



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**HUNTINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**502 EIGHTH STREET**  
**HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701-2070**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Section 202 Buchanan County Nonstructural Project**  
**Hurley High School and Career, Technology & Higher Learning Center Relocation**  
**Buchanan County, Virginia**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Environmental Assessment (EA) dated DATE, for the Section 202 Buchanan County Hurley High School and Career, Technology & Higher Learning Center Relocation addresses the relocation of the existing Hurley High School (high school) and Career, Technology & Higher Learning Center (Career Center) in Buchanan County, Virginia. The purpose of the Buchanan County Nonstructural Project is to implement flood risk management measures to reduce flooding impacts and damages for the residences and businesses of Buchanan County, Virginia.

The Final EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives for flood risk management measures for Hurley High School and the Career, Technology & Higher Learning Center. Section 2.0 of the Draft EA discusses the proposed action and alternatives. The proposed action alternative includes:

- Alternative Plan E Off-Site Relocation of Hurley High School and Alternative Plan G Off-Site Relocation of the Career Center – The high school and Career Center would be relocated from their existing locations in the floodplain to the Southern Gap site located off of Ruffed Grouse Lane in Grundy, Virginia. The schools would be consolidated onto one campus at the Southern Gap site and constructed in accordance with the Virginia Public School Facilities Guidelines. The replacement schools would function the same as the existing high school and Career Center and include the necessary athletic fields and structures, parking areas, and all other appurtenant structures. Utilities already exist on-site and would be buried.
- Construction at the Southern Gap site would be limited to areas previously disturbed by surface mining activities. Some grading would be required for site development at a maximum depth of approximately 14 ft. All fill materials have been inspected and approved by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and would be produced on-site. There would be no borrow areas, and disposal would occur on-site. No blasting would need to occur, but a rock crusher may be required. The site can be accessed via several roads, including County Route 604 and County Route 718. Future developments to U.S. Highway 460 and Highway 744 are expected to improve site accessibility.
- Upon relocation of the schools and associated facilities, the existing high school and Career Center would be demolished and removed. Demolition of the high school and tech center would be limited to their existing footprints within previously disturbed and/or regularly maintained areas. During demolition, access to and from the high school would be via Hurley Road (County Route 643), and access to and from the Career Center would be via County Route 717 and Slate Creek Road (State Route 83). In addition, disposal would occur at an approved landfill.

In addition to a “no action” plan and proposed action alternative (Alternative Plans E and G), five alternatives were evaluated. These alternatives included:

- The No Action Alternative would consist of implementation of design as documented in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) which would leave the high school and Career Center in their current locations. This alternative was considered unacceptable due to the potential safety hazards resulting from future floods and flood damages. However, it is included in the alternatives analysis to establish a baseline condition for existing human and natural environmental conditions, to allow comparison between future without and with project actions, and to determine potential environmental effects of proposed project alternatives.
- Alternative Plan A Dry Floodproofing by Ringwall for the high school would involve constructing a ringwall around the high school as originally proposed in the DPR. This was eliminated as an alternative as it is not feasible due to the inadequate space to construct and operate a ringwall and the unacceptable risk to safely close the gates during a flood.
- Alternative Plan B Dry Floodproofing by Veneer Wall for the high school would involve constructing a veneer wall around the high school. This was eliminated as an alternative due to structural inadequacy associated with the height of the veneer wall, and the numerous openings that extend below the level of protection. Each opening would require some form of closure to protect the structure and there is not enough time or manpower to close all of the required closures in time to safely protect the facilities.
- Alternative Plan C Wet Floodproofing by Raise-In-Place for the high school would involve lifting the entire structure in place. This was eliminated as an alternative due to the potential issues associated with lifting the structure; lack of a flood safe location within the school district for temporary school facilities; and lack of accessibility once the structure has been lifted.
- Alternative Plan D On-Site Relocation for the high school would involve relocating the high school to a new location within its existing boundaries. This was eliminated as an alternative due to insufficient size; need for temporary school facilities; extensive earthwork and associated costs; and the potential risk associated with any delays in construction.
- Alternative Plan E Off-Site Relocation for the high school would involve relocating the high school to the Southern Gap site. This alternative was included in the proposed action alternative.
- Alternative Plan F Dry Floodproofing by Ringwall for the Career Center would involve constructing a ringwall around the Career Center as originally proposed in the DPR. This was eliminated as an alternative moving forward given the alternative plan of offsite relocation submitted by the Buchanan County Board of Education.
- Alternative Plan G Off-Site Relocation for the Career Center would involve relocating the Career Center to the Southern Gap site. This alternative was included in the proposed action alternative.

## SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS:

For all alternatives, the potential effects to the following resources were evaluated, as appropriate. The evaluation of effects was focused on key resources affected by the proposed alternatives. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Action Alternative are listed in Table 1:

**Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action**

Resource	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prime and Unique Farmland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild and Scenic Rivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the Proposed Action Alternative. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the Final EA will be implemented to minimize impacts. For additional details of the proposed action alternative, see Section 4.0 of the Final EA.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan may affect, but is not likely to adversely effect, the following federally listed species of their designated critical habitat: Gray bat, Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bat, and Virginia big-eared bat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurred with the determination on DATE.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps in consultation with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (VSHPO) determined that a Programmatic Agreement would establish procedures for full compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act throughout the duration of the project. The Programmatic Agreement was finalized and signed on DATE.

A 30-day public, state, and agency review of the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was completed on DATE. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final EA and FONSI.

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on these reports, the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not significantly affect the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

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Jayson H. Putnam  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commanding