



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1890
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28402-1890
July 12, 1985

IN REPLY REFER TO

Planning Division

Mr. Mark Cory
National Park Service
Post Office Box 190
Buxton, North Carolina 27920

Dear Mr. Cory:

I have enclosed for your information the Environmental Assessment and signed Finding of No Significant Impact for Defense Environmental Restoration Program, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, (Buxton Naval Facility), Buxton, North Carolina. If you have any questions about the project or this document, please contact Mr. John Baden, Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington at (919) 343-4754 or (FTS) 671-4754.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne A. Hanson".

Wayne A. Hanson
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosure

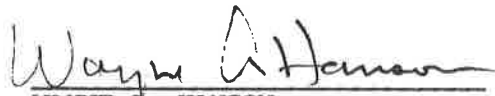
Lead Agency: Department of the Army, Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
Wilmington, North Carolina

Title of Proposed Action: Defense Environmental Restoration Program,
Cape Hatteras National Seashore, (Buxton Naval Facility), Buxton,
North Carolina, Project No. I04NC00010

Preparer:

John A. Baden, III/SAWPD-EA
U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington
P.O. Box 1890
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890
Phone: (919) 343-4754, FTS 671-4754

Approved:


WAYNE A. HANSON
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL
RESTORATION PROGRAM,
CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE,
(BUXTON NAVAL FACILITY),
BUXTON, NORTH CAROLINA
PROJECT NO. I04NC000100

1.0 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action.

A building demolition and debris removal project is approved at the former Buxton Naval Facility for 2 buildings and attendant structures located on National Park Service Lands.

The buildings were constructed in 1956 by the Department of Defense (DOD) and abandoned in 1981. A special use permit dated 9 February 1956 was issued by the National Park Service (NPS) to the Department of the Navy relative to use of lands within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore as a site for a Navy installation (See plates 1 & 2). Paragraph 11 of this permit states "special use permit, authorizing the use of certain lands within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, NC, by the Department of the Navy as a site for a Navy installation."

Upon abandonment of the facility by the Navy in 1981, the site was excessed to General Services Administration (GSA) by report of excess dated 20 August 1981. The site was transferred from the Navy to the Coast Guard. On 14 March 1984 a Memorandum of Understanding, extending the original use permit to the Coast Guard, was executed by representatives of the National Park Service and the Coast Guard. Although the Coast Guard is presently using portions of the former Buxton Naval Station, the structures to be demolished were specifically excluded from the Memorandum of Understanding. The structures have not been put to beneficial use by either the Coast Guard or the National Park Service since abandonment by the Navy in 1981. NPS finds the structures to be unsightly and incompatible with the National Seashore and wishes them to be removed. The structures will be removed under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) which is a congressionally directed (Public Law 98-212) program for environmental restoration of active installations and formerly used DOD properties. It includes hazardous and toxic waste disposal, ordnance and explosive waste removal, and building demolition and debris removal.

2.0 Description of Proposed Action.

The project involves demolition of 2 concrete buildings, foundations and attendant fences, and pavements. See Project Area (plate 2) and Site Plan (plate 3) for locations. The larger building is approximately 250 feet in length and 63 feet in width. The smaller building to the south, used as a recreation building, is 90 feet in length and 84 feet in width. Adjacent to this smaller building is a wooden observation deck which the National Park Service wishes to retain.

Conventional demolition techniques will be used in removal of the structures, with the contract requiring complete removal and disposal of all debris. The specifications will also require thorough cleanup. The nearest disposal site for debris is the landfill owned and operated by Dare County, North Carolina, located approximately 55 miles north of the demolition site. An onsite survey revealed the possible existence of asbestos. An investigation for determination of the presence of this material will be made by the contractor. If present; the contractor will furnish all labor, material, services, insurance, and equipment necessary to carry out the removal operations and disposal of all friable asbestos material that may be on steam pipes, electrical conduit, wall surfaces, ceiling tiles, etc. Material containing asbestos will be removed from the buildings prior to demolition. In order to protect not only the worker, but also the general public, the removal and transport of asbestos will be in accordance with OSHA Regulation 1910.1001 and Environmental Protection Agency 40 CFR, Part 61, Sub-Part B: National Emission Standard for Asbestos, Asbestos Stripping Work Practices, and Disposal of Asbestos Waste. Some of the precautions that will be taken include special work clothes (disposable coveralls, disposable head covers, hard hats, and eye protection) and respirators for the workers. In addition, all asbestos will be placed in sealed drums or an approved impermeable container and transported to the disposal site. The approved method of disposal is in containers with warning labels about asbestos deposited in an EPA approved landfill, which has been marked with warning signs about asbestos.

Upon completion of demolition and removal of debris from the area, the area will be graded consistent with the surrounding terrain, and sprigged with American Beach Grass.

3.0 Alternatives.

Alternative considered for this project were as follows:

- a. No Action
- b. Proposed Action—demolition and restoration of the site

4.0 Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action and Alternative.

a. No Action. Under this alternative the structures will continue to deteriorate becoming increasingly unsightly and unsafe . The "no action" plan does not address the worsening condition of these buildings and attendant structures located on National Park Service lands and was rejected.

b. Proposed Project. The demolition/restoration of the site will have no significant adverse impacts. OSHA and EPA regulations cover the disposal of asbestos and related debris to protect both the worker and the public. The site will be changed from buildings, utilities, roads, parking areas, and appurtenant structures to an area more consistent with the surrounding terrain. No historically or architecturally significant structures are involved. The visual condition of the National Park Service lands will be improved.

c. Endangered and Threatened Species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was contacted about endangered and threatened species. The listed endangered (E) or threatened (T) species for Dare County are:

- a. Eagle, bald (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)-E
- b. Falcon, peregrine (Falco peregrinus)-E
- c. Alligator, American (Alligator mississippiensis)-E
- d. Turtle, loggerhead (Caretta caretta)-T

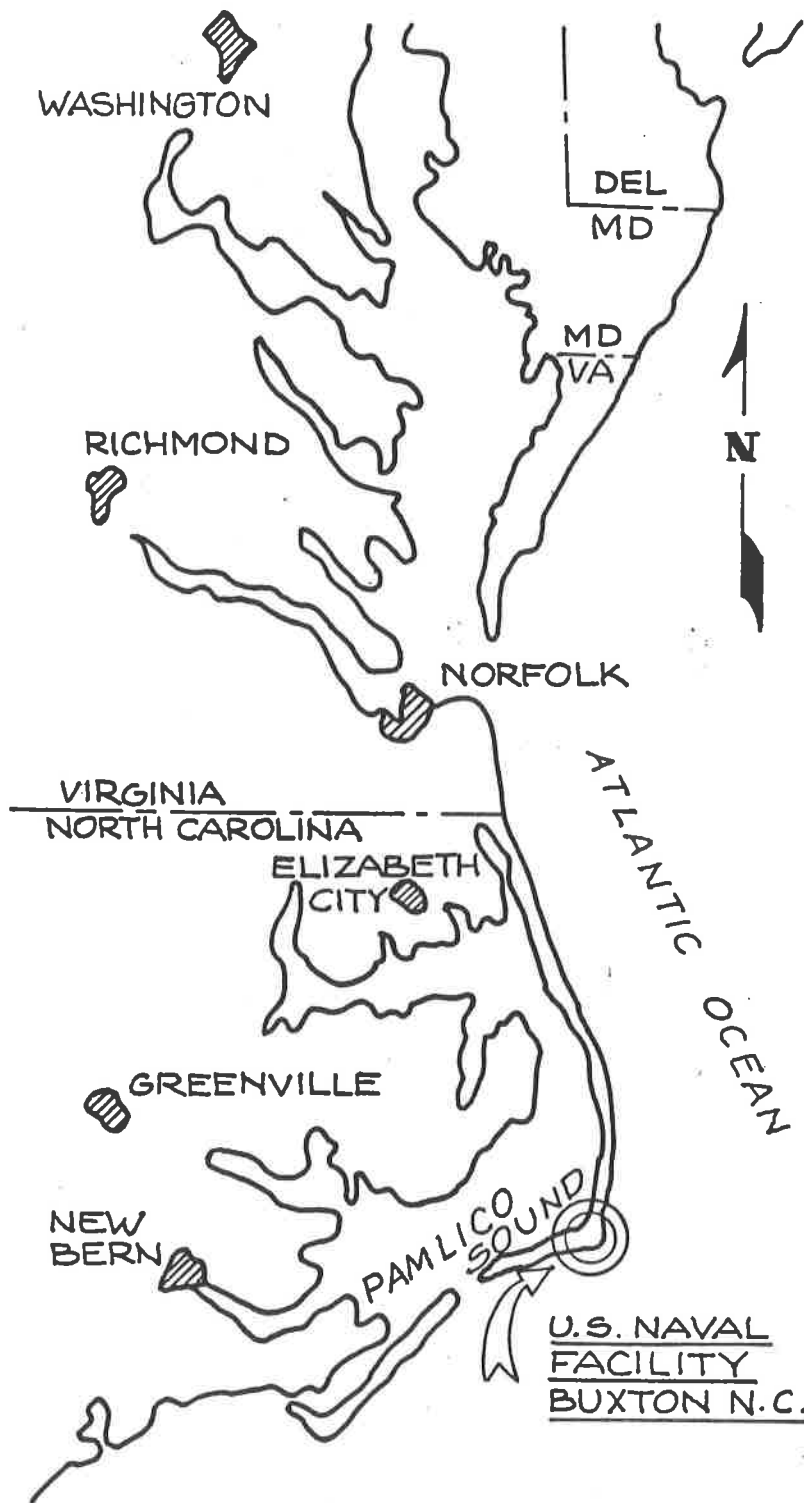
In addition, there are one plant and one animal species that are under status review by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and may be listed at some time in the future. They are:

- a. Lilaeopsis, Carolina (Lilaeopsis carolinensis)
- b. Kite, American swallow-tailed (Elanoides forficatus forficatus)

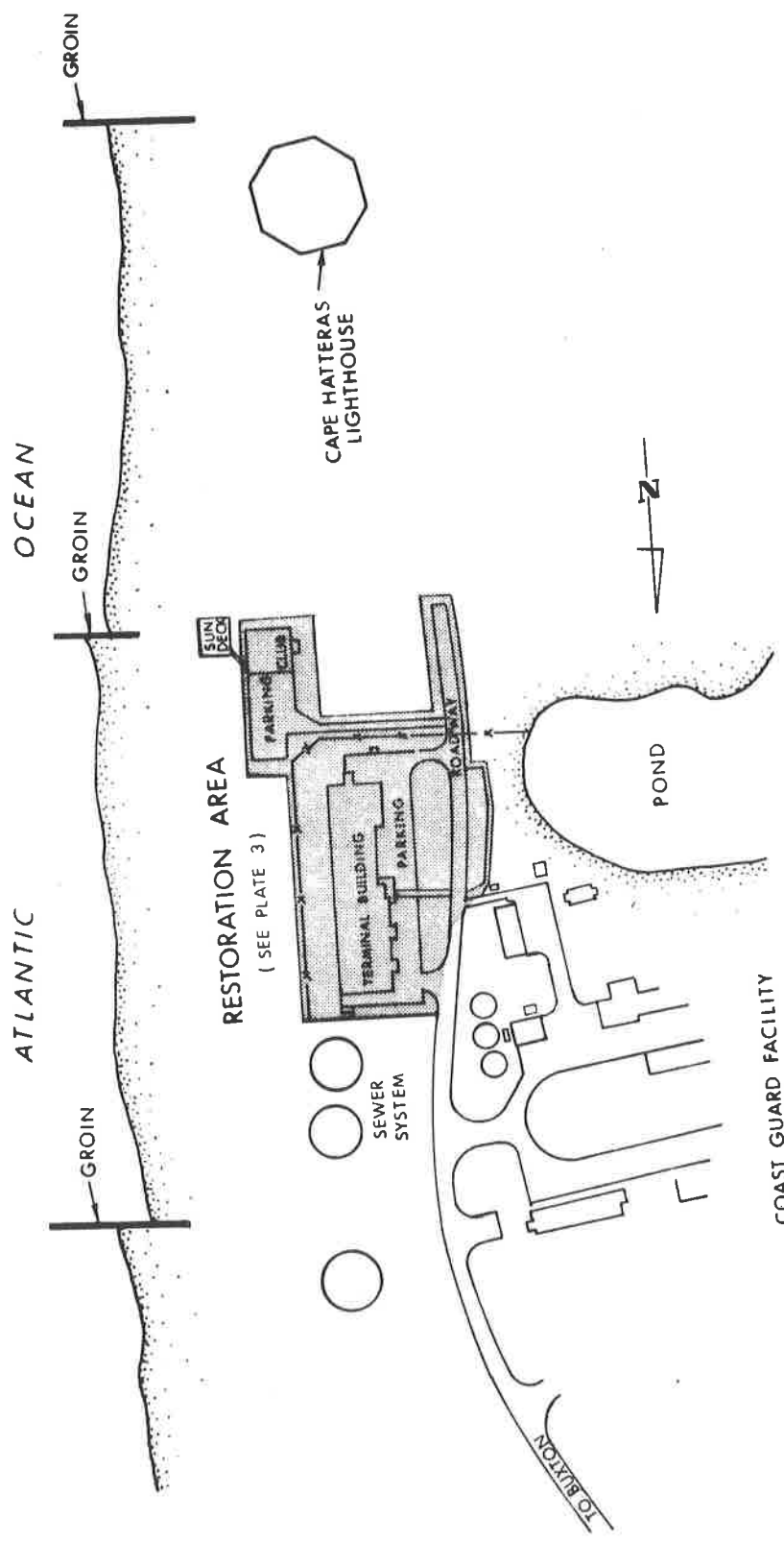
It has been determined that this project will have "no effect" on these species, and a letter dated 17 May 1985 was received from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supporting this determination.

5.0 List of Agencies and Persons Consulted.

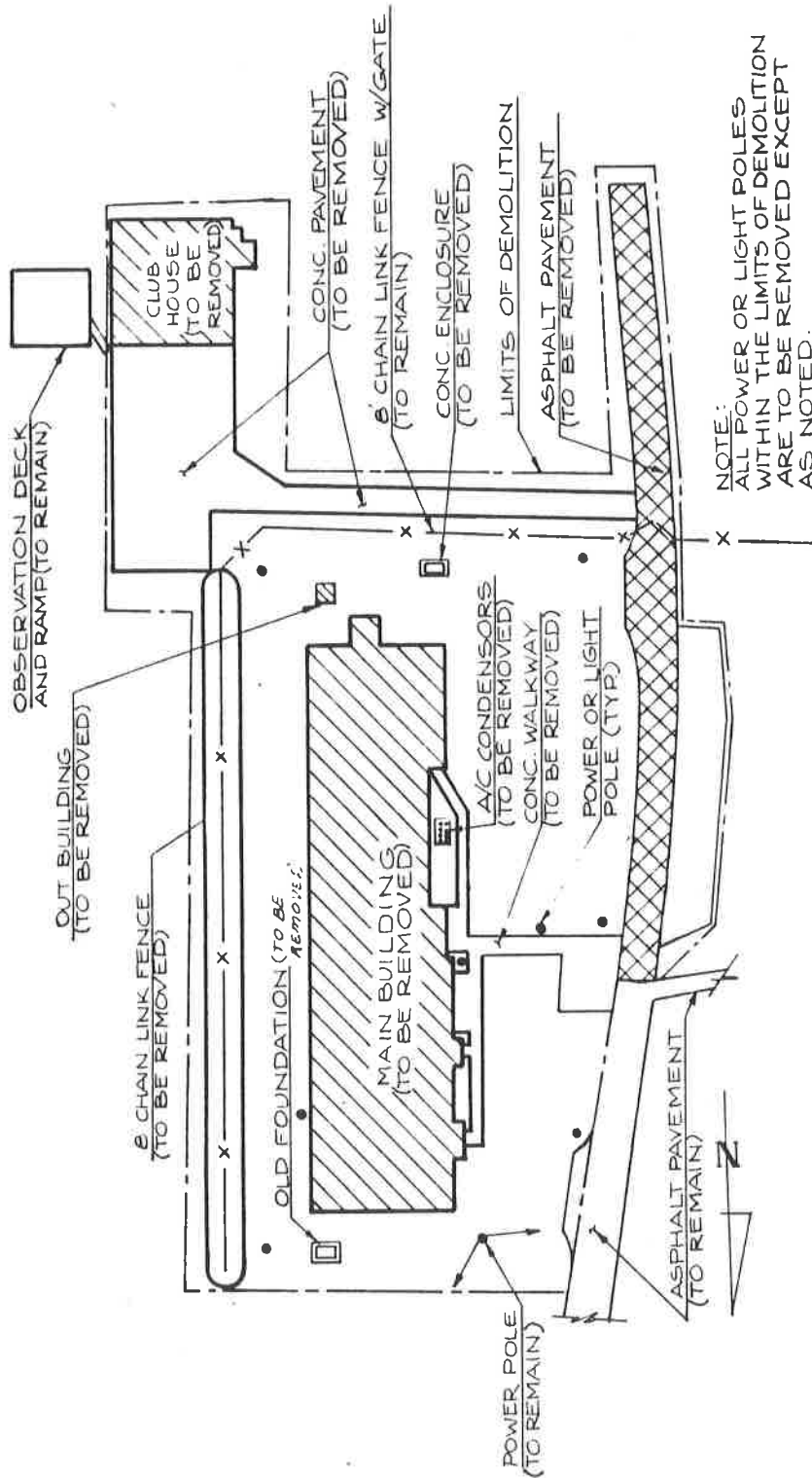
- a. N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.
- b. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- c. Mr. Phelphie Edmondson
(Dare County, NC, Public Works Director)
- d. U.S. Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, NC



VICINITY MAP
NO SCALE



PROJECT AREA
 FORMER BUXTON NAVAL FACILITY
 PLATE 2




SITE PLAN
RESTORATION AREA
PLATE 3

FINDING OF NO
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

1. Name of Action. Defense Environmental Restoration Program, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, (Buxton Naval Facility), Buxton, North Carolina, Project No. I04NC000100
2. Description of Action. A building demolition and debris removal project of 2 concrete buildings, foundations, utilities, roads, parking areas, and appurtenant structures is proposed at the former Buxton Naval Facility (Cape Hatteras National Seashore). Upon completion of demolition and removal of debris, the area will be graded consistent with the surrounding terrain and sprigged with American Beach Grass. The alternative to the proposed action is "no action."
3. Anticipated Environmental Effects. The proposed action will result in no significant adverse impacts. Demolition of existing structures and restoration of the site to a more natural condition will improve the visual quality of National Park Service lands.
4. Conclusions. I have determined, based on information outlined in Section 4 of the Environmental Assessment, that the proposed action is environmentally acceptable. The proposed action will result in no overall environmental degradation and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
5. Deadline and Point of Contact. Any comments or questions regarding this environmental assessment should be mailed to District Commander, U.S. Army Engineers District, Wilmington, Post Office Box 1890, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28402-1890, telephone (919) 373-4754 or FTS 671-4754. All comments should reach his office by close of business 16 August 1985.

Date 9 July 1985


WAYNE A. HANSON
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding