

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

### **U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Ambulatory Care Center

Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

VA Medical Center, Omaha, NE

## **BACKGROUND**

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to construct an Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) located at the existing Omaha Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska. The Omaha VAMC facility currently provides a multitude of services for veterans living in the surrounding community. The existing facility has numerous technical issues due to aging infrastructure, as well as space and functional deficiencies. The existing Omaha VAMC:

- Lacks adequate space to meet projected future clinic stops and patient needs;
- Does not allow for the integration of related healthcare services and staff due to the dated nature of the existing facilities, causing unintentional fragmentation of services and staff that does not align with the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) model aiming to provide patient-centric care, using a foundation of primary care services linking patients with specialty services; and
- Houses operating rooms (ORs) cited with infection control deficiencies related to space limitations that potentially compromise sterile conditions, will not accommodate modern equipment, or permit the required separation of clean and dirty corridors for equipment, patients, and staff.

The proposed project will promote patient care and safety, maintain Omaha VAMC facility cohesiveness, increase efficiency, and improve patient and staff satisfaction.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970, as amended), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), and the regulations regarding Environmental Effects of VA Actions (38 CFR Part 26) to evaluate and document the potential environmental effects associated with this proposed action.

## **SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The VA is proposing to construct a 157,438-square foot three-story ACC, with a partial fourth floor mechanical penthouse, parking areas, patient and visitor drop off areas, and new green spaces (Proposed Action). The building will primarily serve the outpatient veteran population and will join to the existing main hospital building via a connector walkway structure.

This new onsite ACC will be dedicated to ambulatory care, allowing for new primary care clinics to be designed and constructed to meet the needs of each PACT team, including providing appropriate women veterans healthcare space. The ACC will also allow expansion of the

ambulatory surgery portion of the ORs, with more complicated surgery procedures remaining at the main hospital building. While the Proposed Action does not completely mitigate the current Omaha VAMC OR space needs with regard to infection control deficiencies, modern equipment requirements, and clean/dirty corridor separation for equipment, patients, and staff; it does ensure that ambulatory surgery procedures could be conducted in an infection-free environment.

Areas of the main hospital building vacated by ambulatory care services will allow for the expansion, reorganization, and/or consolidation of ORs and other Omaha VAMC services. This will alleviate congestion and fragmentation of services, contributing to improved patient care. Furthermore, constructing the new ACC at the Omaha VAMC main campus will promote the seamless integration of ambulatory care with additional Omaha VAMC services, increasing patient satisfaction and improving the overall patient experience.

The Proposed Action will temporarily reduce available parking, with additional parking provided by planned future projects. Pedestrian facilities will be significantly upgraded and will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Proposed Action will also provide two options for patient loading and unloading by maintaining the primary entrance at the main hospital building and constructing a new primary entrance at the new ACC.

The new ACC will be a state-of-the-art facility, constructed according to modern medical facility standards, and will include new mechanical, electrical, and information technology (IT) systems currently lacking in the main hospital building. The existing sewer system and water lines directly serving the new ACC will also be upgraded.

#### **DETERMINATION**


Considered and eliminated alternatives to the Proposed Action were based on impacts to the social, natural, and physical environment; and the ability of the alternatives to satisfy the purpose and need of the project.

Impacts to the environment due to the Proposed Action are expected to be temporary and minor. The proposed ACC will be constructed on the existing Omaha VAMC campus and will not require additional property acquisition. The Proposed Action will result in temporary benefits to the local labor force during construction. The medical facility upgrades will provide long-term benefits to the veterans it will serve. Impacts to natural resources on site are not anticipated, and there will be no adverse direct impacts to the surrounding communities.

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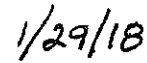
This FONSI is based on the attached EA. The analysis performed in the EA concludes that implementation of the proposed project as described will not constitute a major Federal action that will have significant impact upon the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA of 1969. Accordingly, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed action is not required.

FONSI



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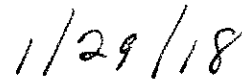
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Date



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B. Don Burman, MHA  
Director, Chief Executive Officer  
Nebraska-Western Iowa Healthcare System  
United States Department of Veterans Affairs



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Date