interstate highways, U.S. Interstate-95, U.S. Interstate-4, and U.S. Interstate-1, and a system of state highways serve the subject property area. The West Kingston Amtrak Station is located approximately three (3) miles from the subject property. Commercial air service is found at the T. F. Green Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island, which is approximately twelve (12) miles from the subject property. The Rhode Island Public Transit (RIPT) which operates a bus system statewide provides public transportation. Seven days a week service is provided on one of the routes running along Route 2, which is a state route with a boarding point approximately 0.7-miles from the proposed center.

The proposed project will have no significant adverse affects on the local medical, emergency, fire and police services. The primary medical provider located closest to the subject property is South County Hospital. This facility is located approximately ten (10) miles from the subject property. Security services at the Exeter Job Corps will be provided by the center's staff with two (2) personnel on the day shift, three (3) on evening shift, and two (2) on the night shift. The proposed Center will be between the cities of Exeter and Fisherville, Rhode Island. The police department providing police services to the proposed subject property is the Rhode Island State Police, which is located approximately five (5) miles from the subject property.

The closest fire station to the project site is Station #1, located approximately one (1) mile south of the subject property on State Route 2. The Exeter Fire Department is a full time emergency response agency providing 24-hour service. The Exeter area utilizes the 911 emergency call system for all emergencies including fire and police. All emergency services are adequate for the project.

The alternatives considered in the preparation of the EA were as follows: (1) No Action; (2) Construction at an Alternate Site; and (3) Continue Construction as Proposed. The "No Action" alternative was not selected. The "Alternate Site" alternative was not selected. The U. S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA) solicited proposals for alternative properties on

March 10, 1998, and received five proposals. Of the five proposed sites evaluated by the Department of Labor, the subject property off of Schoolland Woods Road was the only site within the state of Rhode Island. Due to the adaptability of the existing structures on the site, the lack of alternative construction sites, and the absence of any identified adverse environmental impacts from locating a Job Corps Center at the subject property, the "Continue Construction as Proposed" alternative was selected.

Based on the information gathered during the preparation of the EA, no environmental liabilities, current or historical, were found to exist on the proposed Job Corps Center site. The construction of a Job Corps Center on the undeveloped parcel located off of Schoolland Woods Road in Exeter, Rhode Island will not create any significant adverse impacts on the environment.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 6th day of October, 1999.

Mary Silva,

Director of Job Corps.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Job Corps: Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the New Job Corps Center Located off of Overlook Terrace within the Charter Oak Business Park in Hartford, CT

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the New Job Corps Center to be located off of Overlook Terrace within the Charter Oak Business Park in Hartford, Connecticut.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulation (40 CFR part 1500-08) implementing procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Job Corps, in accordance with 29 CFR 11.11(d), gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared and the proposed plans for a new Job Corps Center will have no significant environmental impact. This Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be made available