



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 19 2009

Mr. Ravi Ajodah
99th Regional Support Command
Ernie Pyle United States Army Reserve Center
Fort Totten
Queens, NY 11359

Dear Mr. Ajodah:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Army Reserve Center (USARC) Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed military construction project to be constructed next to Interstate 87 (I-87), west of Kings Highway/ County Route 31, 2 miles southwest of the Village of Saugerties, Ulster County, New York. The proposed action would construct a training building, organizational maintenance shop, unheated storage building and organizational parking for military and privately owned vehicles.

We recognize that the comment period has closed, but EPA would like to use this opportunity to encourage the USARC and the developer to implement greener practices and techniques during the construction and operation of the project. For example, air emissions during construction will include particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀). To reduce the potential health and environmental impacts of these pollutants in the project area and to improve the working conditions of the workers, the installation of diesel particle filters (DPF) on construction equipment should be considered. DPFs can reduce diesel particle emissions by 90 percent for stationary and non-stationary diesel equipment. To learn more about this technology and its application, you can reference DPFs at <http://www.epa.gov/oms/retrofit/nonroad-list.htm> or contact us directly.

Moreover, we would like to take this opportunity to provide the developer as well as their consultants/contractors with information on alternative/green building materials and energy and water efficient products. Materials such as plastic lumber, porous concrete, cinder gravel, modular blocks, and crushed granite are widely available and their use should be evaluated for future projects. Since your project involves the construction of parking spaces, we also strongly urge the use of rain gardens (also known as bioretention facilities). Rain gardens may be constructed in a parking island or linearly along a roadway with curb-cut inlets. These areas can be constructed along the edge of traditional parking spaces – the landscaped area is placed where the front or back of vehicles would overhang. Since this space is not used for wheel contact, valuable parking space is not sacrificed.

To meet electrical needs during construction and operation of the project, EPA recommends obtaining electricity from renewable sources. The Department of Energy's "Green Power Network" (GPN) provides information and markets that can be used to supply alternative generated electricity. The following link identifies several suppliers of renewable energy.

http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml?state=NJ

Finally, we ask that the USARC encourage the contractor to consider use of recycled industrial materials, such as coal ash in concrete, which can reduce the overall environmental footprint of the project. The environmental benefits include reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced land disposal requirements, and reduced utilization of virgin resources. Information on recycled materials can be found at www.epa.gov/osw/conserves/rrr/imr/indust.htm.

EPA would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the construction project for USARC in Ulster County, New York. If you have any questions regarding this review or our comments, please contact Charles Harewood of my staff at 212-637-3753.

Sincerely yours,



Grace Musumeci, Chief
Environmental Review Section