

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE US ARMY INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1.0 TITLE OF ACTION

Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Implementation of the U.S. Army Integrated Pest Management Program

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Army proposes to implement and institutionalize sustainable integrated strategies and techniques to pest management that emphasizes the use of chemical controls to achieve effective pest control with minimal risk to environmental quality. The reduction of chemical control techniques would, in some cases, accompany an increase in the use of cultural, mechanical and biological approaches. This approach enhances the Army's emphasis on an overall ecosystem approach to land and facilities management. The Army proposes to prepare, review, implement and annually validate integrated pest management plans (IPMPs) at each of its installations. Adhering to these IPMPs would ensure effective, economical, and environmentally acceptable pest control while maintaining compliance with pertinent laws and regulations. The goals of the IPMPs are to promote health, safety, and welfare of Soldiers and their dependents, civilians and contractors through an effective pest management program and to maintain a professionally trained pest management force that can support the Army mission. Trained and certified personnel would perform all pesticide applications and all pesticides would be applied in strict compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements and label instructions and Department of Defense (DoD) and Army pest management policy.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Army proposes to implement an IPM Program that reduces the use of pesticide treatments while also achieving effective pest control. Available pest control methods fall into four categories: mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical. These may be used separately or in an integrated manner to achieve effective control. The Army will implement the pest management program by developing specific IPMPs that cover certification, pesticide recording and reporting, pesticide approval and all other pest management activities for each of its installations. The goals of the pest management program are (1) to promote health, safety, and welfare of installation personnel through an effective IPM program; (2) to promote installation property protection; (3) to ensure professionally trained pest management personnel provide pest management support for the Army; and (4) to minimize impacts on the natural and human environment.

The four alternatives considered are:

A-Nonchemical Pest Control Techniques. An approach that emphasizes mechanical, physical, cultural, and biological techniques;

B-Nonchemical Pest Control Techniques and Limited Pesticide Use. An approach that emphasizes nonchemical and limited chemical pest management techniques (the preferred approach).

C-Chemical Pest Control Techniques. An approach that emphasizes chemical pest management techniques.

D-The No Action Alternative. In the no action alternative, each individual installation would continue to manage pests in a manner consistent with past practices, complying fully with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, without adopting new best management practices and procedures to improve efficiencies and to further reduce risk from pesticide use.

In addition to the management techniques, the IPMPs in alternatives A through D will document the policies and procedures for the certification of pesticide applicators and procedures for annual review and modification of the IPMPs, based on changing conditions.

4.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The analysis of the potential environmental impacts is document in the environmental assessment entitled: Final Program Environmental Assessment for the Implementation of the U.S. Army Integrated Pest Management Program. Areas to be considers in the assessment are:

- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice
- Infrastructure
- Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes
- Cumulative Impacts

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B) would result in minor impacts on air, water, soil, biological resources, cultural resources, noise levels, socioeconomics, environmental justice, infrastructure, and hazardous material generation. Under Alternative B, none of the expected or potential impacts evaluated in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) would be significant.

5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public's participation is essential to a successful National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and Army (32 CFR 651) regulations provide opportunities for the public to participate in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. The Army is required to inform the interested public when the EA is available and ensure that the public has access to the findings of the environmental analysis. The EA and Draft FNSI have been made available for public review. The review period was 20 May to 21 June 2010. No public comments were received.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis performed in this PEA, implementation of the preferred alternative (Alternative B, an approach that emphasizes nonchemical and limited chemical pest management techniques) for the Army Pest Management Program does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the natural or human environment. Furthermore, there are no indication that implementation of the preferred alternative would violate any federal, state or local environmental laws or regulations. If site-specific conditions are not consistent with this PEA, installation would conduct appropriate follow-on site specific NEPA analysis and documentation. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required. Therefore, I have selected Alternative B, the preferred alternative, to implement the proposed action.



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