

**DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**INSTALLING AND OPERATING A THERMAL TREATMENT FACILITY
AT HOLSTON ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT**

1. PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action and subject of the Environmental Assessment (EA) is the construction and operation of a thermal treatment facility at Holston Army Ammunition Plant (HSAAP) in Kingsport, TN. The facility would consist of flashing furnace (FF) technology to treat explosives-contaminated waste streams and another explosive treatment technology (ETT)—moving bed reactor, static detonation chamber, contained burn chamber, or rotary kiln—to treat waste explosives. The proposed action is needed to reduce open burning of waste explosives and explosives-contaminated waste at HSAAP in accordance with the plant's Title V and RCRA subpart X permit. Constructing the facility would require installing air pollution controls, installing and maintaining security fencing, constructing road segments, improving the existing road network, demolishing a rail spur, demolishing and renovating buildings, and routing utilities.

2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: The no action alternative and three alternatives for implementing the proposed action—alternatives 2, 3 and 4—were evaluated. Under alternative 2 (the Preferred Alternative), FFs, ETT facilities, and associated control room and handling facilities would be co-located in one location. Alternatives 3 and 4, would site the FFs and the ETT at separate locations. The EA characterizes the socioeconomic and environmental impacts that would likely result from implementing each alternative, including the no action alternative.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: A detailed analysis of the impacts of implementing the alternatives on the following resource areas was conducted: land use, aesthetics and visual resources, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, traffic and transportation, utilities, hazardous and toxic materials, and solid and hazardous waste. Based on the results of the analysis the Army has determined that implementing the Preferred Alternative, alternative 3, or alternative 4 would have no greater than minor adverse impacts on the resource areas and would have no significant adverse cumulative impacts. For any of the alternatives, if needed, HSAAP would restrict cutting of trees potentially suitable as summer roosting habitat for federally listed threatened/endangered bat species to the period between October 15 and March 31 of any year, to ensure no impacts on federally protected bats. Similarly, HSAAP would restrict disturbance of any vegetation where migratory birds could be nesting to the period between September 1 and March 15 of any year, when migratory birds are not nesting in the area to ensure no adverse impacts on bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Because impacts on all resource areas are expected to be below the level of significance, no mitigation measures, other than those mentioned above, would be required to implement the proposed action under any alternative. Best management practices, however, would be implemented during construction and operation. No adverse impacts on resource areas would be expected with implementation of the no action alternative.

4. FACTORS CONSIDERED IN THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: The EA considers each alternative, the environmental factors within the project area for implementing each alternative, and the likely environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, on relevant resource areas associated with implementing the proposed action.

5. PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT: The EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact are available for public review and comment from April 12, 2020, to May 12, 2020. A Notice of Availability of the documents was published in the *Kingsport Times-News* and the *Rogersville Review* on April 12, 2020, and on the HSAAP Facebook page. The documents are available for review by accessing the official home page of the Joint Munitions Command (Holston Army

Ammunition Plant) at <https://www.jmc.army.mil/Installations.aspx?id=HolstonProgress>. A hard copy may be requested by contacting Ms. Kathy Cole, Staff Action Specialist, at 423-578-6285 or kathy.o.cole.civ@mail.mil, or via letter at Attn: Kathy Cole, 4509 West Stone Drive, Kingsport, TN 37660. Interested parties are encouraged and invited to mail comments on the EA and draft FNSI to HSAAP at the address above. Comments can also be submitted electronically via the email address provided above. All comments must be submitted on or before May 12, 2020.

At the conclusion of the public review and comment period, the Army will review all submitted public comments prior to the final decision on whether to issue a final Finding of No Significant Impact or a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

6. CONCLUSIONS: Based upon my review of the facts and the analysis presented in the EA, I have preliminarily concluded that implementing the Preferred Alternative, alternative 3 or alternative 4 would have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the quality of the natural or human environment; and that, consequently, the analysis in the EA supports a Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA is not required.

LUIS A. ORTIZ
COL, CM
Commanding

Date