

Department of
Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: June 12, 2012

From: Christopher R. Beattie VA Hines GEMS Coordinator, Safety (001S)

Subj: Environmental Assessment Posting Results, E85 Fueling Station

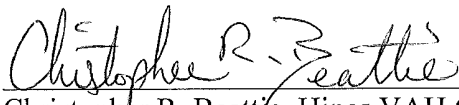
To: National Energy Business Center

Thru: Joan M. Ricard, Hines VAH Director
Martin Jensen, Hines VAH Energy Engineer

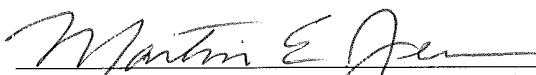
1. An Environmental Assessment was performed by Versar Inc. prior to the installation of an E85 Fueling Station at the Edward Hines VA Hospital. The full text of this assessment indicated that any damages to the environment as a result of this project would be minor in nature and easily mitigated. As a result, the VA specifically addressed these minor concerns which were primarily restricted to mitigation and prevention of fuel spillage in the project scope of work, thus alleviating any known environmental concerns. This Environmental Assessment and relevant modifications to scope allowed the VA to draft and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

2. A Notice of Availability (NOA) and the draft FONSI were posted in the West Suburban Journal on Thursday May 3rd, for one week. These documents indicated the VA findings and also gave direction for viewing a full text copy of the Environmental Assessment as a publically posted document in Building 2, of the Hines VA Hospital campus and submission of public comments based on review. The period of posting has now exceeded the 30 days as required by NEPA and no public comments have been received by the VA.

3. Edward Hines VA Hospital has conducted due diligence in meeting NEPA requirements and addressing public concern. At this point in time it is recommended that the FONSI be finalized by receiving the signature of the Hines VA Hospital Director. Submission of this finalized FONSI to the National Energy Business Center shall allow a Notice to Proceed to be issued to the contractor for construction.


Christopher R. Beattie, Hines VAH GEMS Coordinator

13 JUNE 2012
Date


Martin Jensen, Hines VAH Energy Engineer

13 JUN 12
Date

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
E85 Fueling Station
Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital**

Finding of No Significant Impact

INTRODUCTION:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI) for the proposed construction of an E85 Fueling Station at the Edward Hines VA Hospital. The FONSI has been prepared as a result of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the regulations and procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Section 1508.13. Additional compliance to 38 CFR, Part 26 (Environmental Effects of the Department of Veterans Affairs Actions) is achieved through the issuance of this FONSI. The EA is incorporated by reference.

The project is a proposed 2500 gallon E-85 above ground fenced Fueling Station with spill containment. The intent of the project is to serve a need to fuel government vehicles in compliance with Federal legislation including the Environmental Protection Act of 2005 requiring that dual fueled vehicles be operated on alternative fuel unless waived.

IMPACT OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The project objectives are to meet the goals of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 by replacing and reducing existing energy demands for all federal facilities with renewable energy. E-85 contains a renewable source of automotive fuel.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS:

Due to the nature of the project and its limited disturbance area within an unimproved and ecologically insignificant area of the existing VA Hospital adjacent to two other underground fuel storage tanks, no significant impact is anticipated.

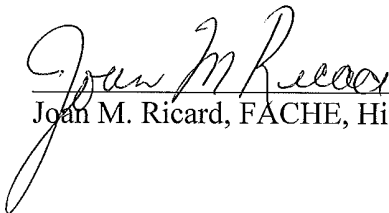
The project area consists of previously disturbed soil, asphalt, and / or fill, which is covered with a combination of weeds, and general vegetation. The Proposed Action will disturb the weeds and vegetation; however, unimproved areas will be graded and re-vegetated after the project is completed, which should create a similar setting. The short term nature of the disturbance and the existing predominance of weeds would result in minimal impacts.

The cumulative impact of the proposed Action on the resources evaluated by this EA, particularly those discussed above where minimal impacts would be created, would be minimal. The small size of the disturbance area, nature of the project, and location within a developed facility, contribute towards this finding.

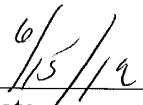
The No Action Alternative would not create impacts to any of the evaluated resources other than to reduce the economic activity created by the project and it would also not assist the VA in meeting the goals of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

DECISION:

Based on the information contained in the Environmental Assessment and the analysis of that information contained within this document regarding the proposed action, it has been decided that the proposed action would have no significant impact on the human or ecological environment. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required, and the VA is hereby issuing this finalized FONSI in compliance with applicable regulations.



Joan M. Ricard, FACHE, Hines VAH Director



Date

Site Location:

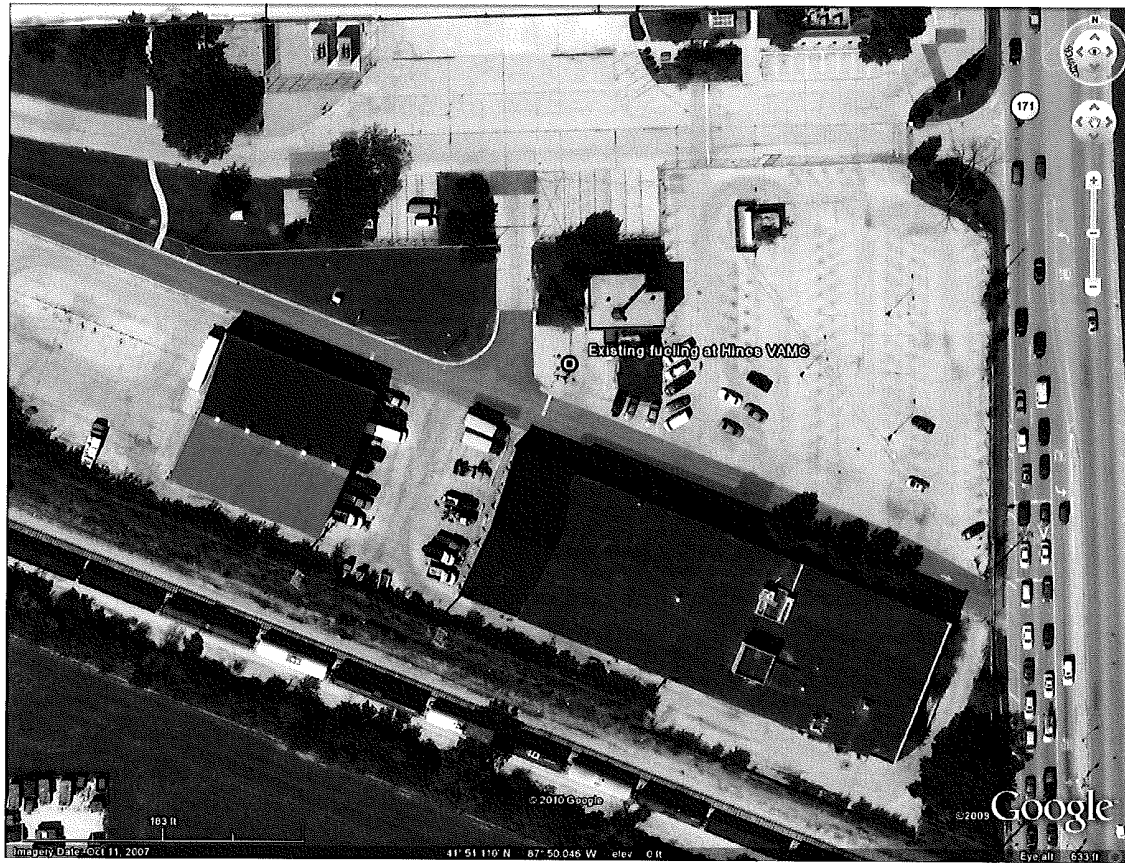


Figure 1: Enlarged image of Building 20, the site of the current fueling area on the Hines VAMC campus. The proposed E85 AST fueling area would be adjacent to the existing fueling area.