

**Finding of No Significant Impact for  
Additional Facility Improvements at  
Administrative United States Penitentiary Thomson, Thomson, Illinois**

**1. Introduction.** Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (Title 40 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] parts 1500–1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Title 42 of the *United States Code* 4321 *et seq.*) and *Bureau of Prisons Procedures Relating to the Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act* (28 CFR part 61, appendix A), the Federal Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) conducted a supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with constructing additional facility improvements at Administrative United States Penitentiary (AUSP) Thomson in Thomson, IL.

The Illinois Department of Corrections built the penitentiary in 2001, and the Bureau acquired it in October 2012. In 2015, the Bureau proposed multiple site improvements to AUSP Thomson, including an armory, firing range, parking lot expansion, fire access road improvements, stormwater retention drainage improvements, an electrical equipment enclosure for the central powerhouse, a staff training course, and a staff training center. In compliance with NEPA, these proposed improvements were evaluated in an environmental assessment (EA). In May 2016, the Bureau published its final EA for the proposed improvements at AUSP Thomson and, in June 2016, issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to implementing the proposed action. The Bureau now proposes additional facility improvements at AUSP Thomson, the proposed action it has evaluated in the SEA.

**2. Proposed Action.** Elements of the proposed action evaluated in the SEA are constructing a Facilities Building; expanding the existing Federal Prison Camp (FPC) to accommodate a new visiting room; and constructing a Camp Support Building next to the FPC. These proposed facility improvements would be implemented on AUSP Thomson property and would be outside the secure area perimeter fence.

**3. Purpose and Need.** The purpose of the proposed action is to construct additional facility improvements at AUSP Thomson. The proposed additional facilities are designed to improve the efficiency of managing and operating AUSP Thomson and would not result in an increase in the inmate population. The need for the proposed action is to enable the Bureau to meet the requirements of its federal mission at AUSP Thomson.

**4. Alternatives Considered.** The SEA analyzed two alternatives—the proposed action and no action. The proposed action (identified here as the Bureau’s preferred alternative) is to construct the additional facility improvements at AUSP Thomson. Under the no action alternative, the proposed improvements would not be constructed. CEQ regulations require analysis of a no action alternative to provide a benchmark against which decision makers can compare the magnitude of the potential environmental effects caused by the proposed action. The no action alternative is not required to be reasonable or to meet the purpose and need of the proposed action.

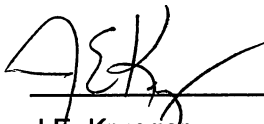
**5. Factors Considered in Determining that No Environmental Impact Statement is Required.** The SEA, which is incorporated by reference into this FONSI, examines the potential effects of implementing the proposed action and the no action alternative on the following resource areas of environmental and socioeconomic concern: aesthetics and visual resources; air quality, greenhouse gases, and climate change; biological resources;

cultural resources; hazardous and toxic substances; land use; noise; socioeconomics; soils; traffic and transportation; utilities; and water.

The Bureau's evaluation in the SEA indicates that implementing the proposed action would not result in significant adverse effects on the natural, visual, cultural, or socioeconomic environments. No mitigation measures would be necessary. Implementing the proposed action would not result in any adverse cumulative environmental effects. Therefore, the Bureau will not be required to prepare an environmental impact statement and has published this FONSI in accordance with CEQ NEPA implementing regulations in 40 CFR 1508.13.

**6. Public Review and Comment.** The Bureau made the SEA available for public comment for 30 days, beginning on October 31, 2018, with publication of a Notice of Availability in *The Carroll County Review* newspaper, and ending on November 30, 2018. The SEA was available on the Bureau's website at [https://www.bop.gov/locations/regional\\_offices/ncro/](https://www.bop.gov/locations/regional_offices/ncro/), and copies of the SEA were available for review at the following libraries: Chadwick Public Library, Chadwick, IL; Lanark Public Library, Lanark, IL; Milledgeville Public Library, Milledgeville, IL; Mount Carroll Township Public Library, Mount Carroll, IL; Savanna Public Library, Savanna, IL; and York Township Public Library, Thomson, IL. The Bureau received one response on the SEA during the 30-day comment period. The response was from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, and they had no objection to the proposed action. A copy of their letter is included in appendix B of the attached SEA.

**7. Conclusion.** On the basis of the environmental analysis in the SEA, the Bureau has determined that implementing the proposed action would have no significant adverse effects on the quality of human life or the natural environment; therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required. The Bureau intends to proceed with the proposed action.



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Date