

RECORD OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION
U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center
Natick, MA 01760-5000

Date: 2026-03-04

Title: Storage Units

Performing Element(s): DPW

Anticipated Start Date: 2026-08-03

Anticipated End Date: 2027-08-03

Anticipated Proposed Action:

The proposed action involves evaluating subsurface load bearing conditions at the installation site and preparing the subsurface as needed to support the design loads. The project will install 28 to 32 modular storage containers on a concrete base (approx 13,000 ft²) engineered to support the weight of the containers and their anticipated household goods contents. The containers will be positioned on both sides of a concrete access and parking driveway with a 20 foot entrance and a 38 foot separation between container faces. The units will be used exclusively for household goods storage in support of Army housing; storage, treatment, or disposal of hazardous materials, solid waste, medical waste, or hazardous waste within these units is prohibited. A portion of the project area lies within the 100 foot buffer zone of the Lake Cochituate shoreline and within the FEMA mapped floodplain associated with the lake. The project will be constructed outside the 50 foot buffer and avoids all disturbance to sensitive wetland resource areas, with work limited to a grassy, previously undeveloped upland area. Although the project footprint remains within the broader 100 foot buffer zone and overlaps the FEMA floodplain, impacts are minimized by maintaining the existing site character and slightly elevating grades so the finished surface sits above the mapped floodplain. Stormwater from the concrete slab will sheet flow onto the adjacent existing parking lot, which is equipped with a stormwater collection and treatment system that captures and treats runoff prior to discharge to Lake Cochituate, preventing sedimentation or erosion impacts. Because the project is partially located within a regulated buffer zone and mapped floodplain, a Notice of Intent will be submitted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Natick Conservation Commission for review under the Wetlands Protection Act. A Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA) will also be prepared to address federal floodplain management requirements and demonstrate that the project maintains floodplain capacity and protects the ecological functions associated with Lake Cochituate.

Determination Factors: Proposed action was reviewed in accordance with Screening Criteria in 32 CFR 651.29 and AR200-2 "Environmental Analysis of Army Operations".

1. Is the action segmented: No
2. Do any exceptional circumstances exist: Unresolved effect on environmentally sensitive resources: (1) Proposed federally listed, threatened, or endangered species or their designated critical habitats. (2) Properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (AR 200-4). (3) Areas having special designation or recognition such as prime or unique agricultural lands; coastal zones; designated wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild and scenic rivers; National Historic Landmarks (designated by the Secretary of the Interior); 100-year floodplains; wetlands; sole source aquifers (potential sources of drinking water); National Wildlife Refuges; National Parks; areas of critical environmental concern; or other areas of high environmental sensitivity. (4) Cultural Resources as defined in AR 200-4.
3. One (or more) Categorical Exclusion(s) encompass the proposed action detailed in Department of Defense National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures: Appendix A Department of Defense Categorical Exclusions (CATEX) (I) (b) (1) Construction of new, alteration of existing

(to include replacement or upgrades), and additions to existing buildings, facilities, structures, launch pads, utility systems, and communication systems on previously disturbed land and/or on undisturbed land, provided there are no more than five total (contiguous or non-contiguous) acres of surface disturbance to undisturbed land (REC required). This does not include construction of facilities intended primarily for the transportation, distribution, storage, treatment, and disposal of solid waste, medical waste, and hazardous waste. Previously disturbed land has been changed such that its ecological processes have been and remain altered by human activity and encompasses areas that have been transformed from native vegetation to nonnative species or a managed state. Undisturbed land in its natural state or land which has reverted to its natural state where ecological processes remain unattended by human activity.

Proponent:

Date:

Richard A. Valcourt
DPW

Environmental Office Concurrence:

Date:

James B. Connolly
NEPA Program Manager