U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

November 5, 2024
(*Sent via email*)

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment Scoping Notice for the Proposed Construction and Operation of an Outpatient Clinic in Baton Rouge, Louisiana **[VA ID# EAXX-029-15-VHA-1729883405]**

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct and operate an outpatient clinic (OPC) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (the Proposed Action). The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide enhanced and expanded primary care and mental health services and add a comprehensive array of specialty care outpatient services to serve Veterans in Baton Rouge and the surrounding communities in a modern, state-of-the art facility. The OPC will be constructed by a private entity for the VA to lease and operate at one of two sites being considered (Figure 1):

(1) 8300-8400 Pecue Lane
(2) 18555 Highland Road

VA is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. VA is seeking input from stakeholders as part of the scoping process in the development of this document. VA is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S. Code [USC] § 4321- 4370), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and VA's NEPA regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

Through this notice, VA is also providing the public with information about the undertaking and seeking input about the undertaking's effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, (54 USC § 306108), and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties). VA is using its procedures for public involvement under NEPA in lieu of public involvement requirements in Subpart B of the Section 106 regulations per 36 CFR Part 800.2(d)(3). This notice does not serve as an invitation to consult under Section 106, it is solely to seek and consider the views of the public. VA conducted its Section 106 review and consultation separately.

If you have comments on the scope of the EA, the range of alternatives, and environmental issues for in-depth analysis, please email your comments to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Baton Rouge OPC EA".

Additionally, VA will publish the Draft EA online at http://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/index.asp for a 30-day public review and comment period. The Notice of Availability will be posted in *The Advocate*.

Respectfully,

GLENN ELLIOTT Digitally signed by GLENN ELLIOTT
Date: 2024.11.05 09:16:48 -05'00'

Glenn Elliott
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Office of Construction and Facilities Management

Figure 1. Proposed Locations for a VA Outpatient Clinic – Site Vicinity Map
Source: (LRS Federal, 2024)