

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT RUCKER
NEW FUEL STORAGE FACILITY AT HANCHEY ARMY HELIPORT

April 2026

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] §§ 4321, et seq.) and Department of Defense National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures, an Environmental Assessment (EA), incorporated by reference herein, was prepared on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Army (DA) to evaluate the potential impacts on the natural and human environment associated with the proposed new fuel storage facility at Hanchey Army Heliport (AHP) within U.S. Army Garrison Fort Rucker, Alabama.

The Proposed Action is to construct a fuel storage facility consisting of two above ground fuel storage tanks to be utilized by Fort Rucker at Hanchey AHP. Additional construction would include two concrete containment areas with vertical dike walls and low point drainage inlets, one pump shelter, two truck offload equipment skids, two bulk fill stands, two offload position canopies, two fill stand position canopies, and associated pumps, piping, electrical, and control equipment. Construction would require earthwork and designated areas to stage equipment and would take approximately 18 months. Following construction, operation and maintenance activities would occur based on monthly and quarterly inspections. Operation activities of the fuel storage facility would consist of actions such as receiving fuel, fuel dispensing, inventory management, and monitoring. Management activities would include actions such as tank repairs, corrosion protection, venting system maintenance, leak testing, replacement of failing and/or worn-out components, pump and motor maintenance, and containment area inspection and repairs.

Two courses of action (COA 1 and COA 2) were assessed to determine the most optimal site for construction of the Proposed Action, with multiple locations considered for staging equipment during construction and the relocation/disposal of an existing fuel tank. Locations for these project components were assessed at a high-level based on factors such as proximity to the existing fuel facility within Hanchey AHP, need for additional grading and restoration, and general level of impact.

Under the Preferred Alternative, the Proposed Action would occur within the area under COA 1. The location of COA 1 is within a currently serviceable area at Hanchey AHP. Existing infrastructure would be removed, and earthwork would occur where the new infrastructure will be constructed. Earthwork would include excavation and surface disturbance, totaling approximately 1,000 cubic yards of material displacement. An existing waste fuel tank within the proposed project boundary would be properly relocated, and a transfer line would be constructed between the new and existing fuel storage systems. Utilities would be installed from the nearest point of connection. Equipment staging for construction would be located within the footprint of the proposed project boundary.

To compare impacts of the Proposed Action under COA 1 to a baseline, a No Action Alternative was identified. Under the No Action Alternative, the new fuel storage facility would not be

constructed, and Fort Rucker would continue to utilize the capacity of the existing fuel storage facility at Hanchey AHP. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the project.

Potential effects were evaluated under the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative within the Environmental Assessment (EA). A summary assessment of the potential effects of the Preferred Alternative are listed in the table below:

	Less Than Significant Effects	Significant Effects	Resource Unaffected
Water Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Migratory Birds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened and Endangered Species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Topography, Geology, and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socioeconomics and Social Effects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public and Occupational Health and Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the DA determined that the Preferred Alternative would have *no effect* on the alligator snapping turtle, Gulf sturgeon, Choctaw bean, fuzzy pigtoe, southern kidneyshell, southern sandshell, tapered pigtoe, and monarch butterfly, and a *may affect, not likely to adversely affect* determination was made for the northern long-eared bat. USFWS concurred with the DA's determination on February 18, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, DA made a Finding of *No Historic Properties Affected*, considered tentative at that time pending completion of Tribal Consultation and coordination, and sought concurrence from Alabama SHPO on that finding by letter dated June 18, 2025. The Agency did not receive any responses from Tribal Nations. AL SHPO concurred with the Agency Finding on July 9, 2025, for an Agency Determination of *No Historic Properties Affected*.

Public, State, and Federal agencies, and Tribal Nations were included in project scoping in June 2025. The draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was available for a 30-day public review that ended on March 29, 2026. No comments were received.

Based on my review of the facts and analyses presented in the attached EA, I conclude that implementation of the Proposed Action under the Preferred Alternative would not have a significant impact on the natural or human environment either by itself or cumulatively. The requirements of NEPA have been fulfilled. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared.

Date: 4/21/26



JEFFREY L. PAULUS
Colonel, U.S. Army
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