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

February 14, 2022

SUBJECT: **Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Seismic Upgrades and Improvements at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) located in Portland, Oregon.**

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Construction & Facilities Management announces the availability of a draft environmental assessment (Draft EA) for public review and comment. The Draft EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of proposed seismic upgrades and improvements at the Portland VAMC that will correct seismic deficiencies, address federal setback and physical security requirements, and provide more sufficient patient and staff parking facilities. The seismic upgrades and improvements proposed would enhance patient, staff, and visitor safety, provide adequate parking, and ensure the continued operation of the Portland VAMC in the aftermath of a major earthquake. The proposed action is needed because the Portland VAMC facilities do not meet VA design criteria and seismic and physical security standards.

No new operational programs or additional healthcare services are being proposed as part of the proposed action. Proposed projects would be implemented over an extended period of years and sequenced to minimize impacts to VAMC services and the surrounding community to the greatest extent practicable. VA will prepare and publish a Final EA following the 30-day comment period. The Final EA will summarize, and address comments received on the Draft EA.

The Draft EA is available for review online via:
the VA website, https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/index.asp, or via email upon request. A hard copy for review is also on file at the Multnomah County Central Library in Portland, Oregon. VA invites you to attend a *virtual public meeting* on this Draft EA. VA will present information on the proposed project, summarize the Draft EA findings, and provide an opportunity for questions and comments.

The Virtual Public Meeting is scheduled for:
Date: **February 22, 2022 at 6 PM (PST)**
Please use the link below to join the public meeting:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81005011943
Or One tap mobile :
US: 1-346-248-7799, 81005011943# or 1-720-707-2699, 81005011943#

Or Telephone Dial: (253) 215-8782
Webinar/Meeting ID: 810 0501 1943

The 30-day comment period closes **March 15, 2022**. Comments or questions may be sent by email on or before that date to vacoenvironment@va.gov. Please use the subject line “Portland VAMC Draft EA”.

For additional questions, please contact Mr. Patrick Read, VA Environmental Engineer, at patrick.read@va.gov. Reference “Portland VAMC Draft EA” in your correspondence.

Respectfully,

Glenn Elliott

Glenn Elliott

Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction & Facilities Management