

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR  
HOMEPORTING OF THE COLUMBIA CLASS SUBMARINE AT NAVAL SUBMARINE  
BASE KINGS BAY, GEORGIA

Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §§ 1500 to 1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Chief of Naval Operations Instruction (OPNAVINST) 5090.1E, the Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to analyze the effects of establishing facilities and functions at Naval Submarine Base (NSB) Kings Bay to support the homeporting of the Columbia Class submarines as replacements for the retiring Ohio Class submarines currently homeported at NSB Kings Bay.

Under the Proposed Action, the Navy would construct eight facilities, modify five facilities, and demolish three facilities across three locations on NSB Kings Bay. Facility changes and development activities would be phased over a period of five years and completed coincident to the arrival of the first Columbia Class submarines (SSBNs) in 2028. The Proposed Action does not modify any existing dry-docks or conduct any in-water activity. During the fiscal year 2028-2042 transition period from the Ohio Class to the Columbia Class and at completion, the Columbia Class SSBNs will be phased in as the Ohio Class SSBNs are phased out. The Proposed Action will not increase the number of personnel employed at NSB Kings Bay, although an increase in temporary workers will result during the demolition, modification, and construction of facilities and various functions scheduled for completion in 2028. The Columbia Class SSBNs will require use of the same supporting facilities and infrastructure as the Ohio Class SSBNs, which are not replicated elsewhere on the Atlantic Coast.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of the Navy's Sea-Based Strategic Deterrence mission at NSB Kings Bay by introducing a technologically advanced SSBN into the Atlantic Fleet.

The Proposed Action is needed because the Ohio Class SSBNs are reaching the end of their service lives and need to be replaced before degrading to unacceptable conditions. Even with additional maintenance, these submarines would continue to suffer from reduced reliability and increased costs associated with the obsolescence of legacy Ohio system components.

Interested parties may view a copy of the Draft EA for this action at the following website:  
<https://nepa.navy.mil/columbia-class>.

To ensure their consideration in the Final EA, all comments must be postmarked or received via email no later than June 25, 2023. Written comments may be submitted via email at [sara.r.goodwin.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:sara.r.goodwin.civ@us.navy.mil) or mailed to: ATTN: Ms. Sara Goodwin, code: EV22.SG, 6506 Hampton Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23508-1212.