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

January 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Scoping Notice for a Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the State Veterans Homes Program

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and their state partners propose to construct, renovate, or repair State Veterans Homes (SVH) facilities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Tribal Lands. The VA SVH Construction Grant Program (SVHCGP) is a partnership between VA and the States to construct, renovate, or repair State-owned and operated nursing homes, domiciliaries, and/or adult day health care facilities.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to assist in providing eligible Veterans and their families high-quality long-term domiciliary, nursing, adult day health, and hospital care services in a comfortable setting. The Proposed Action is needed to provide sufficient capacity to meet the increasing health care needs of eligible Veterans.

VA is preparing a programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action. The PEA aims to provide a streamlined National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance pathway for the future implementation of typical SVHCGP construction, renovation, and repair projects that would result in less than significant impacts.

Use of the PEA would decrease the time and cost associated with having to prepare stand-alone NEPA documentation for those future SVHCGP projects that would meet the conditions of the PEA. VA would complete additional NEPA compliance as required on projects outside the parameters of the PEA.

VA is preparing the PEA in accordance with the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370h), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and VA's NEPA Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26). The PEA will evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts on the human environment from the Proposed Action and alternatives.

If you have comments on the scope of issues for analysis, input on potential alternatives, or information/analyses relevant to the Proposed Action, please submit your comments/input via email to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "State Veterans Homes PEA" within 30 days of receipt of this notice. For additional information or questions, please contact Mr. Jason Sturm at jason.sturm@va.gov. Reference "State Veterans Homes PEA" in your correspondence.

VA anticipates releasing the Draft PEA for a 30-day public review and comment period in summer 2024. VA will notify stakeholders via email/mail, publish a notice of availability of the Draft PEA in the Federal Register, and solicit comments at that time. The Draft PEA will be available for review via the VA website: https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/.

Respectfully,

KATHRYN DOMM

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Kathryn Domm
Director, Environmental Program
Office of Construction & Facilities Management