

FINDING of NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to remove all facilities and equipment associated with facilities 3002 and 3003. This would include any above ground structures and equipment including all concrete pads and electrical (panels and transformers). 7 CES/CEOFE has been consulted and agreed that transformers and electrical panels may be removed. However, manholes must be installed at the site of the transformers and electrical cables spiced in order to maintain electrical service. For facility 3002 on the south end of the runway, this action will require the installation of a manhole in a flood zone.

PURPOSE and NEED for PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose and need for the proposed action is subject facilities were the site of legacy weather equipment removed from service around 2008. Since the remaining structures no longer service such equipment, they may no longer be present and violate airfield clearance criteria. Facility 3003 and associated equipment violate UFC 3-260-01, Airfield and Heliport Planning and Design, Table 3-2, Item 12, Runway Lateral Clearance Zone. Facility 3002 and equipment violates the UFC, Table 3-5, Item 5, Graded Area of the Clear Zone and Table 3-7, Item 1, Primary Surface.

LOCATION of the PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed location of the action would be Dyess AFB at a location at or near wetlands or 100-year floodplains. Please consult attached maps for location; photographs of equipment, airfield clearance areas and known environmental constraints.

ALTERNATIVES

No-Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, no facilities and equipment associated with facilities 3002 and 3003 would be removed. Since the original weather equipment, which was properly sited, has been removed, there is no justification for these above-ground structures to remain in the obstacle clearance areas.

CONCLUSION

In reference to the floodplain, the removal of existing transformers should not have an adverse effect on the flood plain. The transformers previously supported weather equipment which is no longer in use. The transformers are considered airfield obstructions and are not frangible. There is no practicable alternative but to remove the transformers and install electrical manholes in the ground for the electrical circuit to run around the perimeter of the airfield. The proposed action is the only practicable alternative.

STATEMENT of NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE

Pursuant to Executive Orders 11990 Wetlands Management and 11988 Floodplains Management, the authority delegated to me in Secretary of the Air Force Order 791.1, and taking the above information into account, I have determined that there is no practicable alternative to this action and that the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the wetland floodplain environments.

GARY D. CHESLEY, Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director, Installations and Mission Support

Date