

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Availability to Distribute a Record of Decision for the Construction of a New Land Port of Entry in International Falls, Minnesota

AGENCY: Public Buildings Service, GSA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: The General Services Administration (GSA) announces its intent to distribute the Record of Decision (ROD) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 to assess the potential impacts from the construction and operation of a new land port of entry (LPOE) in International Falls, Minnesota (the “Proposed Action”). At the request of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the GSA is proposing to construct and operate a larger and improved LPOE which meets their needs and the design requirements of the GSA.

The existing facilities are undersized and functionally obsolete and, consequently, incapable of providing the level of security required. The Proposed Action includes: acquisition of adjoining land, demolition of existing government structures at the existing LPOE, construction of a main administration building and ancillary support buildings, and incorporation of the principles of sustainable design through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Alternatives studied include alternative locations and layouts for the components of the LPOE that are identified in the concurrent feasibility study including the main administration and ancillary support buildings, the associated transportation network, and parking. A no-build alternative was studied that evaluates the consequences of not constructing and operating the LPOE. This alternative is included to provide a basis for comparison to the action alternatives as required by the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1002.14(d)).

The GSA selected alternative 10 as best satisfying the proposed action’s purpose and programmatic needs and has the least impact on the human and natural environment. Alternative 10 is identified as the selected alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement and in the ROD subject also to Congressional authorization and appropriation of availability of funds, GSA control of the site to complete archaeological investigations and continuity of the tenant agencies’ Program of Requirements as they were understood at the time this study was completed.

CONTACT: Donald R. Melcher, Jr., GSA Public Buildings Service, Great Lakes Region, Land Ports of Entry Service Center, 230 South Dearborn Street, Room 3600, Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 353-1237, donald.melcher@gsa.gov.