



Homeland  
Security

MEMORANDUM FOR: Record

FROM: Dr. Teresa R. Pohlman  
Executive Director  
Sustainability and Environmental Programs

SUBJECT: DHS Adoption of St. Elizabeths Environmental Impact Statements

### **Background**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is planning to unify our core headquarters facilities with those of our operating components, effectively consolidating our headquarters in the National Capital Region (NCR) at the General Services Administration (GSA) campus in the Anacostia neighborhood of southeast Washington, DC commonly known as St. Elizabeths. At present, DHS headquarters staff occupy more than 40 buildings in the Washington, DC area. Consolidation of DHS headquarters personnel will provide a more unified, secure campus that brings together its executive leadership and operational management, allowing for greater unity of effort, more efficient incident management/response, and greater command-and-control of operations.

GSA prepared numerous environmental, technical, historic preservation, and transportation documents in support of its decision to build the St Elizabeth Campus, including two Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EISs entitled *Department of Homeland Security Headquarters at the St. Elizabeths West Campus To Consolidate Federal Office Space on a Secure Site Washington DC* (EIS Number 20080452) and the Supplemental EIS entitled *Department of Homeland Security Headquarters at the St. Elizabeths West Campus To Consolidate Federal Office Space on a Secure Site Washington DC* (EIS Number 20120049) were noticed in the Federal Register on November 7, 2008 and March 2, 2012 respectively. Both EISs involved over 30 different Stakeholders including federal and DC government representatives, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens. DHS acted as a cooperating agency for both EISs and has closely coordinated with GSA since the initial proposal to develop St Elizabeths began.

### **Discussion**

DHS has not previously adopted the GSA Final EISs for the construction of office and shared-use space, in both new and adaptively re-used buildings for a consolidated DHS HQ at St. Elizabeths. Careful review of the 2008 GSA FEIS as supplemented by the 2012 FEIS considered the documents to be relevant and cogent analyzes of the impacts to the campus and other affected resources. GSA's decision to retro-fit and build-out the campus is substantially the same as DHS' decision to occupy and conduct its daily business at the space. As a cooperating agency to GSAs EISs, DHS comments and concerns were continually and adequately addressed.

**Decision**

Pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1506.3, DHS Directive 023-01 Rev 01, DHS Instruction 023-01-001-01 Rev 01, and the authority delegated to me by the Chief Readiness Support Officer under DHS Delegation 00501 dated May 8, 2013, I hereby adopt the GSA EISs entitled *Department of Homeland Security Headquarters at the St. Elizabeths West Campus To Consolidate Federal Office Space on a Secure Site Washington DC* (EIS Number 20080452) and the Supplemental EIS entitled *Department of Homeland Security Headquarters at the St. Elizabeths West Campus To Consolidate Federal Office Space on a Secure Site Washington DC* (EIS Number 20120049). Recirculation of the document is not necessary by reason of Section 1506.3 of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA. DHS will utilize these EISs to support the Record of Decision (ROD) for DHS' commencement of occupancy of our Consolidated Headquarters campus at St. Elizabeths and as the framework for considering environmental impacts for future actions on the campus. A notice of availability of the ROD will be published upon its completion.



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Department of Homeland Security



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Date