Appendix B: Public and Stakeholder Involvement

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

Date: December 6, 2021

To: Valued Stakeholders

Subject: Notice of Scoping and Stakeholder Involvement for the Proposed VA Inpatient Facility at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to renovate existing buildings and construct a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127. The proposed project would provide state-of-the-art facilities to meet the need for expanded Veteran health care services in the region.

The primary components of the proposed VA Inpatient Facility project are:

- Renovating, constructing, and operating approximately 259,000 square feet within the existing eight-story Kerr Building and the existing four-story Edmondson Building to provide inpatient medical-surgical hospital functions, including space improvements for medical beds, surgical support, operating rooms, and an emergency department.
- Demolishing the existing 25,000-square-foot lobby, connecting link, and auditorium and constructing an estimated 25,000 square feet of new lobbies and connecting link.
- Resurfacing 195 existing surface parking spaces.
- Constructing and operating temporary support areas and utility improvements on and off the proposed project site to accommodate the facility.

The proposed VA Inpatient Facility and an adjacent non-VA development are shown in Figure 1. The adjacent development is a non-federal project to be developed by the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Center for Health Sciences and OSU Medical Authority and is not part of VA's proposed action.

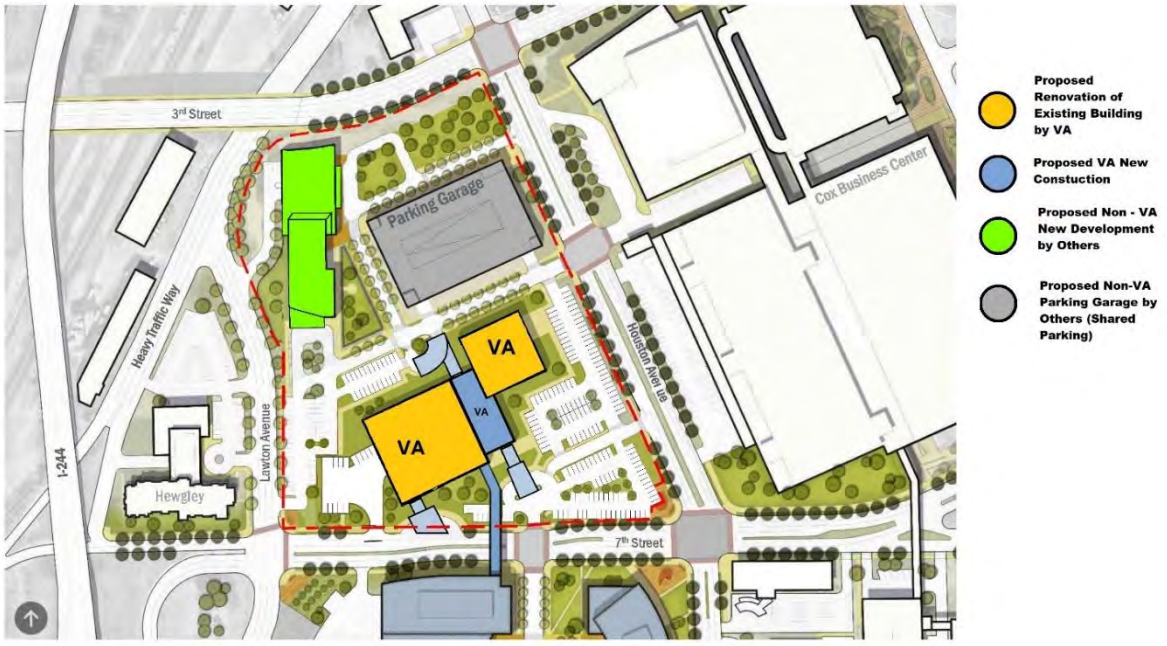
VA is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA will evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts to the environment resulting from the Proposed Action, as well as cumulative impacts with other actions and projects including the OSU development on the adjacent property.

VA is also currently conducting formal National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and federally recognized tribes to identify historic properties that may potentially be affected by the undertaking and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse effects. The Section 106 consultation process and conclusions will provide the major contribution to the EA's analysis of potential effects to historic and cultural resources.

If you have comments on the scope of issues for analysis, or 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 "Tulsa VA EA" by January 7, 2022. For additional information or questions, please contact Ms. Christine Modovsky, VA Environmental Engineer, at Christine.Modovsky@va.gov or (202) 632-5352. Reference "Tulsa VA EA" in your correspondence.

VA anticipates publishing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in early 2022. VA will notify stakeholders via email/mail, publish a notice of availability of the Draft EA in the Tulsa World, and solicit comments at that time. The Draft EA will be available for review at the Tulsa City County Public Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa OK 74103, and via the VA website: https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/.

Figure 1 - Proposed Tulsa VA Inpatient Facility



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

December 6, 2021

Senator James Lankford
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Senator Lankford:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing a project to renovate existing buildings and construct a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma. As part of the decision-making process, VA will undertake activities to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). VA is seeking input on issues to be addressed during the NEPA process, including environmental concerns.

VA invites your input to the NEPA process. Please see the attached scoping notice for information on the proposed project and how to submit any comments or input on alternatives and issues VA should analyze in the EA.

Enclosure: Scoping Notice

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

December 6, 2021

Senator Jim Inhofe
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Senator Inhofe:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing a project to renovate existing buildings and construct a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma. As part of the decision-making process, VA will undertake activities to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). VA is seeking input on issues to be addressed during the NEPA process, including environmental concerns.

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Enclosure: Scoping Notice

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

December 6, 2021

Representative Kevin Hern
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Representative Hern:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing a project to renovate existing buildings and construct a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma. As part of the decision-making process, VA will undertake activities to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). VA is seeking input on issues to be addressed during the NEPA process, including environmental concerns.

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Enclosure: Scoping Notice

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

December 6, 2021

Senator Kevin Matthews
Oklahoma State Senate
2300 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

SUBJECT: Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Senator Matthews:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing a project to renovate existing buildings and construct a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma. As part of the decision-making process, VA will undertake activities to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). VA is seeking input on issues to be addressed during the NEPA process, including environmental concerns.

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Enclosure: Scoping Notice

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

December 6, 2021

Representative Regina Goodwin
Oklahoma State House of Representatives
2300 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

SUBJECT: Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Representative Goodwin:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing a project to renovate existing buildings and construct a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma. As part of the decision-making process, VA will undertake activities to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). VA is seeking input on issues to be addressed during the NEPA process, including environmental concerns.

VA invites your input to the NEPA process. Please see the attached scoping notice for information on the proposed project and how to submit any comments or input on alternatives and issues VA should analyze in the EA.

Enclosure: Scoping Notice

Agency	Contact	Email	Address
Oklahoma Department of Transportation	Tim Gatz	tgatz@odot.org	
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)	Jon Roberts	EnvReviews@deq.ok.gov	
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation	J.D. Strong	jd.strong@odwc.ok.gov	P.O. Box 53465, OKC, OK, 73152
Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment (the OK recipient of all Clean Water Act funds)	Kenneth E. Wagner	ee@ee.ok.gov	204 N. Robinson Suite 1010, Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB)	Julie Cunningham	julie.cunningham@owrb.ok.gov	3800 N. Classen, OKC, OK, 73118
Tulsa Health Dept.	Bruce Dart	bdart@tulsa-health.org	5051 S. 129th E. Avenue, Tulsa, OK, 74134
Tulsa County Commissioner for District that the VHiT fall in	Karen Keith	kkeith@tulsacounty.org	218 W. 6th St., Tulsa, OK, 74119
Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office	Lynda Ozan	lozan@okhistory.org	800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Oklahoma Archeological Survey	Kary Stackelbeck	oascap@ou.edu	111 Chesapeake St., Norman, OK, 73019-5111
Oklahoma Conservation Commission	Trey Lam	trey.lam@conservation.ok.gov	2800 N. Lincoln Blvd, Ste. 160, OKC, OK 73105
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Susan Minnick	susan_minnick@fws.gov	9014 East 21st St., Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74129
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Steve Nolen	ceswt-PA@usace.army.mil	2488 E 81st St, Tulsa, OK, 74137
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security FEMA		fema-r4-external-affairs@fema.dhs.gov	FEMA Region IV, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, 800 North Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209-3698
City of Tulsa Office of the Mayor	G.T. Bynum	mayor@cityoftulsa.org	175 E 2nd St., Tulsa, OK 74103
City of Tulsa Councilperson for the area of the VHiT Development	Kara Joy McKee	Dist4@tulsacouncil.org	
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma	Terri Parton	Terri.Parton@wichitatribe.com	PO Box 729 Anadarko, OK 73005
Osage Nation of Oklahoma		cneff@osagenation-nsn.gov;	
Osage Nation of Oklahoma		jess.hendrix@osagenation-nsn.gov	
Osage Nation of Oklahoma	Geoffrey Standing Bear	gstandingbear@osagenation-nsn.gov	PO Box 779 Pawhuska, OK 74056
Delaware Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma		sbachor@delawaretribe.org	
Delaware Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	Chester "Chet" Brooks	cbrooks@delawaretribe.org	5100 Tuxedo Boulevard Bartlesville, OK 74006
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma		elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org	
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma	Chuck Hoskin	chuck-hoskin@cherokee.org	PO Box 948 Tahlequah, OK 74465
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town	Nelson Harjo	nharjo@alabama-quassarte.org	PO Box 187 Wetumka, OK 74883
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town		Ben.Yahola@alabama-quassarte.org	
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town		aqhpo@mail.com	
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	Bobby Komardley	bkomardley@outlook.com	PO Box 1330 Anadarko, OK 73005
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma	Reggie Wassana	ehamilton@c-a-tribes.org	P.O. Box 167 Concho, OK 73022
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma		mbear@c-a-tribes.org	
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma		Mbear@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov	
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	David Hill	dhill@mcn-nsn.gov	PO Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447

From: Jon Roberts <Jon.Roberts@deq.ok.gov> on behalf of DEQ EnvReviews <EnvReviews@deq.ok.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 5:28 AM
To: VACO Environment; Modovsky, Christine M. (CFM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tulsa VA EA Environmental Impact Review

Dear Ms. Modovsky:

In response to your request, we have completed a general environmental impact review for the project listed below.

Project
Email/Letter dated December 6, 2021 – Proposed VA Inpatient Facility, 440 South Houston Ave., Tulsa, Tulsa County, OK [36.14900, -95.99948]

Adverse Environmental Impacts Under DEQ Jurisdiction
None anticipated.

Additional Regulatory Requirements For Consideration
Prior to beginning any construction activity disturbing more than one acre, you must submit an NOI and obtain authorization under OKR10, construction stormwater. If you need assistance, please contact DEQ's Stormwater Unit at (405) 702-6100.

Note: This is a summary of the most common regulatory requirements that may be applicable to your project. Other regulatory requirements may apply.

Additional recommendations to consider may be found at https://go.usa.gov/xFE4c.

For future projects, please include GPS coordinates in decimal degrees (DD.DDDDD) and continue including street addresses, section/township/range, or other location information.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact me.

Regards,

_____
Jon A. Roberts | Senior Manager
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Continuous Improvement
707 N. Robinson Ave.
P. O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
Ph: 405.702.7111

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

Thursday April 28, 2022

Sent via email

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the proposed acquisition by donation, renovation of existing buildings, and construction of a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility on a 5.2-acre site at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127. The proposed project would provide state-of-the-art facilities to meet the need for expanded Veteran health care services in the region.

VA Inpatient Facility proposed for 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma

The Draft EA examines the potential environmental effects from implementing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. VA prepared the Draft EA in accordance with the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act 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 Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

The Draft EA is available for public review at Tulsa City County Library (located at 400 Civic Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103) and on the VA website at www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/. The 30-day public review and comment period ends on Sunday, May 29, 2022, 2022. Comments on the Draft EA should be sent to VACOEnvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Tulsa VA EA" no later than 11:59 p.m. Sunday, May 29, 2022.

VA will prepare and publish a Final EA following the 30-day comment period. The Final EA will summarize and address comments on the Draft EA.

For additional information or questions, please contact Mr. Bruce Mack, VA Environmental Engineer, at Bruce.Mack@va.gov. please reference "Tulsa VA EA" in your correspondence.

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

April 27, 2022

Senator James Lankford
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dear Senator Lankford:

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Respectfully,

Glenn Elliott

Glenn Elliott
Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

Enclosure:

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma

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

April 27, 2022

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Glenn Elliott

Glenn Elliott
Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

Enclosure:

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma

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

April 27, 2022

Representative Kevin Hern
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

April 27, 2022

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2300 North Lincoln Blvd.
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Enclosure:

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma

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

April 27, 2022

Representative Regina Goodwin
2300 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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Respectfully,

Glenn Elliott

Glenn Elliott
Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

Enclosure:

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma

From: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 6:17 PM
To: mayor@cityoftulsa.org
Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma
Attachments: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma 4-28-22.pdf

Dear Mayor Bynum:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed acquisition by donation, renovation of existing buildings, and construction of a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility on a 5.2-acre site at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127. The proposed project would provide state-of-the-art facilities to meet the need for expanded Veteran health care services in the region.

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Please note that the notice inviting review and comment of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) by the general public will be published tomorrow (29 April, 2022) in the Tulsa World newspaper.

Respectfully,

Bruce Mack
Engineer, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

Enclosure:

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma

From: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 6:24 PM
To: Dist4@tulsacouncil.org
Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma
Attachments: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma 4-28-22.pdf

Dear Ms. McKee:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed acquisition by donation, renovation of existing buildings, and construction of a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility on a 5.2-acre site at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127. The proposed project would provide state-of-the-art facilities to meet the need for expanded Veteran health care services in the region.

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Respectfully,

Bruce Mack
Engineer, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

Enclosure:

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma

From: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 6:22 PM
To: kkeith@tulsacounty.org
Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma
Attachments: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma 4-28-22.pdf

Dear Ms. Keith:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed acquisition by donation, renovation of existing buildings, and construction of a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility on a 5.2-acre site at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127. The proposed project would provide state-of-the-art facilities to meet the need for expanded Veteran health care services in the region.

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Respectfully,

Bruce Mack
Engineer, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

Enclosure:

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma

From:	VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent:	Thursday, April 28, 2022 6:09 PM
To:	ee@ee.ok.gov; julie.cunningham@owrb.ok.gov; bdart@tulsa-health.org; trey.lam@conservation.ok.gov; susan_minnick@fws.gov; ceswt-PA@usace.army.mil; fema-r4-external-affairs@fema.dhs.gov
Subject:	Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma
Attachments:	Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed VA Inpatient Facility Tulsa, Oklahoma 4-28-22.pdf

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

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Agency	Contact	Email	Address
Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment (the OK recipient of all Clean Water Act funds)	Kenneth E. Wagner	ee@ee.ok.gov	204 N. Robinson Suite 1010, Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB)	Julie Cunningham	julie.cunningham@owrb.ok.gov	3800 N. Classen, OKC, OK, 73118
Tulsa Health Dept.	Bruce Dart	bdart@tulsa-health.org	5051 S. 129th E. Avenue, Tulsa, OK, 74134
Oklahoma Conservation Commission	Trey Lam	trey.lam@conservation.ok.gov	2800 N. Lincoln Blvd, Ste. 160, OKC, OK 73105
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Susan Minnick	susan_minnick@fws.gov	9014 East 21st St., Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74129
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Steve Nolen	ceswt-PA@usace.army.mil	2488 E 81st St, Tulsa, OK, 74137
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security FEMA		fema-r4-external-affairs@fema.dhs.gov	FEMA Region IV, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, 800 North Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209-3698