

WELCOME

Public Hearing for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Laurelwood Housing Area Access Naval Weapons Station Earle, New Jersey

This handout provides important information about tonight's open house and public hearing. Please familiarize yourself with the purpose of the hearing, how it will be conducted, and how you can provide comments on the Draft EIS. If you have any questions please feel free to ask a Navy representative here tonight.

Open House: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

The public hearing will be preceded by an open house session to allow interested individuals to review information presented in the Draft EIS. Navy representatives will be available during the open house session to provide clarification as necessary related to the Draft EIS. Poster stations summarizing information contained in the Draft EIS can be reviewed during this period.

Public Hearing: 6:00pm - 10:00pm

What is the purpose of this public hearing?

This public hearing is the venue the Navy uses to allow you an opportunity to express your views on the Draft EIS and to have those comments made a part of the official record.

All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record on the Draft EIS and will be responded to in the Final EIS. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written statements. You do not need to provide oral comments at the public hearing in order for your comments to be considered in the Final EIS.

All written comments postmarked or submitted to the project website by January 12, 2009 will become a part of the official public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS.

What happens during the public hearing?

The public hearing will begin promptly at 6:00pm and end at 10:00pm. The public hearing will be managed by a Hearing Officer, who is a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps. The Hearing Officer is not affiliated in any way with the Navy's evaluation of the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed action evaluated in the Draft EIS. Once the public hearing begins, Navy representatives will not be allowed to respond to your comments. The public hearing is not a debate – it is your opportunity to speak. Oral statements will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer; however, to ensure the accuracy of the record, it is requested that all statements be submitted in writing.

How do I sign up to speak at the public hearing?

Beginning at 4:00pm, attendees wishing to make oral statements during the public hearing may sign up to speak at the speaker sign-up table located in the foyer of the Performing Arts Center.

Attendees may sign up to speak after the public hearing has started. Elected officials will be given the opportunity to speak first, followed by the general public in the order that they signed in at the speaker sign-up table. In the interest of available time, and to ensure all who wish to give an oral statement have the opportunity to do so, each speaker's comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. The time limit will be enforced by the Hearing Officer.

If you expect your statement will exceed three minutes it should be summarized at the public hearing and the full text submitted in writing either at the hearing, or mailed to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic
Attn: Laurelwood Housing Area EIS Project Manager, Code EV21
6506 Hampton Boulevard, LRA Building A
Norfolk, VA 23508

Comments can also be submitted via the project website: <http://www.laurelwoodeis.com>