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# **Porthill Land Port of Entry Expansion and Modernization Project Final Public Scoping Report**

Prepared for:  
Region 10, U.S. General Services Administration

Contract Number: 47QRAA18D00DH  
Order Number: 47PA0323F0009



Submitted by:

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July 13, 2023

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**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CASC	Centralized Area Surveillance Center
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CUI	Controlled Unclassified Information
CWA	Clean Water Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
EJ	Environmental Justice
GSA	U.S. General Services Administration
LPOE	Land Port of Entry
LAN	Local Area Network
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
PDT	Pacific Daylight Time
POV	Privately-owned vehicle
U.S.	United States
USC	United States Code

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The United States (U.S.) General Services Administration (GSA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts from the proposed modernization and expansion of the existing Porthill Land Port of Entry (LPOE) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [USC] 4321-4347), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and the GSA Public Buildings Service's NEPA Desk Guide.

GSA, with support from Solv, LLC., GSA's NEPA contractor, held a virtual scoping meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) as part of the NEPA process and to assist with development of the EA. Solv has prepared this scoping report on behalf of GSA to describe the project (i.e., background information, project location and facilities, proposed action, and alternatives), scoping meeting, scoping materials, and to summarize the public comments received during the public scoping period held from May 4 to June 5, 2023. This document also includes the following six appendices:

- Appendix A: Newspaper Affidavits
- Appendix B: Press Release and Advertising on Social Media
- Appendix C: Distribution List and Letter to Interested Parties
- Appendix D: Public Meeting Handouts and Registration
- Appendix E: Index of Comments by Source and Date
- Appendix F: Public Comments Received

## 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Porthill LPOE is located east of the Kootenai River within the unincorporated town of Porthill in Boundary County, Idaho and is directly south of Canada's Rykerts Border Crossing in Creston, British Columbia. The Porthill LPOE is about eight miles south of Creston, British Columbia and about 27 miles northwest of Bonners Ferry, ID. See Figure 2-1 below for a broad overview of the region.



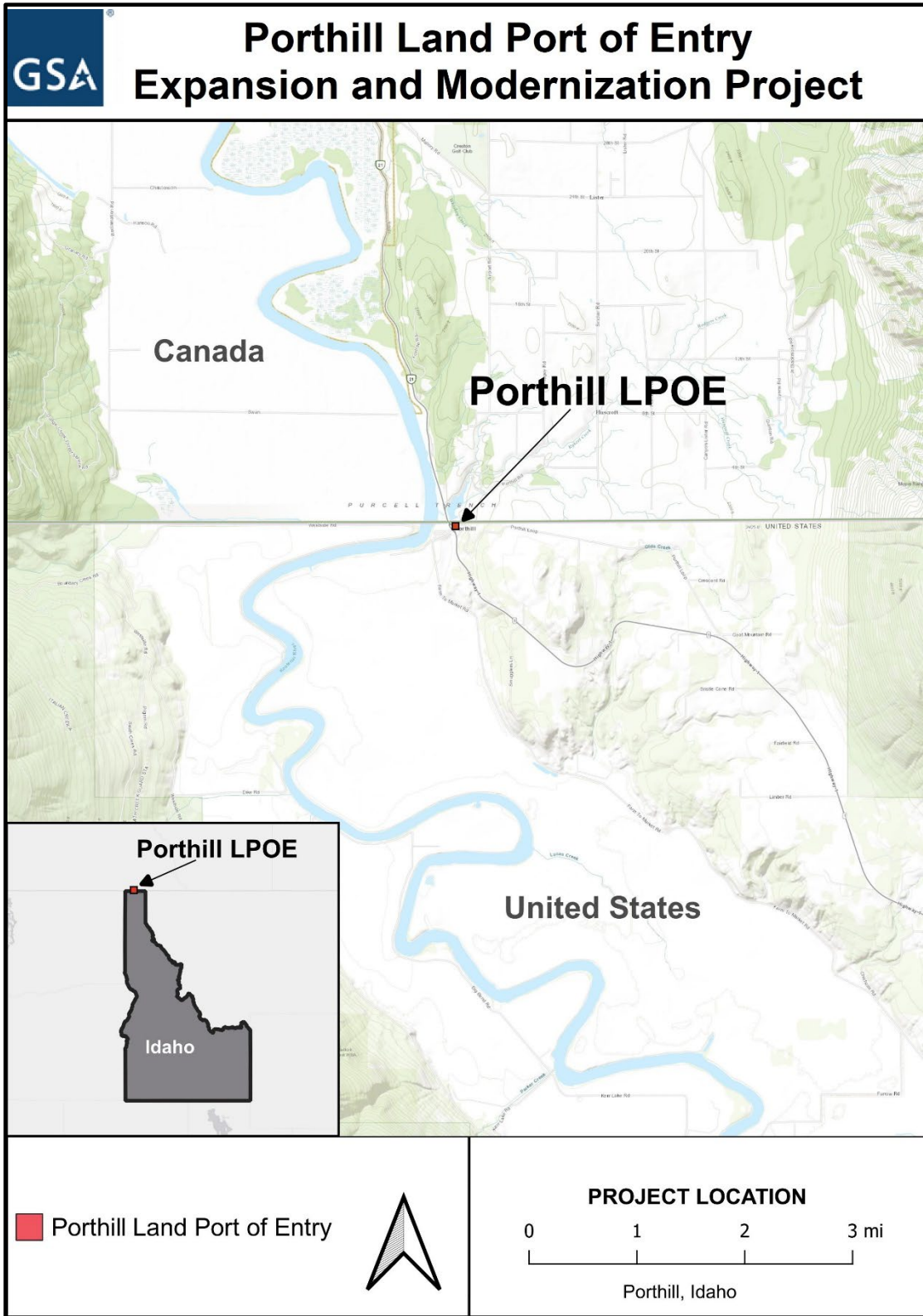


Figure 2-1. Porthill LPOE Project Location

This project seeks to expand and modernize the Porthill LPOE to meet current operational needs. The expanded LPOE would be based on the small port prototype design with modifications to accommodate the Porthill LPOE site and operations, and would include full or partial demolition of existing LPOE structures; the construction and operation of a new main building for the port facility; and the addition of inspection lanes and associated canopy and booth spaces for commercial and personal vehicles. All facility and infrastructure improvements proposed under the action alternatives would incorporate sustainable, climate-resilient, cyber-secure, and operationally efficient design.

GSA constructed the main LPOE facility in 1967 on a 2.13-acre site. The existing facilities at the LPOE are too small to accommodate the current staff. Additionally, current traffic flow through the LPOE is inefficient, which causes congestion and delays. Adjacent land uses include the U.S. and Canada border and Canadian inspection station (Rykerts) to the north, undeveloped land to the south, two U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) residences and a historic port building to the east, and residences, merchant shops, a refueling station, and a grass airstrip to the west across from Highway 1. See Figure 2-2 below for an aerial view of the project area and vicinity.

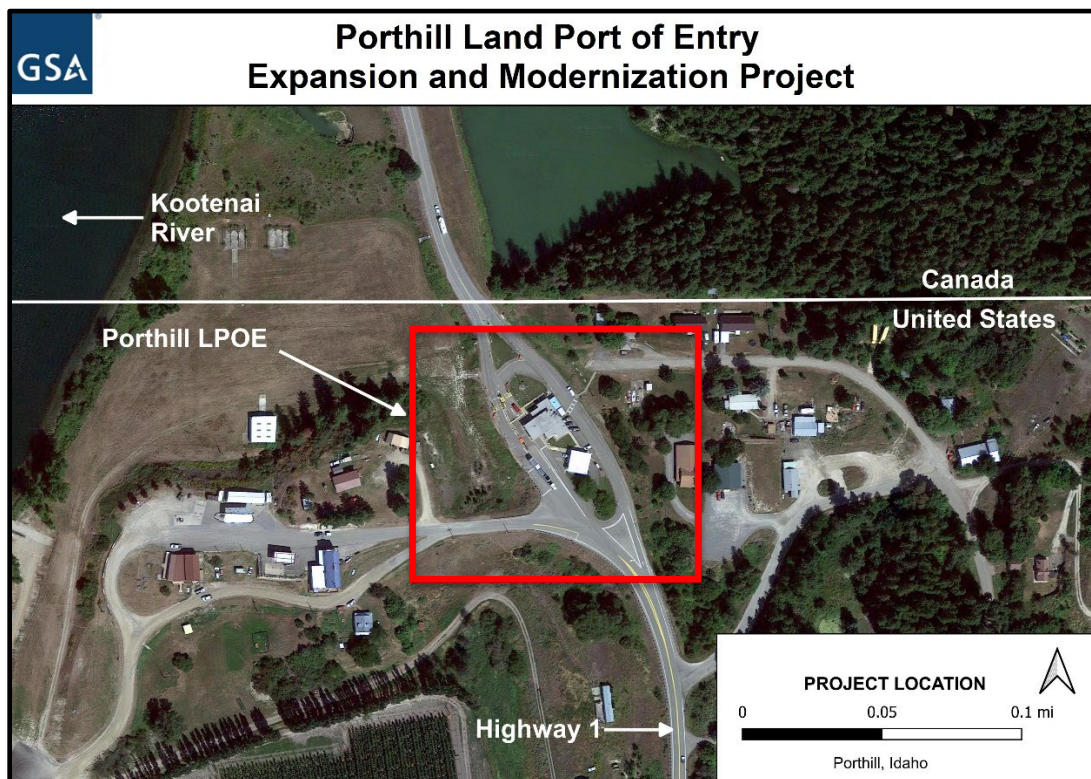


Figure 2-2. Porthill LPOE Project Area and Vicinity

## 2.1 EXISTING FACILITIES

The Porthill LPOE primarily consists of the main port building, which oversees two non-commercial lanes and one lane that can process permitted commercial traffic. The facility is open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, 12 hours per day, seven days a week, and processes non-commercial vehicles, buses, pedestrians, and limited commercial traffic. The main building is a one-story building which contains an open office work area, staff lockers, Local Area Network (LAN) and Centralized Area Surveillance Center (CASC) servers, a public waiting area with service counter,

a holding cell, a port director's office, and a storage room. The basement level houses storage and a furnace unit. All interior spaces currently operate at full capacity with no current room for expansion. During 2006, a minor renovation occurred at the facility consisting of installation of two metal sheds on the site: one for long-term storage and the other to house a new emergency generator (Parsons, 2019).

The LPOE site also includes a decommissioned 1930s-era port facility and two adjacent residences owned and used by CBP. These three structures are on a bluff to the east of the port facility, across the northbound road from the main building (Parsons, 2019). These buildings are not included in this project.

## **2.2 PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES**

The EA will consider two "action" alternatives and one "no action" alternative. The two "action" alternatives would consist of demolition, disposal, construction, and expansion activities at the existing Porthill LPOE. Both alternatives could include the following activities:

- Full or partial demolition and disposal of existing LPOE structures;
- Construction and operation of a new port facility based upon the CBP small port prototype. This specific port design includes all basic port components, such as a new main port facility building, with smaller facility footprints than standard ports;
- Construction of four privately-owned vehicle (POV)/commercial lanes each with a high/low booth, which are inspection booths with a high window for truck inspections and a low window for POV inspections;
- Construction of one outbound lane with a high/low booth; and
- Addition of inspection lanes and associated canopy and booth spaces for commercial and personal vehicles.

The "no action" alternative assumes that demolition and disposal of existing facilities, construction of new facilities, and expansion of LPOE operations would not occur. The LPOE would continue to operate under current conditions.

## **3.0 NOTIFICATION OF SCOPING MEETING**

This section summarizes the outreach conducted to inform the public of the Porthill LPOE public scoping meeting and solicit comments on the project. GSA notified the public of the public scoping meeting using multiple channels of communication, including advertisements in local newspapers, letters to interested parties, and social media posts. GSA accepted public comments during the public scoping period from May 4 to June 5, 2023.

### **3.1 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS**

Solv printed advertisements in two local newspapers in the weeks preceding the public scoping meeting. The advertisement indicated GSA's intent to prepare an EA and conduct a scoping meeting; provided a brief description of the project; identified the virtual public scoping meeting time and location; and included the link to register for the public scoping meeting and instructions for submitting comments. Solv published the advertisement in the *Bonnors Ferry Herald* on May 4 and May 11, 2023, and in *The Bonner County Daily Bee* on May 6, 2023. Appendix A contains affidavits of the legal notices.

### **3.2 PRESS RELEASE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

GSA posted a press release on the GSA Northwest Arctic Region 10 website on May 10, 2023, that briefly summarized the purpose of the scoping meeting, detailed the time and date, and provided a link to the virtual meeting. Appendix B contains a screenshot of the press release.

GSA posted a social media notice to the “U.S. General Services Administration Northwest/Arctic Region” Facebook page on May 10, 2023. The Facebook post announced the purpose of the scoping meeting and provided a link to register for the meeting. Similarly, the “GSA Northwest/Arctic Region” Twitter page posted a notice announcing the scoping meeting on May 10, 2023. Appendix B contains screenshots of the Facebook and Twitter posts.

### **3.3 INTERESTED PARTIES LETTER**

A list of stakeholders was developed for the Porthill LPOE which included state and local officials; federal, state, and local agencies; non-governmental organizations; and individuals with a known or potential interest in the project. Solv mailed scoping letters to these interested parties on May 1 and 2, 2023 and emailed as an attachment on May 4, 2023 to those interested parties with available email addresses. The letter provided background information on the project, a brief description of the alternatives, the date and time of the public scoping meeting, and instructions on how to submit comments. Appendix C contains the list of interested parties identified for the Porthill LPOE modernization project and a copy of the letter sent to interested parties.

### **4.0 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

The purpose of a public scoping meeting is to provide the public with information regarding the proposed project, answer questions, identify concerns regarding the potential environmental impacts that may result from implementation of the proposed project, and gather information to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the EA.

#### **4.1 MEETING DETAILS AND LOCATION**

GSA held a virtual public scoping meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM PDT on Zoom. A total of nine people attended the virtual public meeting, in addition to GSA personnel and personnel from Solv, LLC., GSA’s NEPA contractor.

Throughout the public scoping meeting, the GSA presentation team worked to encourage discussion and information sharing and to ensure that the public had opportunities to speak with representatives of GSA. This format consisted of an approximately 30-minute presentation and a 90-minute open house session that facilitated discussion between GSA and the public. The presentation provided background on the project and an explanation of the NEPA process. GSA recorded and posted the presentation to the “GSA (General Services Administration)” YouTube channel and the project website. After the presentation, GSA allowed attendees the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the project.

GSA shared an informational handout in the chat box during the virtual meeting that contained details about the project background, NEPA process, project alternatives, and how to submit comments. Additionally, GSA shared a mailable comment form for attendees who wished to provide written comments. Attendees also had the opportunity to sign up for additional project email updates. Appendix D contains the handout, comment form, and sign-in sheet for the public scoping meeting.

## 5.0 PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS

GSA invited scoping comments on the Porthill LPOE EA to obtain input from the public, agencies, and other interested parties on the proposed project. GSA will consider all public scoping comments received during the development of the Draft EA. Appendix E contains an index of all comments organized by source and date. Appendix F contains all received comments.

### 5.1 COLLECTING COMMENTS

GSA offered multiple ways to submit comments, including comment forms, letters, emails, and spoken comments at the public scoping meeting. GSA accepted comments throughout the entire 32-day comment period. Public and agency commenters submitted comments to GSA verbally at the public scoping meeting and through email. GSA created a project inbox specifically to receive public comments pertaining to this project.

### 5.2 SUMMARY OF COMMENTERS

Solv indexed received comments based on the source or commenter. Commenters included federal, state, and local agencies and members of the public. A total of eight commenters provided input during the scoping period. Appendix E includes an index of comments including the commenter name, affiliation, date received, and nature of the comment. Appendix F includes all comments received.

### 5.3 ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING SCOPING

Solv categorized each comment by subject. Table 5-1 shows the number of comments received by subject and commenter type. A total of nine commenters submitted 15 different comments (a few commenters submitted more than one comment).

**Table 5-1. Commenters and Comments by Subject**

Subject	Number of Agency Commenters (A) <sup>a</sup>	Number of Public Commenters (P) <sup>b</sup>	Total Number of Comments
Air Quality	1	0	1
Environmental Justice	1	0	1
Historical Resources	1	0	1
Purpose and Need	0	1	1
Public Outreach	1	0	1
Public Scoping Meeting	1	1	2
Requests for Information	2	2	5
Traffic and Transportation	1	0	1
Tribal Consultation	1	0	1
Water Quality	1	0	1
Total	8	4	15

<sup>b</sup>Public (P) commenters include individual members of the public

### 5.4 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS BY SUBJECT

This section summarizes the comments received during the public scoping period. The comments are organized into nine subject categories as shown in Table 5-1 above.



### **5.4.1 Air Quality**

One (1) commenter submitted one (1) comment regarding air quality. The commenter requested that the Draft EA analyze the proposed action's potential impacts on air quality. Additionally, the commenter recommended that the Draft EA include specific measures that would be in place to minimize any potential impacts and decrease the potential exposure of air pollutants to sensitive populations.

### **5.4.2 Environmental Justice**

One (1) commenter submitted one (1) comment about Environmental Justice (EJ). The commenter requested that the Draft EA assess potential impacts the project may have on communities with EJ concerns and recommended resources for identifying EJ communities in the vicinity of the project area.

### **5.4.3 Historical Resources**

One (1) commenter submitted one (1) comment regarding historical resources. The commenter stated that they were not aware of any specific resources, but noted that Porthill is a historic area and could potentially contain historical artifacts. The commenter requested that the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Boundary County Historical Society be contacted if any artifacts are exposed before beginning construction.

### **5.4.4 Purpose and Need**

One (1) commenter submitted one (1) comment regarding the purpose and need for the proposed action. The commenter noted that the proposed action would expand the port by nearly three times in size and requested more information detailing the need for expanded facilities at the Porthill LPOE.

### **5.4.5 Public Outreach**

One (1) commenter submitted one (1) comment regarding public outreach for the project. The commenter noted Boundary County, Idaho resident interest in the project and suggested that CBP conduct outreach. GSA conducted outreach throughout the scoping process of this project.

### **5.4.6 Public Scoping Meeting**

Two (2) commenters submitted two (2) comments regarding the public scoping meeting held on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. One commenter expressed interest in the public meeting, but notified GSA that they would be unable to attend the meeting on the scheduled date. The other commenter requested a copy of the recording of the public meeting. GSA provided this commenter with a link to the recorded public scoping meeting.

### **5.4.7 Requests for Information**

Four (4) commenters submitted five (5) comments requesting additional information. One commenter, a representative from Senator Fulcher's office, requested a copy of the 2018 Porthill LPOE Feasibility Study, which GSA considers Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). GSA determined that the entire feasibility study could not be shared. However, GSA provided the commenter with portions of the feasibility study that contain the information relevant to the commenter's inquiry about traffic and transportation, as detailed below in Section 5.4.8.

One commenter requested to be added to the project mailing list and receive additional project updates. The same commenter also requested updates and information on the surveys that would

occur on a property adjacent to the existing LPOE. GSA provided additional information regarding the surveys during the public scoping meeting, and Solv added the commenter to the project mailing list.

Another commenter, a representative from Senator Risch's office, requested additional information on acquisition property identification and methods considerations for property acquisition. The commenter also asked if GSA considered expanding the LPOE using the land located east of the current port; GSA is not planning to use the land east of the current port. GSA coordinated with CBP to obtain more information concerning property considerations for the planned expansion of the LPOE, and this information will be included in the Draft EA. Senator Risch's office followed up with a request to CBP for more information on the project and a copy of the feasibility study if possible. Appendix F includes the request for information and the CBP response to the inquiry.

#### **5.4.8 Traffic and Transportation**

One (1) commenter submitted one (1) comment regarding traffic and transportation. The commenter requested further information on prior traffic patterns at the port and the number of additional lanes that would be implemented under the proposed action. The commenter expressed skepticism of the need for additional lanes at the port.

#### **5.4.9 Tribal Consultation**

One (1) commenter submitted one (1) comment regarding tribal consultations. The commenter encouraged GSA to consult with, consider, and incorporate feedback from local tribes.

#### **5.4.10 Water Quality**

One (1) commenter submitted one (1) comment regarding water quality. The commenter requested that the Draft EA analyze the potential impacts on water quality, such as increased runoff pollution, that could result from the proposed action. The commenter suggested that the Draft EA include any information relevant to impaired waters per Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), particularly with regard to the Kootenai River.

### **6.0 LIST OF REFERENCES**

(Parsons, 2019). Parsons. 2019. Feasibility Study LPOE Porthill – Porthill, ID. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

## **APPENDIX A: NEWSPAPER AFFIDAVITS**



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF IDAHO )  
 ) ss.  
County of Bonner )

RikkiJade Lindstrom, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states:

1. I am a citizen of the United States of America, over the age of 18 years, a resident of the State of Idaho, and am not a party to the proceedings referred to in the attached Legal Notice.

My business address is P.O. Box 159, Sandpoint, Idaho.

2. I am the Legal Clerk of the Bonner County Daily Bee, a newspaper of general publication in Bonner County, Idaho;

3. Said newspaper has been continuously and uninterruptedly published in Bonner County, Idaho during a period of 12 months prior to the first publication of said Notice, and thereafter.

4. The attached Notice was published in the regular and entire issue of the Bonner County Daily Bee for a period of 1 consecutive weeks, commencing on the 6 day of May, 2023, and ending on the 6 day of May, 2023.

R. Lindstrom

State of Idaho, county of Bonner ss.

On this 6 day of May, in the year of 2023, before me, Angela Minehart, Notary Public, personally appeared RikkiJade Lindstrom known or identified to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he/she (or they) executed the same.

Angela Minehart  
Notary Public  
Residing at: Kootenai County

**My Commission Expires 03/20/2029**



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Idaho

ss

County of Boundary, Rikki Jade Lindstrom being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that he/she is Legal Clerk of the Bonners Ferry Herald, a newspaper printed and published at Bonners Ferry, Boundary County, Idaho; that the said newspaper has been continuously and uninterruptedly published in said Boundary County during a period of 12 months prior to the first publication of the hereto attached notice of publication in the case of:

GSA Porthill LPOE EA  
as it was published in the regular and entire issue of the said paper for a period of 2 consecutive weeks, commencing on 4 day of May, 2023 and ending on the 11 day of May, 2023 and that said notice was published in said newspaper.

R. S. Miller

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, this 11 day of May, 2023.

Katrina George  
Notary Public-State of Idaho

Residing at: Kootenai County

**My Commission Expires 8/29/23**



**Public Meeting for the Porthill  
Land Port of Entry  
Environmental Assessment**

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts from the proposed modernization and expansion of the existing Porthill Land Port of Entry (LPOE).

The Porthill LPOE processes personal vehicles, buses, pedestrians, and limited commercial traffic at the U.S.-Canada border in Porthill, Idaho. The current facilities no longer function adequately and cannot meet current operational needs. Traffic flow through the port is currently inefficient and susceptible to congestion and delays. The EA will evaluate alternatives that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Porthill LPOE.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate in a virtual public meeting on May 17, 2023 from 5 to 7 p.m. PDT. The registration link to attend the meeting is available below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZckfumrgT0qHd1ismtlzueRFT6AMdFVve>

The views and comments of the public are necessary to help determine the scope and content of the environmental analysis. Comments must be postmarked and submitted by June 5, 2023 and can be submitted using the following methods:

- **Comment Form:** Submit comments at the virtual public meeting or throughout the comment period via comment form. The comment form is available on the project website: <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/regions/welcome-to-the-northwest-arctic-region-10/buildings-and-facilities/idaho/porthill-land-port-of-entry>

- **Email:** [PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov](mailto:PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov). Include **Porthill LPOE EA** in the subject line of the message.

- **Mail:** Send written comments to the below address.

General Services Administration  
Attention: Emily Grimes,  
NEPA Project Manager  
1301 A Street, Suite 610,  
Tacoma, WA 98402

For further information, contact Emily Grimes, GSA NEPA Project Manager, at 253-394-4026. For press inquiries, contact Christi Chidester Votisek, Public Affairs Officer, at 253-931-7127.  
Legal#11079  
AD#8130  
May 4, 11, 2023

## **APPENDIX B: PRESS RELEASE AND ADVERTISING ON SOCIAL MEDIA**





# GSA to Host Public Meeting for the Expanded Porthill Land Port of Entry

May 10, 2023

*Public scoping meeting begins conversation with local community*

**TACOMA, Wash.** — In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. General Services Administration will host a public meeting in support of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the expansion and modernization of the Porthill Land Port of Entry (LPOE) in Porthill, Idaho. The public is invited to attend the virtual meeting on **May 17 from 5–7pm Pacific Daylight Time**.


The meeting will be conducted in an open house format. GSA will offer the public an opportunity to hear about the project and learn how they can provide input on the issues that are important to the community. This input is a valuable step in the process and will be used by GSA to determine the scope and content of the EA.

The online meeting will be hosted via Zoom, and the public can register here:

<http://ow.ly/GVHz50OaTkP> 

The Porthill LPOE processes personal vehicles, buses, pedestrians, and limited commercial traffic at the U.S.-Canada border in Porthill. After 55 years of continuous operation, the Porthill LPOE is no longer able to meet the operational needs of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Additionally, traffic flow through the port is inefficient and susceptible to congestion and delays. The port expansion project, funded by the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), will enhance Porthill LPOE's operational efficiency and capability. The new, modern and energy-efficient facilities will meet CBP's current mission requirements and improve customer service to travelers. The EA will evaluate alternatives that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Porthill LPOE.

The public is encouraged to provide written comments regarding the scope of the EA at the meeting and throughout the comment period. The views and comments of the public are necessary to help determine the scope and content of the environmental analysis. **Comments must be postmarked & submitted by Monday, June 5 via the following methods:**

- **Virtual Meeting:** Comment forms will be distributed & collected during the virtual public meeting. Register for the public scoping meeting at <http://ow.ly/GVHz50OaTkP> .

**Christi Chidester Votisek**  
Public Affairs Officer

**Northwest/Arctic Region**

 Office: [253-931-7127](tel:253-931-7127)

 Cell: [415-816-8512](tel:415-816-8512)



[christina.chidester@gsa.gov](mailto:christina.chidester@gsa.gov)

- **Email:** Send comments to [PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov](mailto:PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov) and include “Porthill LPOE EA” in the subject line of the message.
- **Mail:** Send written comments referencing the “Porthill LPOE EA” to:  
U.S. General Services Administration  
Attention: Emily Grimes, Environmental Program Manager  
1301 A Street, Suite 610  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Project information, including a video recording of this public meeting, will be available at:  
[gsa.gov/Porthill](https://gsa.gov/Porthill).



# Explore

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GSA Northwest/Arctic Region @US\_GSAR10

NEXT WEEK: GSA is hosting a virtual public meeting to discuss the Porthill Land Port of Entry modernization & expansion project.

Learn more & register: [ow.ly/PUcO500kAB8](https://ow.ly/PUcO500kAB8)



12:16 PM · May 10, 2023 · 12 Views

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GSA Northwest/Arcti... @US\_GSAR10

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GSA's Northwest/Arctic Region (R10) serves Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Delivering the best value in real estate, acquisition, & technology services.

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Cheez-It Bowl

Trending in United States

Surtain

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**U.S. General Services Administration Northwest/Arctic Region**

May 10 at 12:16 PM · 🌐



NEXT WEEK: GSA is hosting a virtual public meeting to discuss the Porthill Land Port of Entry modernization & expansion project.

📄 Learn more & register: <http://ow.ly/GsXy500kAB9>

👍 5

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## **APPENDIX C: DISTRIBUTION LIST AND LETTER TO INTERESTED PARTIES**

## APPENDIX C. DISTRIBUTION LIST

Organization	Contact Name	Affiliation	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
<b>Project Stakeholders</b>					
U.S. Customs and Border Protection	Wesley Roemer, Port Director	CBP		wesley.romer@cbp.dhs.gov	208-267-5309
	Jason Greene, Area Port Director			jason.r.greene@cbp.dhs.gov	406-335-5000
	Brett Shahbaz, BIL Project Manager			brett.shahbaz@cbp.dhs.gov	317-918-3286
	Steven Daigle, Northern Region Section Chief			steven.r.daigle@cbp.dhs.gov	317-951-6855
<b>Federal Agencies</b>					
United States Congress	Senator Mike Crapo	US Senate		Contact form: <a href="#">Email Me   U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (senate.gov)</a>	DC Office: 202-224-6142
	Senator James E. Risch			Contact form: <a href="#">E-mail - James E Risch, U.S. Senator for Idaho (senate.gov)</a>	DC Office: 202-224-2752
	Representative Russ Fulcher	US House of Representatives		Contact form: <a href="https://fulcher.house.gov/email-me">https://fulcher.house.gov/email-me</a>	DC Office: 202-225-6611
U.S. Department of Transportation	Scott Frey, Transportation Engineer	Federal Highways Administration, Idaho Division Office		Scott.Frey@fhwa.dot.gov	208-334-9180 x115
	Idaho Division Office	Federal Highways Administration	Idaho Division 3050 Lakeharbor Lane, #126 Boise, ID 83703	idaho.fhwa@dot.gov	208-334-1843
Environmental Protection	Casey Sixkiller, Regional Administrator		U.S. EPA, Region 10	sixkiller.casey@epa.gov	Office: 800-424-4372

Organization	Contact Name	Affiliation	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Agency Region 10		Office of the Regional Administrator	1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155 Seattle, WA 98101		Office: 206-553-1234
	Michelle Pirzadeh, Deputy Regional Administrator			pirzadeh.michelle@epa.gov	Office: 206-553-1200
<b>State Agencies</b>					
Idaho Transportation Department	Scott Stokes, Director	Idaho Transportation Department	Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) 3311 W. State Street Boise, Idaho 83703		208-334-8027
	Bill Moad, Chairman				208-334-8808
	Jim Thompson, Transportation Board Member (District 1)				208-597-4335
	Dan Conner, Land Owner, Airport Manager	Idaho Transportation Department Idaho Division of Aeronautics	1390 W. Gowen Rd Boise, ID, 83705	dan.conner@itd.idaho.gov	Cell: 208-484-1521 Office: 208-334-8893
Idaho State Historical Society	Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer		2205 Old Penitentiary Rd. Boise, ID 83712	janet.gallimore@ishs.idaho.gov	208-334-2682
	Tricia Canaday, SHPO Administrator/SHPO Deputy		210 Main Street Boise, ID 83702 Phone: (208) 334-3861	tricia.canaday@ishs.idaho.gov Office: SHPO@ishs.idaho.gov	208-488-7462
Idaho Fish and Game	Regional Office - Panhandle		2885 W. Kathleen Ave. Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815		208-769-1414 Fax: 208-769-1418
Idaho State Legislature	State Senator Scott Herndon	State Senate	246 Otts Road, Sagle, ID, 83860	sherndon@senate.idaho.gov	208-610-2680

Organization	Contact Name	Affiliation	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
					Statehouse 208-332-1349 (Session Only)
	State Representative Mark Sauter	State House of Representatives	PO Box 1031, Sandpoint, ID, 83864	msauter@house.idaho.gov	208-332-1035 Statehouse:208-332-1035 (Session Only)
	State Representative Sage G. Dixon		PO Box 206, Ponderay, ID, 83852	sdixon@house.idaho.gov	208-610-4800 Statehouse: (208) 332-1185 (Session Only)
Idaho Office of the Governor	Governor Brad Little	Governor's Office	PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720	Comment form: <a href="https://gov.idaho.gov/contact/">https://gov.idaho.gov/contact/</a>	208-334-2100 Fax: 208-854-3036
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	Daniel McCracken, Regional Administrator	Coeur d'Alene Regional Office	2110 Ironwood Parkway Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814	dan.mccracken@deq.idaho.gov	208-666-4621
<b>Canadian Government</b>					
BC Ministry of Transportation	Hugh Eberle, Manager of West Kootenay District			hugh.eberle@gov.bc.ca	
Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)	Ryan Vanderstar, Assistant Director	Pacific Region		ryan.vanderstar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca	
<b>Tribal Governments</b>					
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	Jennifer Porter, Chair		PO Box 1269 Bonner's Ferry, ID 83805	jennifer@kootenai.org	
<b>Local Governments</b>					
	Wally Cossairt,		P.O. Box 419		208-267-7723

Organization	Contact Name	Affiliation	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Boundary County, Idaho	Commissioner, Dist. 1	Boundary County Idaho Government	Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805	commissioners@boundarycountyid.org	Fax: 208-267-7814
	Tim Bertling, Commissioner, Dist. 2				
	Glenda Poston, Boundary County Clerk				
	Michelle Rohrwasser, Boundary County Commission Clerk				
	Dan Dinning, Commissioner, Dist. 3				
	Caleb Davis, Chair	Boundary County Planning and Zoning	Planning & Zoning P.O. Box 419 Bonners Ferry, ID 83805	planning@ruenyeager.com	208-265-4629
	Wade Purdom, Co-Chair	Boundary County Road & Bridge	Road & Bridge 73 Sunrise RD P.O. Box 1418 Bonners Ferry, ID 83805		
	Renee Nelson, Co-Superintendent			rnelson@boundarycountyid.org	208-267-3838 Fax:208-267-7978
	Randy Morris			rmorris@boundarycountyid.org	
	City of Bonners Ferry	James R. "Dick" Staples	Office of the Mayor	7232 Main St. P.O. Box 149 Bonners Ferry, ID 83805	
Rick Alonzo, City Council President		City Council			
Brion Poston, City Council Member					
Ron Smith, City Council Member					
Valerie Thompson, City Council Member					
Lisa M. Ailport, AICP, City Administrator					lailport@bonnersferry.id.gov

Organization	Contact Name	Affiliation	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
					City Hall: 208-267-3105
	Christine McNair, City Clerk			cmcnair@bonnersferry.id.gov	
<b>Public and Private Organizations</b>					
Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce	Patti Solt, Board Member		6373 Bonner St. Bonners Ferry, ID 83805	info@bonnersferrychamber.org	208-290-1143
Boundary County Historical Society, Inc.	Cal Russell, President		7229 Main Street Bonners Ferry, ID 83805	bcmuseum@meadowcrk.com	208-267-7720
Boundary Economic Development Council	David Sims, Director		P.O. Box 149 Bonners Ferry, ID 83805	dsims@boundaryedc.com	208-304-2567
<b>Adjacent Landowners</b>					
	Diane Jacobson and Lars Jacobson	Land Owner – Jake’s Landing	██████████	████████████████████	██████████



GSA, Northwest/Arctic Region

May 1, 2023

Dear Interested Reader,

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts from the proposed modernization and expansion of the existing Porthill Land Port of Entry (LPOE).

The Porthill LPOE is an inspection facility where U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processes personal vehicles, buses, pedestrians, and limited commercial traffic at the U.S-Canada border in Porthill, Idaho, east of the Kootenai River. The LPOE resides at the intersection of Highway 1 and the international border, and has two primary, non-commercial lanes, with one lane that can process permitted commercial traffic. The current facilities no longer function adequately and cannot meet current operational needs. Traffic flow through the port is currently inefficient and susceptible to congestion and delays.

The EA will consider one “no action” alternative and two “action” alternatives. Alternative 1 consists of the “no action” alternative, which assumes that GSA would not expand or modernize the Porthill LPOE and that operations would continue under the current conditions. Alternative 2 consists of a small port prototype with full demolition of the original facilities once construction of the new facilities is complete. Alternative 3 consists of a small port prototype with partial demolition. This would include the expansion and renovation of the Porthill LPOE like Alternative 2, but only the aboveground structures would be demolished. Alternative 3 would continue to use existing site foundations and utilities.

A public meeting will be held virtually via Zoom from 5 to 7 PM PDT on May 17, 2023. Project information will be presented at the meeting via a PowerPoint presentation, posters, and a handout. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide written comments regarding the scope of the EA. The registration link to attend the meeting is available below:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckfumrqT0qHd1\\_ismttlzueRFT6AMdFVve](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckfumrqT0qHd1_ismttlzueRFT6AMdFVve).



You may submit comments during the Zoom meeting or at any time during the comment period. Comments must be postmarked and submitted by June 5, 2023 and can be submitted using the following methods:

- **Comment Form:** Submit comments at the virtual public meeting or throughout the comment period via comment form. The comment form is available on the project website: <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/regions/welcome-to-the-northwest-arctic-region-10/buildings-and-facilities/idaho/porthill-land-port-of-entry>.
- **Email:** [PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov](mailto:PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov). Include **Porthill LPOE EA** in the subject line of the message.
- **Mail:** Send written comments to the below address.  
General Services Administration  
*Attention:* Emily Grimes, NEPA Project Manager  
1301 A Street, Suite 610, Tacoma, WA 98402

For further information, contact Emily Grimes, GSA NEPA Project Manager, at 253-394-4026. For press inquiries, contact Christi Chidester Votisek, Public Affairs Officer, at 253-931-7127.



## **APPENDIX D: PUBLIC MEETING HANDOUTS AND REGISTRATION**

# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process



- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider potential environmental impacts before making a decision or taking action on their projects. The environmental review process under NEPA provides an opportunity for you to be involved in the Federal agency decision-making process. The views and comments of the public are important to the NEPA process and help determine the scope and content for the environmental analysis.
- The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) establishes a process to identify any historic properties that could be affected by the project or action, assess the effects of the project, and seek ways to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties. GSA will pursue and complete compliance with NHPA during the NEPA process.



# Project Background



- The Porthill Land Port of Entry (LPOE) is located in northern Idaho and processes personal vehicles, buses, pedestrians, and limited commercial traffic.
- The existing facilities at the LPOE are too small to accommodate the current staff. Additionally, current traffic flow through the LPOE is inefficient, which causes congestion and delays. This project seeks to expand and modernize the Porthill LPOE to meet the current operational needs.





# Proposed Alternatives



The EA will consider two “action” alternatives and one “no action” alternative. The two “action” alternatives would consist of renovation and expansion activities at the existing Porthill LPOE. Both “action” alternatives could include the following activities:

- Construction and operation of a new main building for the port facility;
- Construction of a small port prototype;
- Addition of inspection lanes and associated canopy and booth spaces for commercial and personal vehicles; and
- Full or partial demolition of existing LPOE structures.

The “no action” alternative assumes that any demolition of existing facilities, construction of new facilities, and expansion of LPOE operations would not occur. The LPOE would continue to operate under current conditions.

# Submitting Comments

1. Fill out a comment form and submit it during this meeting or throughout the comment period.

2. Email comment to [PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov](mailto:PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov). Include "Porthill LPOE EA" in the subject line of the message.

3. Mail comment by June 5, 2023 to:

Attention: Emily Grimes  
NEPA Project Manager  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1301 A Street, Suite 610  
Tacoma, WA 98402

4. For press inquiries only, please contact Christi Chidester Votisek at (253) 931-7127 or [christina.chidester@gsa.gov](mailto:christina.chidester@gsa.gov)



**Thank you for your participation!**

Please comment by either mailing to the address provided; or submitting online at:

[PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov](mailto:PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov)

Please reference **“Porthill LPOE EA”** in the subject line of the email. Comments **MUST** be postmarked on or before June 5<sup>th</sup> to ensure full consideration during the scoping process.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place  
Stamp  
Here

General Services Administration  
Attention: Emily Grimes, Environmental Program Manager  
1301 A Street, Suite 610  
Tacoma, WA 9840

Tape Here

**GSA Porthill Land Port of Entry EA  
Scoping Comment Form**



Public participation is an essential component of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and GSA welcomes comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the expansion of a Land Port of Entry (LPOE) at Porthill, ID.

Please fill out the following form to ensure that the analysis, and ultimately the decision, considers the affected communities’ opinions.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list and receive information about the project, please provide your email or mailing address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box below if you would like to be informed of project updates.

Yes, mail/email to the above address.



## Virtual Sign-in Sheet

Name	Email	Affiliation	Informed of project updates?
Cindy McQueen	[REDACTED]	none	Yes, via email
Emily Good	good.emily@epa.gov	EPA	Yes, via email
Nathalie Jacque	nathalie.jacque@solvllc.com	Solv	n/a
Rick Rachow	rick.rachow@gsa.gov	GSA	n/a
DR DWIGHT SANDERS SE	[REDACTED]	none	Yes, via email
Kate Gill	kate.gill@gsa.gov	GSA	n/a
Leon Kolankiewicz	Leon.Kolankiewicz@solvllc.com	Solv	n/a
Caleb Davis	Caleb.Davis@mail.house.gov	Representative Fulcher's Office	Yes, via email
Emily Grimes	emily.grimes@gsa.gov	GSA	n/a
Michael Clark	[REDACTED]	none	Yes, via email
Lars Jacobson	[REDACTED]	none	Yes, via email
Marc Kilmer	marc_kilmer@risch.senate.gov	Senator Risch's Office	Yes, via email
David Sims	dsims@boundaryedc.com	Boundary Economic Development Council	Yes, via email
Ryan Vanderstar	Ryan.Vanderstar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca	CBSA	Yes, via email
Melissa Mertz	melissa.mertz@gsa.gov	GSA	n/a
Melissa Hibray	melissa.hibray@gsa.gov	GSA	n/a
Kimberly Johnson	kimberly.johnson@gsa.gov	GSA	n/a
Kim Gant	kimberly.gant@gsa.gov	GSA	n/a



## **APPENDIX E: INDEX OF COMMENTS BY SOURCE AND DATE**

Commenter					
Code	Date	Name	Affiliation	Nature of comment	Comment method
A1	5/11/2023	Dan Conner	Idaho Transportation Department	Public Scoping Meeting; Expressed interest in the public meeting, but noted that they would be unable to attend.	Email
P1	5/17/2023	Cindy McQueen	Public	Purpose and Need; Requested more information about the need for expanded facilities at the Porthill LPOE. Specifically wondered why the facility needed to increase nearly 3x in size	Scoping Meeting
A2	5/17/2023	Caleb Davis	Congressman Fulcher's Office	Traffic and Transportation; Requested information on how many additional lanes would occur and the previous traffic at the port.	Scoping Meeting
A2	5/17/2023	Caleb Davis	Congressman Fulcher's Office	Request for information; Requested to review the 2018 feasibility study.	Scoping Meeting
P2	5/17/2023	Lars Jacobson	Public	Request for information; Wanted additional project updates and to be added to the project mailing list.	Scoping Meeting
P2	5/17/2023	Lars Jacobson	Public	Request for information; Requested updates on the surveys that were going to occur on their property.	Scoping Meeting
A3	5/17/2023	Marc Kilmer	Senator Jim Risch's Office	Request for information; Wanted additional information on how properties were identified for acquisition, and how they would be acquired (Specifically referenced eminent domain).	Scoping Meeting
A4	5/18/2023	Dottie Gray	Boundary County Historical Society	Historical Resources; Stated that Porthill is a historic area and could potentially contain historical artifacts. Requested that the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Boundary County Historical Society be contacted if any artifacts are exposed during construction.	Email
A5	6/2/2023	Senator Jim Risch's Office	Senator Jim Risch's Office	Request for Information; Requested additional information from CBP on the expansion and a copy of the feasibility study if available.	Congressional Inquiry
A5	6/2/2023	Senator Jim Risch's Office	Senator Jim Risch's Office	Public Outreach; Noted that locals in Boundary County, Idaho are interested and suggested that CBP conduct outreach	Congressional Inquiry
A6	6/5/2023	Rebecca Chu	EPA	Air Quality; Requested that the Draft EA assess potential impacts the project may have on air quality, including air pollutant emissions and the potential exposure of these pollutants to nearby populations. Recommended that the Draft EA discusses measures to minimize impacts and decrease exposure of pollutants to sensitive populations.	Email
A6	6/5/2023	Rebecca Chu	EPA	Environmental Justice; Requested that the Draft EA assess potential impacts the project may have on communities with EJ concerns and recommended resources for identifying and considering potential EJ communities in the vicinity of the project area.	Email
A6	6/5/2023	Rebecca Chu	EPA	Tribal Consultation; Encouraged that GSA consult with local tribes and incorporate their feedback into the Draft EA.	Email
A6	6/5/2023	Rebecca Chu	EPA	Water Quality; Requested that the Draft EA assess potential impacts the project may have on water quality and noted that the Draft EA should discuss any potential	Email
P3	6/8/2023	Marcy Good	Public	Public Scoping Meeting; Wanted to view the recording of the public meeting that was held on May 17.	Email

## **APPENDIX F: PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

**From:** [Dan Conner](#)  
**To:** [kevin.ebert@solvllc.com](mailto:kevin.ebert@solvllc.com)  
**Subject:** RE: GSA Porthill Land Port of Entry Environmental Assessment  
**Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 5:33:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---

Thank you Kevin,

Normally I would probably attend. In this case I'll be traveling back from a conference. Thank you for the communication and I'd love to hear how everything turns out.

Dan

Dan Conner  
Airport Manager  
Idaho Transportation Department  
Idaho Division of Aeronautics

1390 W. Gowen Rd  
Boise, ID, 83705  
(208) 334-8893

[dan.conner@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:dan.conner@itd.idaho.gov)

Visit us at: [itd.idaho.gov/aero](http://itd.idaho.gov/aero)

---

**From:** kevin.ebert@solvllc.com <kevin.ebert@solvllc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 04, 2023 3:00 PM  
**To:** Dan Conner <Dan.Conner@itd.idaho.gov>  
**Subject:** GSA Porthill Land Port of Entry Environmental Assessment

**CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.**

---

Dear Dan Conner,

I am a contracted environmental scientist assisting the General Services Administration (GSA) with the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the modernization of the Porthill, Idaho Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The attached letter describes details of the project, provides instructions for how to comment, and includes the link to register for the upcoming virtual public meeting on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please direct all questions regarding the project to [PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov](mailto:PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov).

Thank you,



Kevin Ebert

703 760 4801 ext. 188

[kevin.ebert@solvllc.com](mailto:kevin.ebert@solvllc.com)

**MailPlus Server has detected a possible fraud attempt from "protect-us.mimecast.com" claiming to be [www.solvllc.com](http://www.solvllc.com)**

**From:** [bcmuseum@meadowcrk.com](mailto:bcmuseum@meadowcrk.com)  
**To:** [kevin.ebert@solvllc.com](mailto:kevin.ebert@solvllc.com)  
**Subject:** Re: GSA Porthill Land Port of Entry Environmental Assessment  
**Date:** Thursday, May 18, 2023 2:21:16 PM

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Dear Kevin Ebert,

The Boundary County Historical Society is in receipt of your emails and the letter regarding GSA Porthill Land Port of Entry Environmental Assessment, and would like to respond and thank you for including the Historical Society in the process of preparing an environmental assessment. We have forwarded your information to Jennifer Porter, Chair of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho for her perusal also.

Historical Field Researcher, Terry Howe, has read the information and letter and provided his opinion on historic interest in the Porthill area. He believes there is nothing particular to be aware of. However, that being said, we would like to note that Porthill is an historic area, once inhabited by David McLoughlin who ran a trading post at Fort Flatbow/Ockonook and his wife Annie Grizzly, a Kootenai Tribal member. They claimed 160 acres and raised potatoes as well as nine children on their parcel of land. It is, therefore, possible that construction may uncover some artifacts dating back to the 1860s-1870s. We would request that both the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Historical Society be consulted if any artifacts are exposed before continuing with construction efforts.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to be included in this assessment process.

Sincerely,  
Dottie Gray, Secretary  
Boundary County Historical Society, Inc.

On 2023-05-04 2:08 pm, kevin.ebert@solvllc.com wrote:

> Dear Cal Russell,  
>  
> I am a contracted environmental scientist assisting the General  
> Services Administration (GSA) with the preparation of an Environmental  
> Assessment (EA) for the modernization of the Porthill, Idaho Land Port  
> of Entry (LPOE). The attached letter describes details of the project,  
> provides instructions for how to comment, and includes the link to  
> register for the upcoming virtual public meeting on Wednesday, May  
> 17th. Please direct all questions regarding the project to  
> PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov.  
>  
> Thank you,  
>  
> Kevin Ebert            703 760 4801 ext. 188

>  
>           kevin.ebert@solvllc.com  
>  
>           www.solvllc.com [1]  
>  
>  
>  
> Links:  
> -----  
> [1] <http://www.solvllc.com>

## Expansion of Porthill LPOE Inquiry

**ACTION:** Please provide a response to Senator Risch's office, communicating the feasibility study and any additional information. No template identified.

**BACKGROUND:** Senator Risch's office reached out to OCA for information on the expansion of Porthill and the feasibility study that was conducted. Could you please provide a response and any additional information by COB 6/2 that I can share with the staff?

### **Staffer's Inquiry:**

I sat in on GSA's recent Zoom meeting regarding the plans to expand Porthill. GSA did not have much information on what CBP had planned regarding the expansion. Do you have anything you can share about what is planned at Porthill? Do you have the feasibility study that you could share? I know that Rep. Fulcher's office and Sen. Crapo's office are also interested in learning more about this. When talking to locals in Boundary County they are also interested in learning more about this. It may be a good idea for CBP to do some outreach in the area.

### **Response:**

Built in 1967, the Porthill LPOE is a limited-service port between Porthill, Idaho, and eastern British Columbia and primarily processes POV and bus traffic, but also processes a limited number of pedestrians (mostly hikers) and permitted commercial traffic.

The current modernization project funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is slated for completion in 2028 and includes:

- Site acquisition of land to be purchased from the State of Idaho and a private landowner
- Site development to reshape existing hilltop areas and slopes
- Construction of new inspection facilities
- Increase in privately owned vehicle capacity from one to three lanes

GSA's March 2019 project fact sheet is attached for reference. Additional information can be found at [GSA's Porthill LPOE site](#).





# Porthill Land Port of Entry

Border crossing station in Porthill, Idaho  
Estimated Budget: \$45 million - \$55 million



### Primary Tenants



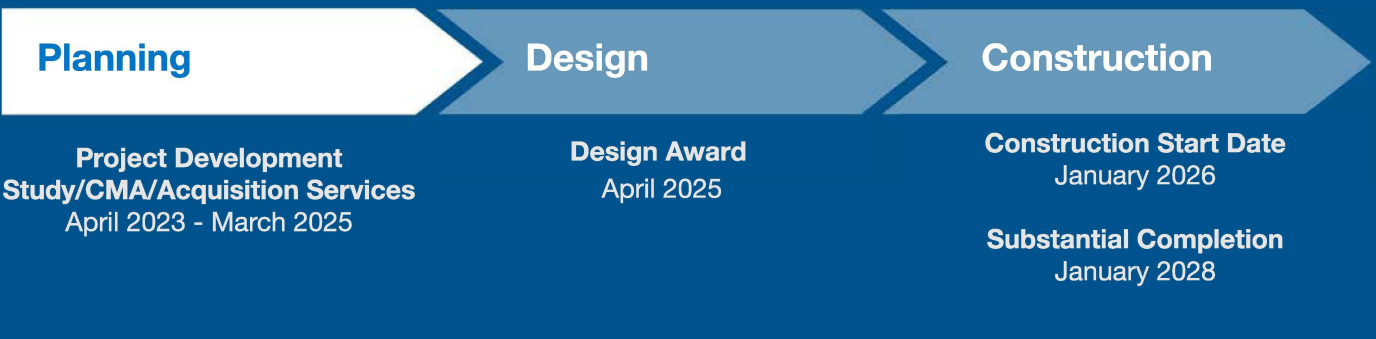
### Project Overview

The Porthill LPOE is a limited-service port of entry operating 12 hours a day, seven days a week between Porthill, Idaho and eastern British Columbia, Canada. It primarily serves personal vehicles and buses, but also processes a limited number of pedestrians (mostly hikers) and permitted commercial truck traffic. It is relatively remote: 27 miles northwest of Bonners Ferry, ID. After 55 years of continuous operation, the Porthill LPOE is no longer able to meet the operational needs of CBP. The Port Expansion project will enhance the Port's operational efficiency and capability, providing new, modern and energy efficient facilities to house port operations and processing functions.

### Current Status

GSA awarded a contract to Solv LLC, a small business, for an Environmental Assessment on December 20, 2022.

### Project Timeline



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes \$3.4 billion for GSA to modernize and construct land ports of entry along the nation's borders. These projects will strengthen supply chains, create good-paying jobs, enhance safety and security, and serve as models of sustainability.

Contact:  
Christi Chidester Votisek, GSA Public Affairs Officer, christina.chidester@gsa.gov

[www.gsa.gov/Porthill](http://www.gsa.gov/Porthill)



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155, 14-D12  
Seattle, WA 98101-3144

REGIONAL  
ADMINISTRATOR'S  
DIVISION

June 5, 2023

Emily Grimes, Environmental Program Manager  
General Services Administration  
1301 A Street, Suite 610  
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Dear Emily Grimes:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed General Services Administration's May 2023 notice to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Porthill Land Port of Entry (EPA Project Number 23-0020-GSA). EPA has conducted its review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and our review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The CAA Section 309 role is unique to EPA and requires EPA to review and comment publicly on any proposed federal action subject to NEPA's environmental impact statement requirement.

The Draft EA will consider the effects of proposed expansion and modernization of the Porthill Land Port of Entry located in Northern Idaho, bordering Eastern British Columbia, Canada. The DEA will consider two action alternatives and one "no action" alternative. Both action alternatives would include renovation and expansion activities and may include construction of a new main building, a small port prototype, additional inspection lanes and full or partial demolition of existing LPOE structures.

EPA recognizes GSA's public participation engagement opportunities, including the May 10<sup>th</sup> virtual public meeting, and encourages further meaningful engagement opportunities, including environmental justice (EJ) concerns. EPA's detailed comments include recommendations for the NEPA analysis related to air quality impacts, EJ concerns, tribal consultation, and water quality impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments for this project. If you have questions about this review, please contact Emily Good of my staff at 208-378-5760 and [good.emily@epa.gov](mailto:good.emily@epa.gov) or me, at (206) 553-1774 or at [chu.rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:chu.rebecca@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

**REBECCA  
CHU**

Digitally signed by  
REBECCA CHU  
Date: 2023.06.05  
14:01:35 -07'00'

Rebecca Chu, Chief  
Policy and Environmental Review Branch

Enclosure

**U.S. EPA Detailed Comments on the  
Porthill Land Port of Entry Project  
Porthill, Idaho  
June 5, 2023**

**Air Quality**

EPA recommends the DEA assess potential air quality impacts during activities including construction, maintenance and operations associated with increased vehicle traffic from border crossings. Include in the analysis evaluating air toxics and criteria air pollutants, including diesel particulate matter emissions and fugitive dust emissions.

For potential air pollutant emissions during construction and from vehicle traffic associated with the border crossing, identify potential exposure of these pollutants to nearby populations. EPA recommends including a discussion of measures to minimize air quality impacts to the local environment and decrease exposure of construction related emissions to sensitive populations.

**Environmental Justice (EJ)**

*Executive Order 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*<sup>1</sup> highlights the need for a whole-of-government effort to confront longstanding environmental injustices and inequities. Consistent with Executive Order 12898, EO 14096 calls on each agency to make achieving EJ part of its mission, including by carrying out environmental reviews under NEPA in a manner that analyzes direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of federal actions on communities with EJ concerns.

EPA recommends utilizing tools such as EJScreen, which is a national consistent EJ screening and mapping tool<sup>2</sup>. Identifying communities with potential EJ concerns is an important first step for assessing and addressing the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of federal actions on communities with EJ concerns. EJScreen enables users to compile data that better helps them understand the concerns of impacted communities.

Projects in rural locations such as Bonners Ferry and Porthill, Idaho have potential have communities with EJ concerns. Critical service gaps such as food deserts and medically underserved areas are common EJ concerns associated with rural communities. It is also important that tribes and Indigenous peoples be considered when identifying communities with EJ concerns given the proximity of the project to the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho.

CEQ's *Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act* (1997) (CEQ's EJ Guidance) states that "Review of NEPA compliance (such as EPA's review under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act) must ensure that the lead agency preparing NEPA analyses and documentation has appropriately analyzed environmental effects on minority populations, low-income populations, or Indian tribes, including human health, social, and economic effects."<sup>3,4</sup> CEQ's EJ Guidance also

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/04/21/executive-order-on-revitalizing-our-nations-commitment-to-environmental-justice-for-all/>. Accessed 5/23/23

<sup>2</sup> <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

<sup>3</sup> Council on Environmental Quality. *Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act*, pg. 3-4. [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-02/documents/ej\\_guidance\\_nepa\\_ceq1297.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-02/documents/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Council on Environmental Quality. *Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act*, pg. 10. [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-02/documents/ej\\_guidance\\_nepa\\_ceq1297.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-02/documents/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf)

states that ““Under NEPA, the identification of a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effect on a low-income population, minority population, or Indian tribe does not preclude a proposed agency action from going forward, nor does it necessarily compel a conclusion that a proposed action is environmental unsatisfactory. Rather, the identification of such an effect should heighten agency attention to alternatives (including alternative sites), mitigation strategies, monitoring needs, and preferences expressed by the affected community or population.”<sup>5</sup>

EPA recommends utilizing data from EJ Screen as an initial step to help inform scoping efforts and provide meaningful engagement opportunities for communities with EJ concerns (tribal and non-tribal). EPA recommends the "Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews" report as a resource to apply to this project.<sup>6</sup> This report compiles methodologies from current agency practices for integrating EJ considerations in NEPA processes. Additional strategies for meaningful engagement include:

- Providing timely opportunities for members of the public to participate in decision-making processes.
- Seeking out and encouraging the involvement of persons and communities potentially affected by federal activities including people who are potentially affected and who are not regular participants in federal decision-making.
- Providing meaningful access to individuals with limited English proficiency or individuals with disabilities.
- Providing technical assistance, tools, and resources to assist in facilitating meaningful and informed public participation.

### **Tribal Consultation**

EPA encourages GSA to consult with the tribes and incorporate feedback from the tribes when making decisions regarding the project. EPA recommends the DEA describe the issues raised during the consultations and how those issues were addressed.

### **Water Quality**

EPA recommends the DEA assess potential water quality impacts during activities including construction, maintenance and operations associated with increased vehicle traffic from border crossers. Increased pollution due to the listed activities has the potential to increase runoff into the Kootenai River which has the potential to impact the neighboring Boundary Creek Wildlife Management area and other sensitive ecosystems.

### ***CWA § 303(d)***

The Clean Water Act requires identification of impaired waters that do not meet water quality standards, establish priority rankings, and develop action plans referred to as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to improve water quality. EPA suggests the inclusion of any information pertinent to CWA § 303(d) be included in the DEA, particularly regarding the Kootenai river and any efforts related to TMDLs. If effects are found, discuss potential impairments to waterbodies and possible mitigation techniques.

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<sup>5</sup> Council on Environmental Quality. Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act, pg. 10. [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-02/documents/ej\\_guidance\\_nepa\\_ceq1297.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-02/documents/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-iwg-promising-practices-ej-methodologies-nepa-reviews>. Accessed 5/29/23

**From:** [Emily Grimes - 10PMEA](#)  
**To:** [nathalie.jacque@solvlc.com](mailto:nathalie.jacque@solvlc.com); [robbie.baldwin@solvlc.com](mailto:robbie.baldwin@solvlc.com); [kevin.ebert@solvlc.com](mailto:kevin.ebert@solvlc.com)  
**Subject:** Fwd: 5/17 Public Meeting Recording?  
**Date:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 1:23:53 PM

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Here is a comment from someone asking about the meeting recording.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Porthill LPOE Project Inbox <PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov>  
Date: Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 10:18:42 AM UTC-7  
Subject: Re: 5/17 Public Meeting Recording?  
To: Porthill LPOE Project Inbox <PorthillLPOE@gsa.gov>  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Hi Marcy,

Yes, the link to the public meeting can be found [here](#), under the Environmental Review section on the Porthill LPOE webpage.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

On Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 3:27:00 PM UTC-7 Marcy Good wrote:

Hello,

Is there a link online to the recording of the public meeting held on May 17, 2023 for the Porthill Land Port of Entry?

Best,

**Marcy Good**—

Principal

[REDACTED]

[mithun.com](http://mithun.com)

**[2023 AIA Architecture Firm Award Winner](#)**