

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS**

Description: Interested parties are hereby notified that a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for the Proposed Action described below.

Authority: This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR Part 989).

Proposed Action: The United States (U.S.) Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) proposes to construct airfield improvements at Westover Air Reserve Base (ARB) to better accommodate training capabilities and airfield operations in support of the 439th Airlift Wing's existing C-5M aircraft. The improvements include two primary activities: 1) construction of a paved training apron, and 2) extension of the existing Taxiway Golf (G). The paved training apron and associated stormwater feature would be constructed within the Dog Patch Training Area. Construction of the paved training apron would create approximately 1.2 acres of impervious surface, and a 0.3-acre stormwater feature (bioretention basin) would be constructed to the north of the paved training apron to collect runoff. The Taxiway G extension would involve constructing a new concrete taxiway surface between the existing Taxiway G and Pad 5 within the Westover ARB airfield. This extension would create approximately 16.1 acres of impervious surface. Stormwater management options are anticipated to include installation of new drain lines and surface grading in areas adjacent to the runway extension, while existing underground utilities at the site would be relocated or abandoned in place. The ARFC is considering two alternatives: the Preferred Alternative, which would implement the Proposed Action; and the No Action Alternative, which would not implement the Proposed Action but provides a comparative baseline for potential impacts as required under CEQ regulations.

The Draft EA evaluates the potential impacts on the environment from implementing the Proposed Action. The evaluation concludes there would be no significant impact, either individually or cumulatively, as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would include compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including consultation and permitting and routine best management practices.

Public Review: The Draft EA and Draft FONSI will be available between September 28, 2023, and October 28, 2023, for a 30-day public comment period. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI were published digitally on the Westover ARB 439th Airlift Wing website at <https://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/Resources/Environmental-and-Noise/>. Printed copies of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI are also available at Chicopee Fairview Branch Library, 402 Britton Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020 for public review.

Comments: The public may obtain information and submit comments on the Draft EA and Draft FONSI during the review period via U.S. mail to John Moriarty, P.E., Environmental Flight Chief, 439th Airlift Wing, 250 Patriot Avenue, Box 35, Westover ARB, MA 01022, or via email to john.moriarty.1@us.af.mil. Comments must be received by October 28, 2023.