

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ADDRESSING CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A MICROGRID FACILITY AT DEFENSE DISTRIBUTION CENTER SUSQUEHANNA

Summary: The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) developed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the potential environmental consequences associated with its Proposed Action to construct and operate a microgrid facility at Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. The microgrid facility would consist of three parts: relocating the existing substation, co-locating a typical backup power generation facility with the new substation, and installing photovoltaic (PV) renewable electricity generation on a closed sanitary landfill (Solid Waste Management Unit [SWMU] No. 4).

On **Month DD, YYYY**, DLA published a notice of availability in *The Patriot-News* and *York Daily Record* announcing the availability of the EA. The EA was available for a 30-day public comment period that ended on **Month DD, YYYY**. It was posted on DLA's website at <https://www.dla.mil/Installation-Management/Environmental-Documents/>, and hardcopies of the EA were made available at the New Cumberland Library, Red Land Community Library, and the Fairview Township Municipal Building. The EA was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as amended by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023; DLA Regulation 1000.22, *Environmental Considerations in Defense Logistics Agency Actions (Change 1: April 27, 2018)*; and other applicable DLA issuances. **[Add summary of public comments received on the Draft EA to the Final FONSI]**.

Supplementary Information. DLA initiated National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and 12 Native American tribes (i.e., Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Cayuga Nation, Delaware Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Onondaga Nation, The Osage Nation, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, Seneca Nation of Indians, The Shawnee Tribe, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Tonawanda Band of Seneca, and Tuscarora Nation) regarding the Proposed Action. DLA made a determination of *no adverse effect* on historic above ground or archaeological properties for the undertaking and submitted the *Project Review Form Request to Initiate SHPO Consultation on State and Federal Undertakings*. In a letter dated April 17, 2025, the PA SHPO concurred with the no adverse effect finding for archaeological resources and determined there are no above ground historic properties present in the project APE. DLA did not receive responses to the Section 106 consultation letters submitted to Native American tribes. The SHPO and tribal consultation documents are included in Appendix A of the EA.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) documents the decision of DLA to implement the Proposed Action at Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna. DLA has determined the Proposed Action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the context of NEPA, and no significant impacts on the human environment are associated with this decision. This FONSI incorporates the EA by reference and summarizes the results of the analyses in the EA.

Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna with a microgrid facility composed of a central backup power generation plant and PV solar array to provide electricity generation independent of the bulk power grid and increase energy grid efficiency and resiliency. The Proposed Action is needed to

meet mission goals for sustainment and to create a more resilient facility by enhancing mission energy security and ensuring the long-term sustainment of the energy supply.

Proposed Action: Under the Proposed Action, the existing substation would be replaced with a new substation co-located with the centrally located heating plant. The microgrid would consist of a central backup power generation plant using diesel or bi-fuel (natural gas and diesel) generators that would be installed at the new substation location and a PV solar array that would be installed on SWMU No. 4 within the southern portion of the installation. The backup generators would be capable of using a blend of natural gas mixed with diesel fuel, which would substantially increase the runtime when compared to using only diesel fuel. The solar PV component of the microgrid would provide onsite generation of clean, renewable energy to the installation and substantially reduce fuel consumption.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, DLA would not construct and operate a microgrid facility at Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna. DLA would continue to use existing aging and inefficient electrical facilities that decrease mission readiness and operational efficiency. The emergency backup generators and microgrid would not be installed. The PV solar array would not be installed. The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action.

Potential Environmental Impacts: No significant impacts on environmental resources would be expected from the Proposed Action. Insignificant, adverse impacts on infrastructure and transportation, geological resources, hazardous materials and wastes, biological resources, water resources, cultural resources, air quality, noise, airspace management, and aesthetic and visual resources would be expected. Insignificant, beneficial impacts on health and safety, socioeconomics, infrastructure, hazardous materials and wastes, and air quality would also be expected. Details of the environmental consequences are discussed in the EA, which is incorporated by reference.

Determination: DLA has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action will not have a significant impact on the human environment. Human environment was interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment as well as the relationship of people with that environment. Specifically, no highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique or unknown risks, nor cumulatively significant impacts were identified. Implementation of the Proposed Action will not violate any federal, state, or local laws. Based on the results of the analyses performed during preparation of the EA, I conclude that construction and operation of a microgrid facility at Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the context of NEPA. Therefore, an environmental impact statement for the Proposed Action is not required.

ROBERT A. MONTEFOUR
Site Director, Installation Management at Susquehanna

DATE

Attachment: *Environmental Assessment Addressing Construction and Operation of a Microgrid Facility at Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna, Pennsylvania*