

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
Draft Environmental Assessment  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

***American Lake Veterans Administration Hospital  
Building 81 Seismic Replacement Project  
Pierce County, WA***

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the preparation and availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed construction of a new 70,000 gross square foot outpatient medical building at the American Lake Veterans Hospital (ALVH) campus located on the grounds of Joint Base Lewis McChord in Pierce County, WA. The proposed new building would address serious seismic deficiencies in the existing main hospital Building 81, improve the delivery of medical services to veterans at the ALVH, and allow the ALVH to serve as a regional disaster center. All medical services currently housed in Building 81 would move to the new building with the exception of ambulatory care and radiology services which would remain in the newer additions to Building 81. Building 81 would remain in place as a historically significant structure and eventually be seismically updated for use as offices. The existing Canteen and five utility buildings would be demolished to make room for the new medical facility. Improvements to parking and pedestrian safety are also proposed to support this project.

A draft environmental assessment for the proposed project was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs (38 CFR Part 26). The DEA examines the potential for environmental impacts from the proposed action. The VA intends to issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) following a thirty-day comment period in accordance with the Council on Environment Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA, Section 1508.13, provided there are no substantive comments which warrant further evaluation.

A digital copy of the DEA is available for viewing or downloading at the following web address: [http://www.pugetsound.va.gov/Notices\\_of\\_Availability.asp](http://www.pugetsound.va.gov/Notices_of_Availability.asp). Hard copies will also be available at the Tillicum Library at 14916 Washington Ave. SW, Lakewood, WA 98498. Comments or questions may be directed in writing to: VA Puget Sound Health Care System via mail at Mailstop S-OOPA, 1660 South Columbian Way, Seattle, WA 98108, fax at 206-764-2250, or e-mail at [publicaffairspugetsound@va.gov](mailto:publicaffairspugetsound@va.gov). Please reference "ALVH Building 81 EA" in any correspondence. All comments on the DEA are requested by November 7, 2011.