Public Notice for Actions in the Wetland/Floodplain DPA Title III Solid Rocket Motor Production Upgrade Program Aerojet Rocketdyne Orange, Virginia

This public notice is to meet the requirements of Executive Orders 11990 and 11988 for early determination of actions potentially effecting floodplain and wetland areas so the public can have impact on the decision outcome. The public review period is for 30 days.

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to fund an increase in production rate of solid rocket motors through the Defense Production Act (DPA) Fund. This effort is being executed under the Presidential Waiver of Statutory Requirements Pursuant to Section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, signed on October 3, 2022. The funds will be used to build and upgrade 11 facilities at the Aerojet Rocketdyne site in Orange, Virginia. The purpose of the Proposed Action is for the U.S. Government to fund the necessary construction, modernization, and upgrade of the Aerojet Rocketdyne production facilities for Solid Rocket Motors (SRMs). The Proposed Action is needed to increase production capacity, which is critical for national defense, as well as supporting our allies across the globe.

Proposed construction activities are subject to Executive Order (EO) 11990, Protection of Wetlands, and EO 11988, Floodplain Management, requirements, and objectives because the facilities would be constructed on a greenfield site and have potential to impact Waters of the U.S. and floodplains. Maps of the Proposed Action and impacted wetland areas are available upon request. The DAF requests advance public comment to determine if there are any public concerns regarding the project's potential to impact wetlands and floodplains. The DAF would also like to solicit public input or comment on potential project alternatives. The proposed project will be analyzed in an EA, and there will be another opportunity for public comment on the draft EA when it is released.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

April 18, 2024, through May 18, 2024

The DAF will accept both electronic and written comments on the proposed action located in the 100-yr floodplain and wetland areas during the 30-day public comment period. Comment letters must be postmarked by May 18, 2024, and should be submitted to:

Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs 1864 4th Street Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45433

Phone: 937-469-1728

E-mail: <u>bryan.ripple@us.af.mil</u>