

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

BULK FUEL OIL STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, PIADC

I. INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by the STV Group for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and documents a site specific analysis of activities supported by Federal funds, on land owned ARS. This project will provide PIADC with a bulk fuel oil storage and distribution system that meets or exceeds local, state, and federal requirements for fuel oil systems. The EA includes a site specific discussion of: the purpose and need for action, location, description of the proposed alternatives, the preferred alternative, background of the project site, environmental consequences of each alternative, and mitigating measures for environmental impacts.

The decisions to be made are whether or not to replace/repair/upgrade the existing bulk fuel oil storage and distribution system and if so, whether potentially significant impacts exist that would require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for this project. The scope of these decisions pertain only to the proposed activities supported by or related to the use of Federal funds at PIADC.

The EA examines four alternatives:

1. **No Action**
The No Action alternative includes making no changes to the existing bulk fuel oil system. The existing system would be in violation of local, state, and federal regulations.
2. **Repair of existing facilities**
This alternative involves making necessary repairs/modifications to the existing fuel system to meet appropriate regulations.
3. **Replacement of existing facilities at current locations**
This alternative involves construction of new fuel oil system in the existing fuel oil locations.
4. **Replacement of existing facilities in a new location**
This alternative involves construction of new fuel oil system in a new location not currently being used for the bulk fuel oil system.

II. ISSUES

The issues relevant to the proposed project are presented in the EA on pages 4-1 to 4-3.

III. DECISION

The effects of the alternatives were analyzed and based on this analysis a combination of alternative two and four has been selected as the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is presented in pages 3-3 to 3-5.

IV. RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The selected alternative is a combination of Alternative one and Alternative two. This alternative will meet all regulatory requirements and will be more economical than any of the stand alone alternatives. The limited negative impacts will be temporary in nature. The construction activities will occur on land already used for these purposes. The short term impacts which may affect the local environment consist of localized soil erosion limited to construction activities. These impacts can be minimized by preventive construction techniques.

V. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

As the Area Administrative Officer, North Atlantic Area, and delegated responsible decision maker under 7 CFR Part 520 - Procedures for Implementing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), I conclude that the proposed project, Bulk Fuel Oil and Distribution System, will have no significant impact on the environment. After careful consideration of the issues relevant to this project and based on the site specific environmental analysis documented in this EA, I have determined that implementing this decision in the manner described will not cause significant environmental impacts or adverse effects. Therefore an environmental impact statement is not needed.

John A. Crew, Area Administrative Officer

Date