



THE NAVY HAS ISSUED A NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR EA-18G GROWLER AIRFIELD OPERATIONS AT NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND COMPLEX. YOU ARE INVITED TO OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETINGS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

THE NAVY PUBLISHED A NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Complex in the *Federal Register* on Thursday, November 10, 2016. The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental effects associated with the addition of up to 36 Growler aircraft and the continuation and increase of Growler airfield operations at Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Coupeville.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT is to augment the Navy's existing Electronic Attack community at the NAS Whidbey Island complex by operating additional Growler aircraft as appropriated by Congress. The need for the Proposed Action is to maintain and expand Growler operational readiness to support national defense requirements under Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 5062. The Navy is analyzing three action alternatives, each of which has three operational scenarios that meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, as well as a No Action Alternative, per Council on Environmental Quality regulations.

THE NAVY IS HOLDING FIVE OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETINGS to provide members of the public with the opportunity to submit comments on the Draft EIS. Each of the public meetings consist of information stations staffed by Navy representatives. Members of the public may arrive at the open house public meetings anytime during the hours listed in the following schedule:

Monday, December 5, 2016 Fort Worden State Park Conference Center USO Hall 200 Battery Way Port Townsend, WA 98368 3 PM – 6 PM	Tuesday, December 6, 2016 Oak Harbor Elks Lodge Grande Hall 155 NE Ernst Street Oak Harbor, WA 98277 4 PM – 7 PM	Wednesday, December 7, 2016 Lopez Center for Community and the Arts 204 Village Road Lopez Island, WA 98261 3 PM – 6 PM
--	--	--

Thursday, December 8, 2016
 Seafarers' Memorial Park Building
 601 Seafarers' Way
 Anacortes, WA 98221
 3 PM – 6 PM

Friday, December 9, 2016
 Coupeville High School Commons
 501 South Main Street
 Coupeville, WA 98239
 4 PM – 7 PM

The Draft EIS is available for review at www.whidbeyeis.com and at 22 local libraries. Public Meeting materials will be made available at www.whidbeyeis.com and at 22 local libraries prior to the first meeting.

THE NAVY IS REQUESTING AND WELCOMES PUBLIC COMMENTS. The release of the Draft EIS begins an extended public comment period which lasts 75-days and ends on January 25, 2017. Written and oral comments may be submitted at the open house public meetings. Written comments may also be submitted online at the project website or mailed to:

EA-18G EIS Project Manager
 Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC)
 Atlantic, Attn: Code EV21/SS
 6506 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508

All comments must be postmarked, received online or provided in a format listed above no later than **January 25, 2017.**

** The names, street addresses, email addresses and screen names, telephone numbers, and other personally identifiable information of individuals who provide comments will be kept confidential and will not be released, unless otherwise specifically indicated by the commenter or as required by law. The city, state, and five-digit zip code of individuals who provide comments may be released.*