

Public Scoping

WHAT IS PUBLIC SCOPING?

Public scoping is:

- An early and open process, conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for identifying issues and alternatives to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and determining who is interested in the proposed action.
- Begins with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* stating an agency's intent to prepare an EIS.

The U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) published an NOI to prepare an EIS for T-7A Recapitalization at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi in the Federal Register on March 29, 2022.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING PUBLIC SCOPING?

During public scoping, DAF:

- Provides information about the proposed action and alternatives being considered.
- Corresponds with federal, state, and local stakeholders.
- Conducts public outreach.
- Requests comments.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE PUBLIC HAVE DURING PUBLIC SCOPING?

During public scoping, government agencies, stakeholders, and the public are invited to:

- Identify issues and concerns, and provide new information, data, and suggestions.
- Request information.
- Participate in public outreach opportunities.
- Submit comments, relevant information, and questions.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER PUBLIC SCOPING HAS ENDED?

After the public scoping period has ended, DAF will:

- Incorporate public input into the proposal and develop the Draft EIS, which is expected to be completed in late 2022.
- Make the Draft EIS available to the public for review for a minimum of 45 days.
- Incorporate applicable input on the Draft EIS into the development of the Final EIS, which is anticipated in mid 2023; a Record of Decision could be signed no sooner than 30 days after the Final EIS is released.

