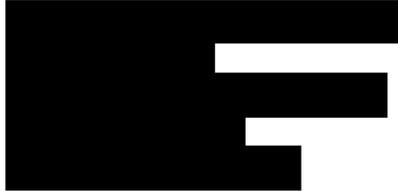




**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

July 23, 2020



**Subject: Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) proposed contract award for the procurement of detention services at a Contractor owned / Contractor operated Detention Facility to be constructed in Livingston County, IL.**



To Whom It May Concern,

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code §§ 4321-4347), ICE is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts of a proposed ICE action. ICE is the principal investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and is the second largest investigative agency in the federal government. Created in 2003 through a merger of the investigative and interior enforcement elements of the U.S. Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, ICE now has more than 20,000 employees in more than 400 offices in the United States and 46 foreign countries. ICE's primary mission is to promote homeland security and public safety through criminal and civil enforcement of federal laws governing border control, customs, trade, and immigration.

In an effort to ensure ICE's primary mission is achieved, ICE is proposing to procure the services of a contractor owned / contractor operated detention facility (CDF) within a 180-mile radius of the ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Chicago Field Office located at 101 W. Ida B. Wells Drive, Suite 4000, Chicago, IL 60605. This CDF must have sufficient detention services, armed transportation services, on-call guard services, administrative and office space services, and parking spaces at the CDF to effectively and efficiently conduct ICE's mission. This mission involves fulfilling orders for the securing and departure activities of detainees who are designated in removal proceedings, and for arranging the detention of detainees when such action becomes necessary and prescribed by law.

ICE requires a timely and immediate technical solution within the ERO Chicago Area of Responsibility (AOR) that provides for a capacity to house up to 1,000 male and female detainees in accordance with the ICE Performance Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 and

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2016 Revisions, and the March 7, 2014, DHS regulation under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA; P.L. 108-79), Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Sexual Abuse and Assault in Confinement Facilities (DHS PREA Standards, 6 C.F.R Part 115). The contractor is responsible for obtaining and maintaining American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation under the most current version of the ACA Adult Local Detention Facilities Standards to include any supplement, and accreditation under the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

Under NEPA, ICE is preparing an EA to evaluate the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. ICE is evaluating two alternatives: the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative. ICE requests comments on the two alternatives summarized below.

**Preferred Action Alternative:** This alternative would involve the construction of a new CDF 1.5 miles west of downtown Dwight, Illinois and immediately east of Highway 55 (Figure 2). The Proposed Action would take place on approximately 27 acres of a 40-acre parcel of land that is relatively flat and is currently disturbed for growing agricultural row crops for at least 20 years. The proposed work is summarized below:

- *Construct a 127,000 square foot secure CDF with outdoor recreation, administrative, legal, and other support spaces. The completed facility footprint will cover approximately 27 acres along the southern side of the proposed property;*
- *300 parking spaces for employees and visitors, plus at least 20 ICE employee parking spaces in a gated area that will be well lit for safety and security;*
- *Necessary potable water and sanitary sewer infrastructure including a potable water main extension and a sanitary sewer pipe that will tie into existing rights-of-way and be supplemented by a new sanitary sewer interceptor that will take effluent to the Dwight wastewater treatment plant;*
- *A stormwater catchment system throughout the facility and parking lots with one detention basin;*
- *Electricity and natural gas infrastructure including extensions for electricity from the east side of the property and natural gas from the north and east sides of the property;*
- *The inclusion of one 2,000-kilowatt (kW) emergency diesel generator for the facility; and*
- *One north-south access road from State Route 17 and one east-west access road from Historic Route 66, with left and right turn lanes and any necessary widening needed to accommodate these lanes.*
- *Operation of the CDF once constructed including a minimum of 362 employees (total), up to 1,000 male and female detainees, and approximately 85 visitors per day.*

The proposed facility would require approximately 12 months to complete construction. Work will involve grading and excavation, framing and finishing, and paving. Construction materials will be

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staged within the footprint of the proposed parking lot. A worksite safety plan would be prepared for the construction period.

**No Action Alternative:** The No Action Alternative would mean that a contract award for the procurement of a CDF through construction or other method would not be implemented. The No Action alternative does not address ICE's need for a timely and immediate contract award for detention facility space for 1,000 male and female detainees and associated services in the ERO Chicago Field Office AOR. Inclusion of the No Action Alternative is prescribed by CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.14) as the benchmark against which proposed Federal actions are evaluated. The No Action Alternative describes the existing conditions in the absence of the Proposed Action.

ICE respectfully requests that the [REDACTED] provide information regarding any concerns, issues, or other comments that it feels should be addressed in this EA. A copy of the draft and final EA will be made available online. Please also inform ICE if someone else within your office other than yourself should be the point of contact for review of the Draft EA.

Your prompt attention to this request would be greatly appreciated. Please direct all correspondence, questions, and requests for additional information to me at the address below, or contact me by phone at (202) 878-1767 or by email at [David.Frenkel@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:David.Frenkel@ice.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

*David Frenkel*

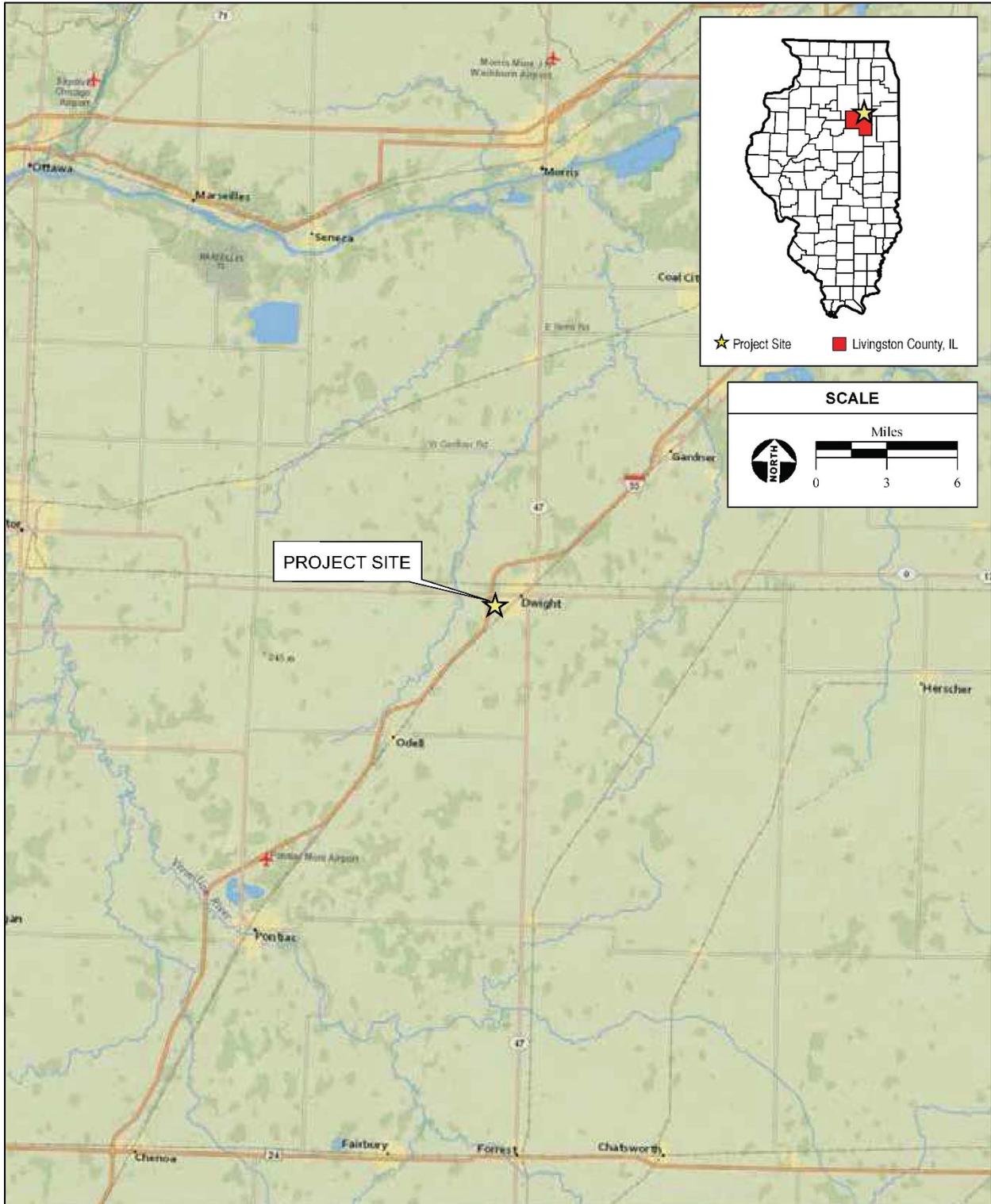
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**Attachments:**

- Figure 1 – Chicago RFP CDF Project Location and Vicinity Map
- Figure 2 – Chicago RFP CDF Blueprint Satellite Imagery Overlay Map

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**Figure 1 – Chicago RFP CDF Project Location and Vicinity Map**



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Figure 2 – Chicago RFP CDF Blueprint Satellite Imagery Overlay Map

