NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA)

Final Site-Specific Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Western New York National Cemetery
Town of Pembroke, Genesee County, New York

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the preparation and availability of the Final Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action to construct and operate the Phase 1 portion of a new National Cemetery at 1232 Indian Falls Road, Pembroke, New York (the “Western New York National Cemetery”). The Proposed Action includes acquiring two parcels (60-acres and 77-acres) adjacent to the 132-acre parcel that is currently owned by the VA. The Phase 1 portion of the Western New York National Cemetery would be constructed across an approximately 79-acre area spanning portions of the 132- and 60-acre parcels, while the remaining areas of these parcels and the entirety of the 77-acre parcel would not be developed under the Proposed Action. Under the Proposed Action, the Phase 1 cemetery would provide for 10 years of burial operations, including casket, columbarium, in-ground cremation sites, committal shelters, and supporting infrastructure including buildings, roadways, parking, irrigation, landscaping, visitor amenities, signage, and other operational facility improvements to support potential future cemetery expansion phases. Every 8-10 years, the VA would evaluate the need for potential future cemetery development and prepare separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses in advance of any such expansion.

Prior to issuing the Final SEA, the VA prepared a Draft SEA to document the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action and the avoidance and management measures required to ensure potential impacts would not be significantly adverse. The Draft SEA was prepared according to the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970, amendments, and VA’s Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26). A Notice of Availability was published in the Buffalo News on August 19 and 21, 2016, announcing the start of a 30-day period when the public could obtain, review, and provide comments on the Draft SEA to the VA. The VA also sent letters to regulatory agencies and Native American Tribes to solicit their comments during the 30-day review period. Comments received were not in opposition to the Proposed Action and have been incorporated in the Final SEA. Upon review of the Final SEA, VA concluded that implementing the Proposed Action would not constitute a major federal action that would have a significantly adverse impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA of 1969. Accordingly, the VA has finalized a FONSI, which incorporates the Final SEA by reference, and concludes that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The FONSI completes the NEPA review process for this Proposed Action. The Final SEA and FONSI are available for review at http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp. For further information and/or a copy of the Final SEA or FONSI, please contact: Mr. Glenn Elliott, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Construction & Facilities Management, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, D.C. 20001; fax to 202-632-5832; or e-mail at Glenn.Elliott@va.gov. Please reference “Western New York National Cemetery” in any correspondence.