

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA GULF COAST VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
ETHANOL-85 (E85) FUELING STATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) assessed the potential impacts of installation of an E85 fueling station at the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, 400 Veterans Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi. A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to identify, analyze, and document the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with proposed project. Notice of Availability (NOA) of the EA was published in the Sun Herald, Biloxi-Gulfport, MS on 16, 18, and 22 June 2011. Preparation of the EA was required in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ([NEPA]; 42 United States Code [USC] 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and 38 CFR Part 26 (*Environmental Effects of the Department of Veterans Affairs Actions*).

The EA examined two alternatives, the Proposed Action Alternative and the No-action Alternative. Although the No-action Alternative would not: (1) reduce the number of VA waiver requests to Department of Energy (DOE) under Section 701 of EPACT 2005, (2) enhance usage of the existing VA Flex-Fuel Vehicle fleet, nor (3) meet the sustainability goals of EO 13514, it was retained to provide a baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, as required under the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1502.14).

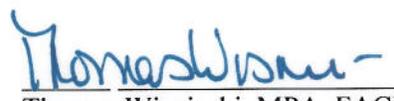
The purpose of the Proposed Action is to install and operate an E85 fueling station at the Biloxi VA Medical Center (VAMC). The station will consist of a 10,000 gallon, double-walled, above-ground E85 fuel storage tank, dispensing pump, and necessary supporting utilities. The station will be self-contained, skid-mounted and manufactured to hold and dispense E85 fuel. Demolition of an old equipment shed will be required, but no ground disturbance is planned. The station will be placed on an existing concrete slab central to a large paved lot. There will be no change in storm water flow or effect on Mississippi's (or Biloxi's) Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

There would be minimal affect on solid and hazardous materials and wastes at the Biloxi VAMC under the proposed project. There will be no effect on the cultural or historic resources, socioeconomics, transportation, vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, groundwater, surface water, or wetlands. The proposed station will occupy 500 square feet, so the effect on land use will be minimal. Air quality will be slightly improved since E85 is a cleaner-burning, renewable fuel and the distance that VA employees would need to travel to obtain E85 fuel will be reduced. E85 will reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The fuel station is expected to have an operational life of 15-20 years. During this time, the effects of climate change are not expected to have a significant effect on the Biloxi VAMC or the E85 station. Other long-term effects, including construction, would be minimally affected by the proposed action since the station will be skid-mounted and easily relocated, if required.

As a result of the analysis in the Draft EA, summarized and incorporated by reference herein, it is the conclusion of the VA that the Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on human health or the environment. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

 9/27/11
J. Ronald Johnson, FACHE Date
GEMS Committee Chair
Assistant Director

 10/6/2011
Thomas Wisnieski, MPA, FACHE Date
Director