

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Construction of Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Kalepa, Kauai County, Hawaii

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the potential environmental impacts resulting from the construction of a remote fixed facility (RFF) communications monopole and associated equipment, near the community of Hanama'ulu, Kauai County, Hawaii. This draft EA supplements the National Distress and Response System Modernization Project's (NDRSMP) Programmatic EA of 1998 and its Supplemental Programmatic EA of 2002. The 1998 PEA and 2002 SPEA are the first level of documents upon which subsequent National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and documentation, including this EA, are tiered for individual actions and their site-specific impacts.

The U.S. Coast Guard proposes to construct a 68-foot-tall monopole that will include a direction finding (DF) antenna mounted on top, three antennas installed at various locations, a mounting pole and a lightning rod. The total height of monopole and all antennas will be 80 feet. The proposed monopole will not be in a fenced compound. Associated equipment at the site will include a prefabricated equipment shelter that would be no more than 8 feet by 13 feet and a 20-kilowatt (kW) emergency backup generator with a 300-gallon diesel belly tank mounted on a concrete slab.

This notice announces the availability of the proposed RFF Kalepa draft EA for public review at the following locations: The Lihue Public Library, 4344 Hardy St., Lihue, HI 96766 and Hawaii State Library, 478 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96813. The draft EA is also available for review at the following website: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg4/cg47/NEPAhot.asp>. Persons wishing to provide comments should contact: Ms. Sherrill Thompson (JR07-0905) via regular mail at COMMANDANT (CG-9331), Environmental Protection Specialist, Rescue 21 Program, U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 2nd Street SW, Washington D.C. 20593; via electronic mail Sherrill.E.Thompson@uscg.mil; via fax 202-475-3916; or you may contact her by telephone at (202)475-3175.

A public meeting will be conducted to discuss the draft EA on the Island of Kauai on August 28, 2013 at 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm., at the following location:

Elsie H. Wilcox Elementary School
4319 Hardy Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

The draft EA has been prepared to describe the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternatives; describe the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources located in the project area; evaluate the potential impacts of the alternatives on natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources; and address agency and public comments received on the project. Based on the draft EA, the Coast Guard believes the construction of the RFF

Kalepa site will have no significant effect on the human and natural environments. The draft EA for proposed RFF Kalepa has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 through 1508), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Management Directive (MD) 023-01 (71 Federal Register 16790-16820 {April 4, 2006), *Environmental Planning Program*, NDRSMP, a.k.a - Rescue 21, 1998 Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and 2002 Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA), and the U.S. Coast Guard's policy guidelines for implementing NEPA, COMDTINST M16475.1D November 29, 2000, *National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts*.