



Borough of
Tinton Falls
New Jersey

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Via overnight mail

May 22, 2009

Public Affairs Office - EA Comments
IMNE-MON-PA, Bldg 1207, Room G-07
Ft Monmouth, NJ 07703

Re: Final Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Implementation of Base Realignment and Closure at Ft. Monmouth and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact Closure of Fort Monmouth, NJ

Dear Gentilepersons:

Please accept this letter as the joint letter of objection, comment and response to the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Implementation of Base Realignment and Closure at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey on behalf of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Tinton Falls and with the approval of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Tinton Falls as well.

Firstly, please note our objection to the conclusions and findings that note that under Section 5-1 that no significant long-term environmental impact will occur based on the consequences of any of the alternative measures noted therein (Section 5.1 through 5.4). This objection is provided and based on the review of the underlying environmental impact studies and economic models used by the Ft. Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority, which over the course of several years surveyed the potential economic reuses of the property. Such studies were based on a two to five year real estate socioeconomic and financial study prior to the preparation and drafting of the report and, in light of the significant economic downturn and collapse of the real estate market at present, represents an inaccurate model with which to base the conclusions now contained in the Final Environmental Assessment Report.

Further, on behalf of the Borough of Tinton Falls, the Ft. Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority (FERMPA) will order new economic studies to reevaluate the effectiveness and accuracy of the data used in the underlying assumptions contained in their reuse study; therefore, a completely new and reevaluated final environmental assessment must be accomplished in order to accurately guide the closure and reuse of the military base at Ft. Monmouth.

Contained in the 188 pages of supporting material, the US Army Corps of Engineers has relied on inaccurate data, preliminary concept plans and economic models not adopted by the Ft. Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority; therefore, the conclusions reached in the Final

Environmental Assessment, dated March 2009, are both flawed and inaccurate. More particularly, I call your attention to the concordance of errors such as the inclusion of a train station and additional exit from the New Jersey parkway onto the subject property. These two concepts were conceived and considered during the public hearing portion of the Ft. Re-Use Plan, were shelved prior to the adoption of any Final Concept Plan and the Final Re-use Report of the Ft. Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority (FMERPA). These are just two of the many examples contained in the Final Environmental Assessment prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers which indicates the lack of careful review of the Final Report of FMERPA and inclusion of both inaccurate and unsupported data in its report. Therefore, the Final Environmental Assessment must be rejected, reviewed and updated to assure accurate conceptual data to support its conclusions.

As indicated by members of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Tinton Falls and upon a preliminary review of the 188 pages of materials and supporting documents published 30 days prior to the end of comment period, it is clear that additional environmental concerns that have been raised throughout public hearings, detected by local environmental commissions, known by the Department of the Army and/or its vendors are not included for study, analysis, remediation, socioeconomic effects and are unsupported by the conclusions reached in the Final Environmental Assessment Report of the Corps of Engineers.

Finally, on behalf of the Borough of Tinton Falls, please note our objection to the sufficiently, reliability, accuracy and content which underlie the unfortunately inaccurate conclusion reached by the US Army Corps of Engineers as to the lack of any significant environmental impact based on the various consequences detailed in Section 5.0 of its report. Please note the objection by the Borough of Tinton Falls, the Borough Council of the Borough of Tinton Falls, and the Borough of Tinton Falls Environmental Commission for the use of this report to support any ongoing activities, conclusions or assessments of the Fort Closure.

Respectfully yours,



Peter Maclearie, Mayor
Borough of Tinton Falls



Gary Baldwin, Council President
Borough of Tinton Falls

cc: Hon. Frank Lautenberg
Hon. Robert Menendez
Hon. Rush Holt
Hon. Chris Smith

Hon. Jennifer Beck
Hon. Declan O'Scalon
Hon. Caroline Casagrande

W. Bryan Dempsey, Administrator
Karen Mount-Taylor, Borough Clerk
All Borough Council Members