



New Hartford Federal Courthouse EIS Public Meeting Handout

Summary

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts from the proposed acquisition of a site in Hartford, Connecticut (CT), and for the subsequent design and construction of a new Federal Courthouse. The building would be owned and managed by GSA and occupied by various Federal agency tenants, with the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut (the Court) serving as the largest tenant. GSA is the lead Federal agency for this EIS.

Project Background

The Court currently operates at three existing Court facilities in Connecticut, including the Abraham A. Ribicoff Federal Building and Courthouse in Hartford, CT (the Ribicoff Courthouse). Long-range facilities planning for the Court has determined that operations in Hartford would increase, and that the Court's headquarters would be relocated from New Haven to Hartford. The Ribicoff Courthouse does not presently have the space, functionality, security, and building systems to meet the Court's current and projected needs. The Ribicoff Courthouse also presents numerous functional challenges related to circulation and operational and safety needs of the Court. To address current issues and allow for future growth, GSA is proposing to locate the Court's judicial operations at a new Federal Courthouse in Hartford, CT.

Proposed Alternatives

The EIS will consider three **“action” alternatives** and one **“no action” alternative**. Under the **“action” alternatives**, GSA would acquire a site in Hartford, CT for the design and construction of a new Federal Courthouse. GSA has identified three potential sites for the project, each corresponding to an action alternative. The new Federal Courthouse would include 11 courtrooms, 18 Judge chambers, and offices for various government agencies. The facility would be approximately 281,000 gross square feet and include 66 interior secure parking spaces.

The **“no action” alternative** assumes that site acquisition and subsequent design and construction of a new Federal Courthouse would not occur. The Judiciary would continue to operate under current conditions at the Ribicoff Courthouse, and at the courthouses in New Haven and Bridgeport.

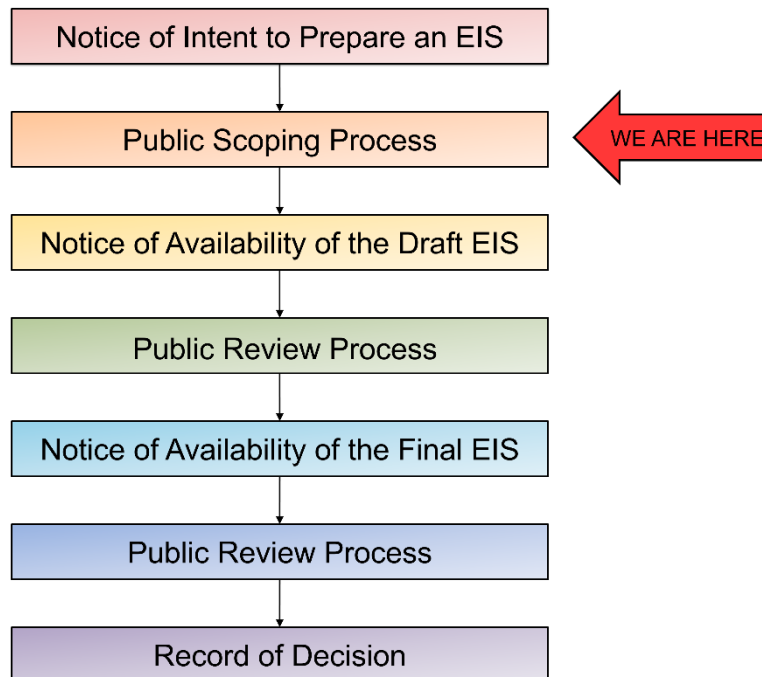




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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

We are currently in the Public Scoping Process phase of the NEPA Process. The views and comments of the public are necessary to help determine the scope and content of the environmental analysis. An important objective of scoping is to identify specific elements of the environment that might be affected if the proposal is carried out. Potentially significant impacts raised by the public during scoping are analyzed in detail in the EIS.



Project information, including meeting materials, transcript, and audio/video recording will be available at the project website: <http://gsa.gov/hartfordcourthouse>

For more information, please contact Robert Herman, Project Manager, General Services Administration at 413-244-9167.