



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

National Cemetery Administration
Design and Construction Service (43B)
425 I Street, NW, 5E.425
Washington DC, 20001

May 22, 2020

RE: Revised FONSI and EA May 2020
Urban Initiative Master Plan
St Albans Community Living Center and Hospital St
Albans, Queens County, New York

Dear Stakeholders

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NGA) has re-evaluated the FONSI and Environmental Assessment (EA) associated with the construction and operation of a National Cemetery on a portion of the St Albans Community Living Center and Hospital (see attachments). This FONSI was previously signed in November 2019. The proposed plan includes the construction of columbaria to consist of an ultimate total of approximately 34,000 niches, an administration/ public information center building with accessible restrooms, committal shelter, access roads and walkways, a storm water system and utilities and site security measures. Vegetation, including trees, lawn areas and an open meadow will also be implemented. The initial Phase I will consist of the construction of a maximum of 3,760 niches, utility infrastructure, administration building, committal shelter, paths, roadways and perimeter fencing.

The attached FONSI and Environmental Assessment (EA) with appendices represents a re-assessment, revisions of sections to reflect new concerns and the re-affirmation and re-signing of the Finding of No Significant (FONSI) for the Master Plan St Albans Columbarium National Cemetery Administration St Albans, Queens County, New York dated November 2019. This EA also addressed the proposed columbaria within the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (NCA) property located adjacent to the St Albans Community Living Center in St Albans, Queens County, New York. The proposed Master Plan will guide the Department of Veterans Affairs in the construction of a columbaria to provide eligible veterans and their families' burial options in the Queens area. In a responsive accommodation, the NCA determined that it was in the public and agency interest to undertake EA reevaluation process to determine if the local concerns would affect NCA's FONSI determination. It also represented an opportunity for additional on-the-record public involvement for the EA. This EA has been supplemented to reflect the public concerns and document the site constraints and site purposes. A refined final traffic study was prepared and provided within as part of the revised EA and also included as an appendix.

Based on the enclosed environmental assessment, the NCA has concluded the preferred alternative would not have a significant adverse, long-term effect. While there are likely short-term minor effects from general construction noise, storm water management, air quality and transportation and parking, the implementation of best management practices would minimize effects. The operation of the cemetery is not anticipated to have adverse effects on resources. The cemetery will utilize energy efficient equipment, includes on-site parking for visitors and ceremonies, landscaped areas and other features to minimize any potential effects.

Copies of the Re-evaluated FONSI and EA have been e-mailed to Federal, Tribal, State and Local Officials; Federal, Tribal, State and Local Agencies and Interested Parties. The VA is submitting this project for your review and comment. Some recipients commented on the previous draft documents. These comments are posted at the attached Appendix D. The attached Re-evaluated FONSI and EA with appendices can also be reviewed and downloaded at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Remediation/St-Albans/May 2020 FONSI/>. If you have any questions or need additional information; or for any other requests, please contact St Albans NCA@usace.army.mil. The comment period is closed after 21 June 2020

POC for this action Jeffrey Fry, U.S Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-421, New York, N.Y. 10278-0090, (917) 790-8616. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. The comment period is closed after 21 June 2020.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steph E Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Stephen Davis, RLA
Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration