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**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**ARMAMENT RETOOLING AND MANUFACTURING SUPPORT  
(ARMS) PROGRAM  
RAIL TRANSLOAD FACILITY**

**at  
IOWA ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT (IAAAP)**



**JUNE 10, 2019**



## 1 **Introduction**

2 The Iowa Army Ammunition Plan (IAAAP) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA),  
3 which is hereby incorporated by reference, to consider the potential environmental consequences  
4 to the human and natural environments associated with the proposed development of a rail  
5 transload facility under the Armament Retooling and Manufacturing Support (ARMS) Program,  
6 as authorized by Title 10, Chapter 434, of the United States Code (10 U.S.C. 434). The EA also  
7 identified best management practices to avoid or minimize impacts related to the implementation  
8 of the proposed action and alternatives.

9 Under the ARMS Program, the Army has a need to maximize and encourage the best use of  
10 eligible Government Owned-Contractor Operated (GOCO) property, with the objective of  
11 lowering the production cost of ammunition for the benefit of the Government. The purpose of  
12 the proposed action is to identify a suitable location on IAAAP for a rail transload facility, along  
13 with facilities or areas suitable for storage and rail car service activities. The proposed action  
14 seeks to ensure existing land and warehouse space that have or will become available, along with  
15 rail infrastructure, are used for commercial and industrial development, generate revenue, and  
16 reduce production costs.

17 The development of the transload site will occur in phases. Since development details are  
18 still evolving, and detailed site plans are not available at this time, the analysis in the EA was of  
19 a programmatic nature. When specific development projects are proposed, subsequent NEPA  
20 documentation (most likely through the IAAAP's Request for Use of Facilities (RUF) and  
21 Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) process) will be completed by tiering off of or  
22 supplementing the EA.

## 23 **Description of the Proposed Action**

24 The Army proposes to make property available at IAAAP for the construction and operation  
25 of a rail transload facility pursuant to the authorities granted the Army in 10 U.S.C. 434. The  
26 proposed action site consists of a parcel that includes existing warehouses, roads, and rail spurs  
27 designated as Yard L and comprising approximately 99 acres of developed land and  
28 infrastructure. The adjacent 154-acre agricultural parcel is also included in the project area and  
29 has been certified under the Iowa Economic Development Authority and BNSF Railway  
30 Company Site Certification Programs as meeting economic development criteria. The  
31 agricultural parcel has been identified as "Yard L" in some documents, perhaps because it is  
32 immediately adjacent to Yard L. Together, the two parcels comprise the proposed action site,  
33 Site A, evaluated in the EA.

## 1 **Alternatives Considered**

2 The EA consider three alternative sites for development of the rail transload facility, along  
3 with the no action alternative. Two of the sites, Site B and Site C, were eliminated from further  
4 evaluation after application of the screening criteria. The EA evaluated the likely environmental  
5 impacts, including impacts on human health and the natural environment, that could result from  
6 implementing the proposed action at Site A and under the no action alternative.

## 7 **Environmental Consequences and Special Operating Procedures**

8 Significant adverse environmental consequences are unlikely to result from implementing the  
9 proposed action at Site A. The southern portion of Site A, known as Yard L, is already developed  
10 with warehouses, roads, and rail spurs, along with utility infrastructure. The agricultural parcel  
11 is located immediately adjacent to Yard L and is comprised of undeveloped land that is capable  
12 of being tied in to Yard L utility infrastructure and extension of road and rail networks.

13 The EA identified special operating procedures that will be implemented to avoid potential  
14 environmental or natural resources impacts, such as avoidance of construction activities in two  
15 small wetlands areas, avoidance of activities in a small forested area within and adjacent to the  
16 northwest corner of the site, erosion control during construction, etc. Additionally, the Army will  
17 implement avoidance and minimization measures, as well as programmatic and project level best  
18 management practices to eliminate or reduce to a level below significance any potential adverse  
19 impacts to the federally and state listed threatened western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera*  
20 *leucophaea*), and prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), the federally endangered Indiana  
21 bat (*Myotis sodalis*), the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), the  
22 state and federally endangered Higgin's-eye pearly mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) and Spectaclecase  
23 mussel (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), and the federally endangered sheepnose mussel (*Plethobasus*  
24 *cyphus*) and Fat pocketbook mussel (*Potamilus capax*). Although there is potential for western  
25 prairie fringed orchid and prairie bush clover to occur within the action area outside of the  
26 agricultural area, neither species has been recorded on the IAAAP. Furthermore, renovation of the  
27 warehouses would occur within the existing footprint; Therefore, no impacts to these plant species  
28 are likely to occur.

29 Although there is potential for Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat to roost within the bark of  
30 trees in a small patch of forested land within and adjacent to the western portion of the action area,  
31 no trees would be removed; Therefore, no impacts to these mammal species are likely to occur.

32 Although there is potential for federally protected freshwater mussels to occur within the action  
33 area, wetland and water features would be avoided and protected through the Stormwater  
34 Pollution Prevention BMPs. Therefore, no impacts to these species are likely to occur.

1 **Conclusion**

2 The analysis of the anticipated environmental consequences of the proposed action, with its  
3 avoidance and minimization measures, as mitigated indicates that it will not have a significant  
4 impact on the human or natural environment at IAAAP. A Finding of No Significant Impact  
5 (FONSI) is appropriate for the proposed action and preparation of an Environmental Impact  
6 Statement is not required.

7 **Public Review and Comment**

8 In accordance with the guidance set forth in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of  
9 1969 (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 4321-4347), the Council on Environmental Quality's  
10 (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental  
11 Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1500-1508), and Army Regulation  
12 (AR) 200-2, Environmental Effects of Army Actions, 32 CFR 651, the EA and draft FONSI will  
13 be available to the public for review and comment for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to  
14 initiation of the proposed action. Copies of the EA will be available for public review at the  
15 Burlington Public Library, 210 Court Street, Burlington, Iowa, and on the following website  
16 <https://www.plexsci.com/iowa-army-ammunition-plant>. All questions or comments should be  
17 directed to Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Attention: Mr. Randy Doyle, 17571 DMC Highway  
18 79, Middletown, IA 52638-5000 or email to [randy.a.doyle.civ@mail.mil](mailto:randy.a.doyle.civ@mail.mil) Comments must be  
19 submitted on or before the closing date, thirty (30) days from the date of publication of the  
20 Notice of Availability. Comments received during the public review period will be considered in  
21 the final Army decision on the EA and FONSI.