

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT, EA-06-141
T'IIIS TS'ÓZI BIÓLTA' (CROWNPPOINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL)
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & CONSTRUCTION**

**Location: Crownpoint Quadrangle, USGS 7.5 Minute Series Map
S20, T17N, R12W, NMPM
Crownpoint, McKinley County, New Mexico**

The proposed action is the replacement of academic and dormitory facilities within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Withdrawn Administrative area in Crownpoint, McKinley County, New Mexico. The new facilities would consist of a dormitory facility and an academic facility. The academic complex would be comprised of: general and specialized classrooms, gymnasium, library/media center, cafeteria with kitchen, administrative center, and a special programs space. Utilities would also be constructed. These would include water mains and branch lines; sewer mains and branch lines; a liquid program (LPG) tank farm with main and branch lines (unless natural gas is available near the school); and telephone services. During the planning phase of the project, it would be determined if a well, well house with a pump and chlorination system, and elevated water storage tank are needed. Paved parking would be developed for the staff and public. Streets with curb and gutter would be constructed. Sidewalks and exterior lighting would be constructed. Other elements of the project would include a school sign at the highway entrance, grade appropriate playfields and play structures, and xeriscape landscaping. The project is sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Facilities Management & Construction, Division of Planning and Construction, 1011 Indian School Road, NW, Suite 335, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87104.

The environmental assessment (EA) was reviewed in the Division of Environmental, Cultural and Safety Management, Navajo Regional Office. Based on the environmental assessment, and the mitigation measures specified in the document, it is determined that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the natural and human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 102 (2) (C), an environmental impact statement will not be required.

The following references, incorporated in the project environmental assessment, serve as the bases for this decision:

1. Agency and public involvement was solicited. Environmental issues relative to the proposed action were identified. Alternative courses of action and mitigation measures were developed in response to environmental concerns and issues.
2. The EA disclosed the environmental consequences of the proposed action, alternatives considered but dismissed, and a "no action" alternative.
3. In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, informal consultation was held with the Navajo Nation Department of Fish & Wildlife (NNDFW). NNDFW issued a letter dated June 06, 2006, indicating that "the project is not expected to affect any federally listed species or significantly impact any tribally listed species or other species of concern" (EA, Appendix A).

4. Potential impacts to flood plains and wetlands by the proposed project have been evaluated in accordance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990. The project does not lie within the 500-year floodplain (EA, Section 3.2.1). There will be no impacts to any “Waters of the U.S.” from the proposed action. Therefore, Clean Water Act Section 401, Water Quality Certification, or Clean Water Act Section 404 permits will not be required (EA, Section 4.2).

5. CWA – 402(p) – Foreseeable effects of the proposed action will be temporary increase in surface water from the project area until the disturbed ground stabilizes from revegetation and mulching of the slopes. The BIA and contractor are required to file a “Notice of Intent” with the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency and comply with permit terms. The construction contractor will prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and obtain the necessary permits before work commences (EA, Section 4.2).

6. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Section 106 consultation, and 36 CFR 800.9 (b), OFMC requested a records check to determine if there were any known cultural resources located in the area. Two resources were recorded within the surveyed area; however, a determination of “No Historic Properties Affected” was recommended for the proposed undertaking, provided that the stipulation of avoidance is adhered to (A minimum of NM-Q-23-51 must be avoided by 50 ft.) (NNHPD Letter dated April 28, 2006).

In the event of a discovery [discovery means any previously unidentified or incorrectly identified cultural resources including, but not limited to, archaeological deposits, human remains, or locations reportedly associated with Native American religious/traditional beliefs or practices] all operations in the immediate vicinity of the discovery must cease, and the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department must be notified.

7. In accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Subtitle C, Hazardous Waste, a Level I contaminate survey was conducted. No obvious contaminants or signs of contaminants were identified in the project area (EA, Section 3.8). The construction contractor shall comply with all regulations that regulate the use and disposal of hazardous waste. Spill prevention, containment, disposal, and countermeasures with regard to any hazardous waste that would result from operation of the facility will be outlined in the project Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan. Any contaminated soils or hazardous waste encountered during construction shall be disposed of in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency protocols. No immitigable hazardous waste/substances will be generated on the project site during construction and school operations (EA, Section 4.9.2).

8. In accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Subtitle D, Non-Hazardous Solid Waste, construction materials shall be reused or recycled whenever possible. Materials that cannot be recycled or reused will be disposed of in a certified landfill (EA, Section 4.9.1.).

9. Noise – The proposed action will cause a temporary increase in noise during construction. Trucks and heavy equipment will be equipped with standard noise suppression mufflers in good working conditions (Section 4.11.1.).

10. Visual – The new facilities will enhance the attractiveness of the architectural landscape of the Crownpoint community.

11. Air Quality – The proposed action will result in temporary increase in suspended dust during construction. Dust abatement will be achieved utilizing standard equipment and practices (EA, Section 4.3.).

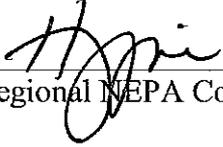
12. Land Use – The construction of the new school facilities will be consistent with the existing land use within the BIA Withdrawn Administrative Area (EA, Section 4.10.2). The tract is developed and land is currently designated for chapter governmental related activities (EA, Section II.B.1.).

13. Cumulative and secondary effects on soil, water, air, noise, vegetation, cultural resources, and wildlife resources (species and habitat) were considered, and the proposed mitigation measures were found to be acceptable.

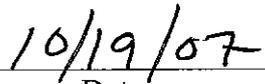
14. In accordance with Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, impacts to minority and low-income populations and communities have been considered by the Regional NEPA Coordinator, as have impacts to Indian Trust Resources.

15. Socioeconomic – The safety of the students and staff will be considerably improved by construction of the new facility. The learning environment will be also be enhanced at the Crownpoint Community School.

The Crownpoint Community School, constructed in 1964, has been in use past the projected life expectancy of 40 years, resulting in facilities that have become structurally unsound and deemed unsafe for occupancy. The proposed action will provide a safer facility for students and staff.



Regional NEPA Coordinator



Date