



Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SEIS) PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

INTRODUCTION

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted to address concerns about federal actions and their effects on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most detailed analysis prescribed by regulations implementing NEPA.

A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is prepared after an EIS when:

- o substantial changes are made to a proposed action, or
- o there are significant new circumstances, or information relevant to environmental concerns, or
- o the purposes of NEPA will be furthered by completion of the SEIS.

The U.S. Air Force has published a Notice of Availability, pursuant to NEPA, for the Draft SEIS for Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements. The Proposed Actions include the construction of a fuel pipeline and associated support facilities, and improvements to certain existing roadways on the island of Tinian in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

U.S. AIR FORCE TINIAN DIVERT BACKGROUND

In September 2016, the U.S. Air Force completed the Final EIS for Divert Activities and Exercises. The 2016 Divert EIS evaluated the proposal to construct facilities and infrastructure at the Saipan and/or Tinian airports to support cargo, tanker, and similar aircraft and associated support personnel for divert operations, periodic exercises, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed December 7, 2016, which announced the U.S. Air Force decision to select the Modified Tinian Alternative North Option, as a future Divert location (see Figure 1).

After the ROD, the U.S. Air Force conducted further evaluation of fuel transfer methods and associated infrastructure, and of the existing surface roadway networks, on Tinian. In April 2018, the U.S. Air Force announced their intent to develop an SEIS for a fuel pipeline and associated infrastructure on Tinian, and to improve certain existing Tinian roadways to support Divert activities.

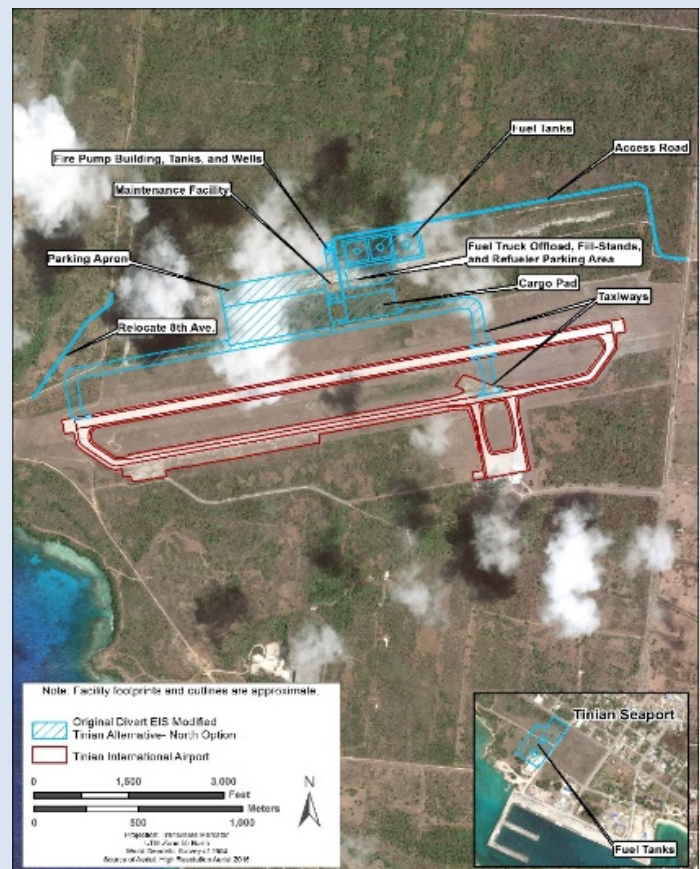


Figure 1: Original EIS Modified Tinian Alternative – North Option

WHAT DOES THE DRAFT SEIS ANALYZE?

The Draft SEIS analyzes the potential environmental consequences from implementing the Proposed Actions and alternatives to the actions. USAF proposes the following two actions:

FIRST PROPOSED ACTION: FUEL PIPELINE AND SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- The pipeline would be constructed underground within a 20 foot utility easement. The U.S. Air Force is considering two routes from the seaport to the airport for the pipeline; *the West route and the East route*. The U.S. Air Force has identified the East route as the Preferred Alternative for the pipeline route.
- To support pipeline operations, a booster pump house, boom storage building, and associated infrastructure would be constructed at the Tinian seaport in place of the two seaport fuel storage tanks proposed in the 2016 Divert EIS. Figure 2 provides the location of the proposed seaport support infrastructure.
- The proposed pipeline would eliminate the need for bulk fuel storage tanks at the Tinian seaport and the need for fuel tanker trucks to transport fuel from the seaport to the airport, both analyzed in the 2016 Divert EIS.

SECOND PROPOSED ACTION: ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

- Roadway improvements are proposed on Divert-related transportation routes that were analyzed in the 2016 Divert EIS, and would include, where necessary, removing and replacing the existing deteriorated asphalt cap of the roadway.

Figure 3 provides an overview of all proposed infrastructure improvements and alternatives. The exact location of either pipeline route and the size of the support infrastructure could shift, within the scope and constraints of the environmental effects analysis presented in the Draft SEIS.



Figure 2: Tinian Divert Proposed Seaport Support Infrastructure

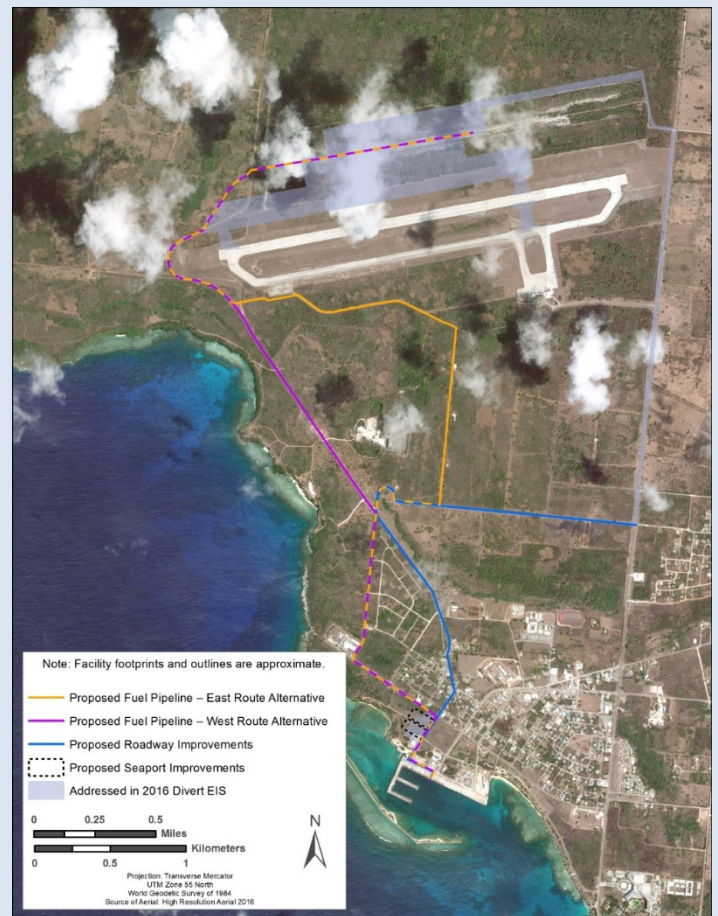


Figure 3: Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements Proposed Actions and Alternatives

Figure 4 shows the location at the seaport proposed for the pipeline support infrastructure. Figure 5 shows a portion of TR24, one of the roadways proposed for improvements.



Figure 4: Seaport Support Infrastructure Location



Figure 5: A Portion of TR24, One of the Roadways Proposed for Improvements

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The U.S. Air Force understands the potential for the Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements to affect environmental resources and the human environment. The Draft SEIS analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with:

- ✓ Construction and operation of either pipeline route alternative and support facilities,
- ✓ Construction of the road improvements (use of the roadways was analyzed in the 2016 Divert EIS),
- ✓ Implementation of the No Action Alternative for both Proposed Actions.

The environmental resource areas reviewed in the Draft SEIS include:

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Biological (terrestrial and marine) resources, including threatened and endangered species
- Geology and soils
- Water quality (surface water and stormwater)
- Groundwater

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Archaeological resources (prehistoric and historic)
- Historic architectural resources
- Traditional resources

SOCIAL RESOURCES

- Land use
- Socioeconomics
- Health and safety
- Environmental Justice and other sensitive receptors

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Infrastructure and utilities
- Transportation
- Hazardous materials and wastes

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS

- Noise
- Air quality
- Cumulative impacts

REVIEWING THE DRAFT SEIS

The Draft SEIS is available for download on the project website at: **www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com** and can also be reviewed at one of the following document repositories:

ISLAND	LOCATION
Saipan	Saipan Mayor's Office
	Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
Tinian	Tinian Mayor's Office
	Tinian Public Library

Please take this opportunity to:

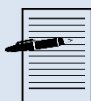
- Learn more about the proposal
- Identify community-specific issues
- Make sure you are included on our mailing list
- Submit your comments on the Draft SEIS

PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS

Comments, suggestions, and relevant information are welcomed on the U.S. Air Force's Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements Draft SEIS. Please submit comments in English using one of the following methods:



Verbal comment at the public hearing.



Written comment at the public hearing. A Chamorro/Carolinian interpreter is available at the public hearing to assist with translation of written comments into English.



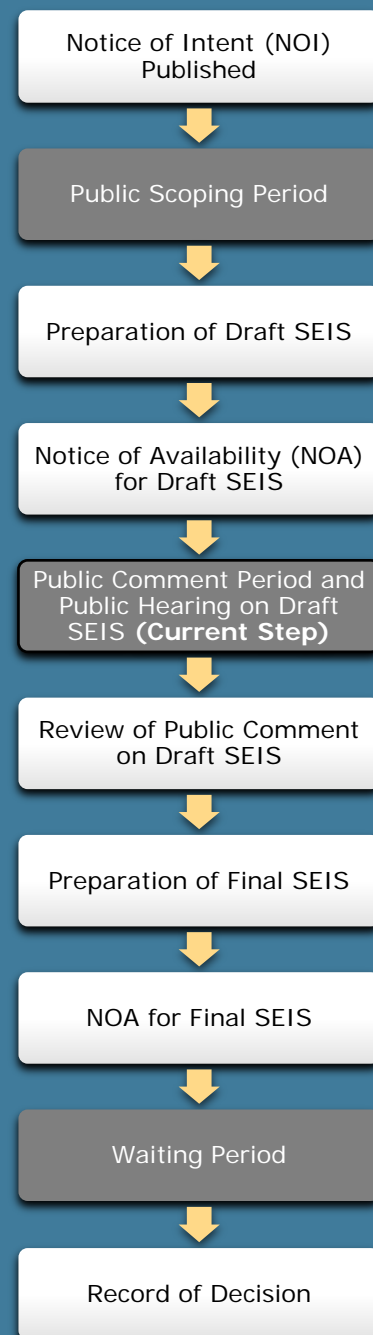
Visiting the project website at:
www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com



Contacting Ms. Julianne Turko at the address below:
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The U.S. Air Force also welcomes comments under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800) regarding the identification of or effects on historic properties, and requests to become a consulting party.

TINIAN DIVERT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS SEIS TIMELINE



 Opportunities for Public Review

www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com

To ensure the U.S. Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input, please submit all comments by July 1, 2019!