

## **Public Notice**

### **Notice of Availability**

#### **Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Construction of a Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is proposing to replace an existing USCG-owned 425-foot-tall guyed communications tower with a new 525-foot-tall guyed tower on Coast Guard-administered property on Cape Hatteras in Dare County, North Carolina. The tower would be constructed near the former Coast Guard Station Cape Hatteras offices and maintenance buildings, which were transferred to the National Park Service in 2004. The USCG has identified the need to modernize and replace its antiquated maritime search and rescue communications system in North Carolina as part of a nationwide mandate. The new communications system known as "Rescue 21" has repeatedly demonstrated its ability in helping the USCG save lives and will improve maritime safety within surrounding waters.

The USCG has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluated the potential environmental impacts resulting from the construction of a remote fixed facility (RFF) communications tower and associated equipment. This EA has been prepared to describe the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative and two Alternative Actions; describe the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources located in the project area; and evaluate the potential impacts of the alternatives on natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources.

This Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321, 4331, 4332), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Management Directive (MD) 023-01, Environmental Planning Program, and the U.S. Coast Guard's policy guidelines for implementing NEPA, COMDTINST M16475.1D, *National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*. The EA also addresses potential effects of the proposed action relative to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA). This EA also fulfills the requirements of Executive Orders 11514 (Environmental Quality) and 11988 (Floodplain Management).

The Draft EA is available for review between July 28 and August 28, 2009 at the Hatteras Public Library, Hatteras Community Center, 56658 NC 12 HWY, Hatteras, NC 27943.

Persons wishing to receive either an electronic or printed copy of the Draft EA should contact Mr. Thomas A. Tansey, Environmental Program Manager, Rescue 21 Project at the address below. Written comments regarding this action should be directed no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, August 28, 2009 to:

COMMANDANT (CG-9331)  
ATTN: Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
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