

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
AND  
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
(FONSI)**

*Prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act*

**Veterans' Cemetery**

Middletown, Connecticut  
State Project No. BI-C-283



**NOVEMBER 2014**

**Participating Agencies:**  
Connecticut Division of Construction Services (DCS)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AND  
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VETERANS' CEMETERY**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**BACKGROUND**

Located at 317 Bow Lane in Middletown, Connecticut, the State Veterans' Cemetery is the largest State-operated veterans' cemetery in Connecticut. The site is set on 24 acres of land, approximately 12 of which are developed. The site currently accommodates approximately 7,400 occupied burial sites, an administration building, and an internal vehicular travelway to access the burial sites. The cemetery was established in 1985. The cemetery is under the administrative control of the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs (CTDVA).

**SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**


The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and the CTDVA in coordination with the Connecticut Division of Construction Services (CTDCS) intend to construct a 3,000-niche columbarium, 3,200 feet of access driveway, limited parking, and improvements to the existing administration building at the Veterans Cemetery located at 317 Bow Lane in Middletown, Connecticut. These improvements are needed in order to bring the existing building up to code, including handicapped access, and to extend the life of the cemetery by approximately ten years, thus providing the necessary time for CTDVA to locate and develop a new state cemetery.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COMMENTS RECEIVED**

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared and advertised for public comment on April 22, 2014. The document was made available for public digital download on the Connecticut Environmental Monitor website. The public was invited to comment on the Draft EA. The public comment period lasted for 30 days and ended on May 22, 2014. Written comments were provided from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Responses to these comments were addressed in the "Response to Comments" dated November 2014 and attached hereto, along with the Final Environmental Assessment.

## DETERMINATION AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

As a result of the impact analysis of the Proposed Action in the EA, implementation of the Proposed Action as described would not have significant unavoidable adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Action will not be prepared.

  
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Joseph Perkins  
Acting DVA Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs

11-7-2014  
Date

Attachment I: *Final Environmental Assessment*

Attachment II: *Record of Environmental Consideration* (prepared in accordance under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act)

Attachment I:  
*Final Environmental Assessment*

Attachment II:  
*Record of Environmental Consideration*  
(Prepared in accordance under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act)



State of Connecticut

# RECORD OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION



## PROPOSED PROJECT/ACTION INFORMATION:

**Project Title:** State Veterans Cemetery Expansion and Improvements  
**Project Address:** 317 Bow Lane, Middletown, Connecticut  
**Sponsoring Agency:** Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs (CTDVA)  
**Sponsoring Agency Representative:** Joseph Perkins, Acting Commissioner, CTDVA  
**DCS Project Manager:** Carl Grodotzke, DCS  
**DPW Project Number:** BI-C-283  
**Project/Action Description:** The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the CTDVA in coordination with the Connecticut Division of Construction Services intend to construct a 3,000-niche columbarium, 3,200 feet of access driveway, limited parking, and improvements to the existing administration building at the Veterans Cemetery located at 317 Bow Lane in Middletown, Connecticut. These improvements are needed in order to bring the existing building up to code, including handicapped access, and to extend the life of the cemetery by approximately ten years, thus providing the necessary time for CTDVA to locate and develop a new state cemetery.

## CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (CEPA) APPLICABILITY:

**Environmental Classification Document (ECD):** Section III of the Generic ECD (10/05/2010). Since the project did not meet the Federal DVA criteria for Categorical Exclusions, an environmental assessment was prepared and a joint scoping notice under CEPA and notice for the draft EA was prepared.

**Determination of Environmental Significance:** See Final EA and Federal Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared. No impacts rise to the level of significance.

**Was early public scoping conducted? Yes**  
**If yes, list date:** April 22, 2014

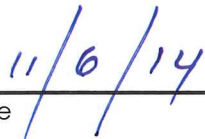
**Was the proposed project/action covered under an existing CEPA document?** Through the Federal NEPA process, an Environmental Assessment was drafted and has been finalized; this documentation is considered a CEPA equivalent type of documentation necessary to comply with CEPA.  
**If yes, list project title, project number, and date:** Final Environmental Assessment, Veterans' Cemetery, BI-C-283, November 2014

## BASED ON THE ABOVE INFORMATION THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

- is excluded or exempt from the requirements of CEPA; or
- has been adequately assessed in existing documents (environmental review) and has been determined not to be environmentally significant; therefore, an Environmental Impact Evaluation is not necessary at this stage of the project. However, if the project scope should significantly change, then an updated review should be conducted.

Prepared by:

  
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 Jeffrey Bolton, Supervising Environmental Analyst  
 DCS Environmental Planning

  
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 Date