

Office of Construction & Facilities Management

425 I Street, NW, Ste. 2E.250 Washington DC 20420 www.cfm.va.gov

June 18, 2025

Sent via email

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Construction and

Operation of an Outpatient Clinic in Beaufort County, South Carolina

[VA ID# EAXX-029-15-VHA-1733502133]

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with VA's Proposed Action to award a lease to a private entity that would construct an outpatient clinic (OPC) for VA to lease and operate in Beaufort County, SC. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide outpatient health care services to area Veterans. The Proposed Action is needed to address space gaps and operational inefficiencies at existing clinics within the VA Charleston Health Care System that were identified through the VA Strategic Capital Investment Planning process. VA is evaluating the following three Proposed Action Alternative sites and would select one for the new OPC:

- Alternative 1 708 Robert Smalls Parkway, Port Royal, SC (27 acres)
- Alternative 2 Robert Smalls Parkway & Goethe Hill Road, Beaufort, SC (16 acres)
- Alternative 3 1844 Ribaut Road, Port Royal, SC (11 acres)

VA prepared the Draft EA according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code § 4321 et seq.).

Concurrent with this mailing, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in *The Beaufort Gazette* and *The Island Packet* to inform and solicit input from the public. The Draft EA is available on the VA website at https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/. A hard copy of the Draft EA is available at the Beaufort Branch Library, 311 Scott Street, Beaufort, SC 29902.

Please submit any requests for additional information, questions, or comments on the Draft EA via email to <u>vacoenvironment@va.gov</u> with the subject line "Beaufort, SC OPC EA" within 30 days following receipt of this NOA. VA will summarize and address substantive comments in the Final EA.

Respectfully,

Glenn Elliott Director, Project Development Services Division Office of Facilities Planning

Attachment: Figure 1 – Beaufort OPC Proposed Action Alternative Site Locations

Alternative 3 Alternative 2 Robert Smalls Pkwy & Goethe Hill Rd 1844 Ribaut Road Alternative 1 708 Robert Smalls Parkway 0.5 Proposed VA Outpatient Clinic Beaufort, South Carolina **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs** Miles

Figure 1. Beaufort OPC Proposed Action Alternative Site Locations