

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

JULY 2022

RED ROCK JOB CORPS CENTER NEW CAFETERIA CONSTRUCTION AND GYMNASIUM ADDITION LOPEZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Prepared for:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of Job Corps

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1-1
1.1	Conclusions	1-2
2.0	INTRODUCTION.....	2-1
3.0	PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION	3-1
3.1	Project Location.....	3-1
3.2	Background 3-1	
3.3	Project Purpose	3-6
3.4	Project Need	3-6
4.0	ALTERNATIVES.....	4-1
4.1	No Action Alternative.....	4-1
4.2	Proposed Action Alternative	4-1
5.0	THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	5-1
5.1	Impact Analysis Methods.....	5-1
5.2	Impact Topics Analyzed.....	5-2
5.3	Cultural Resources	5-10
5.4	Socioeconomic Environment.....	5-16
5.5	Cumulative Impacts	5-21
5.6	Mitigation Measures or Best Management Practices.....	5-22
6.0	FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS	6-1
7.0	AGENCY CONSULTATION.....	7-1
8.0	PREPARERS OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.....	8-1
9.0	REFERENCES	9-1
	APPENDIX A. AGENCY COMMENT SOLICATION LETTERS.....	A-1

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Summary of Impact Analysis for the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives	1-1
Table 2.	Migratory Birds near the Red Rock Job Corps Center	5-6
Table 3.	Housing Characteristics, 2019.....	5-18

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.	Regional Overview.....	3-2
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Figure 2. Project Area Vicinity..... 3-3
Figure 3. Existing Site Plan 3-7
Figure 4. Proposed Action Alternative..... 4-2
Figure 5. Area of Potential Effects (APE)..... 5-12

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACS	American Community Survey
ACM	Asbestos Containing-Materials
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
APE	Area of Potential Effects
BCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BOF	Bureau of Forestry
BOQ	Bachelor Officer's Quarters
BSP	Bureau of State Parks
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMU	Concrete Masonry Unit
CNHI	County Natural Heritage Inventory
CO2	Carbon monoxide
DCNR	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DOL	Department of Labor
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
EPDM	Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HHS	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
HQ-CWF	High Quality Coldwater Fisheries
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
IBA	Important Bird Areas
IPaC	Information, Planning, and Conservation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KVA	Kilovolt-ampere or 1,000 volt amps
MPH	Miles per hour
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCADAC	National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NETR	Nationwide Environmental Title Research
NHA	Natural Heritage Areas
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act

NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PA	Pennsylvania
PADEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PA-SHARE	Pennsylvania's Historic & Archaeological Resource Exchange
PGC	Pennsylvania Game Commission
PHMC	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
PNHP	Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Preservation
SAGE	Semi-Automatic Ground Environment
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
USC	United States Code
USCB	U.S. Census Bureau
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) administers the Job Corps, a national residential training and employment program, that helps young people improve the quality of their lives through vocational and academic training. In support of this mission, DOL oversees residential training campuses nationwide and is responsible for facilities and asset management at the Centers, to include construction as well as operations and maintenance. The purpose of the Proposed Action Alternative is to upgrade and expand existing facilities at the Red Rock Job Corps Center, to improve operations and enhance the student experience.

As required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental assessment (EA) must be prepared, detailing an evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative on the natural and built environment. The proposed action is the construction of a new cafeteria and expansion of the existing gymnasium, including associated infrastructure, and phased demolition of two existing buildings.

Under the No Action Alternative, no new construction would occur and existing facilities would continue to be used.

The Proposed Action Alternative is to construct a new 9,000-square foot cafeteria and a 6,000-square foot addition on the existing gymnasium in the northern portion of the Red Rock Job Corps Center. Construction would include installation of associated water and wastewater lines from the new construction to the current Red Rock Job Corps Center Water and Wastewater Treatment facilities located immediately northwest of the project area. Phased demolition of two existing buildings which currently serve as the dining hall and a recreation building, would also occur.

Table 1 summarizes the evaluation of impacts to resources as a result of the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives. The evaluation performed for this EA shows that no significant impacts would be expected from the Proposed Action Alternative.

Table 1. Summary of Impact Analysis for the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives

Impact Topic (Alphabetical)	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Air Quality	No impact	No impact
Biological and Physical Resources		
Ecologically Critical Areas or Other Unique Natural Resources	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Floodplains and Floodways	Resource not present	Resource not present
Prime and Unique Agricultural Land	Resource not present	Resource not present
Soils and Geology	Little to no measurable impact	Little to no measurable impact
Surface Water (Streams, Ponds, etc.) and Hydrology	No impact	Little to no measurable impact

Table 1. Summary of Impact Analysis for the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives

Impact Topic (Alphabetical)	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitats	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Vegetation	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Wetlands	Resource not present	Resource not present
Wildlife	Little to no measurable impact	Little to no measurable impact
Cultural Resources		
Archeological Resources	Resource not present	Resource not present
Historic Buildings	No impact	No impact
Historic Properties of Religious or Cultural Significance to Native American Tribes	Resource not present	Resource not present
Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Climate Change	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Hazardous and Toxic Substances	No impact	No impact
Land Use	No impact	No impact
Noise	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Socioeconomics		
Economic Development	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Population Demographics	No impact	No impact
Housing	No impact	No impact
Community Services	No impact	No impact
Environmental Justice	No impact	No impact
Indian Trust Resources	Resource not present	Resource not present
Protection of Children	No impact	No impact
Transportation	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Utilities	No impact	Little to no measurable impact

1.1 Conclusions

Based on the analysis discussed in Section 5 of this EA, the Proposed Action Alternative would have no significant adverse impact on the existing natural or built environment. This EA supports a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Action Alternative. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Job Corps is a national residential training and employment program administered by the Department of Labor (DOL). The Job Corps was created during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 as part of Johnson's War on Poverty and Great Society initiatives that sought to expand economic and social opportunities for Americans, especially minorities and the poor. The Job Corps was modeled on the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, which provided room, board and employment to thousands of unemployed people. The Job Corps was originally established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964; authorization for the program continued under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act, then Title IV-B of the Job Training Partnership Act; and is currently provided for under Title I-C of the Workforce Investment Act, 1998.

The Job Corps' mission is to attract eligible young adults, teach them the skills they need to become employable and independent, and develop careers or prepare them for further education. The Job Corps addresses multiple barriers to employment faced by disadvantaged youth throughout the United States.

In support of this mission, DOL oversees residential training campuses nationwide. The agency is responsible for facilities and asset management at the Centers, to include construction as well as operations and maintenance. The DOL proposes to construct a new 9,000-square foot cafeteria and a 6,000-square foot addition on the existing gymnasium in the northern portion of the Red Rock Job Corps Center. Construction would include installation of associated water and wastewater lines from the new construction to the current Red Rock Job Corps Center Water and Wastewater Treatment facilities located immediately northwest of the project area. Phased demolition of two existing buildings which currently serve as the dining hall and a recreation building, would also occur.

This environmental assessment (EA) was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.) and the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500 to 1508).

The purpose and need for the Proposed Action Alternative is defined in Section 3. A description of the project and overview of the alternatives is provided in Section 4. Section 5 describes the affected environment and consequences of the alternatives. Findings and conclusions are reported in Section 6.

3.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

3.1 Project Location

The Red Rock Job Corps Center is located at Route 487 North, Lopez, Sullivan County, Pennsylvania 18628, on 96 acres of land within the Ricketts Glen State Park. The Center is approximately 9 miles south/southeast of Lopez, Pennsylvania and 5 miles north of Red Rock, Pennsylvania (Figures 1 and 2). Wilkes-Barre, the largest city in the vicinity is about 35 miles east of the Center. The Center operator is ResCare Workforce Services, Inc. and its subcontractor, SIRCOMed, LLC (DOL 2018a). The project site is located at approximately 41°21'35.3" north latitude and -76°17'55.0" west longitude. Average elevation of the site is approximately 2,360 feet above mean sea level.

3.2 Background

The Red Rock Job Corps Center campus is generally hilly, with the main campus located on a mountain ridge plateau. The Center is surrounded by Ricketts Glen State Park, a National Natural Landmark characterized by scenic waterfalls and old-growth forest (DOL 2018a). The Red Rock Job Corps Center has 215,505 gross square feet in 37 buildings, 26 structures, and 7 staff residences (DOL 2018a).

3.2.1 Ricketts Glen State Park

Colonel Robert Bruce Ricketts, a Civil War veteran and land speculator, owned or controlled more than 80,000 acres in northern Pennsylvania that he sold or leased to timber interests (Pidgeon 2014). His father and uncle owned and operated the Stone House, a lodge and tavern near Ganoga Lake, about less than one mile west of the current Red Rock Job Corps Center. Guests of the Stone House discovered the parallel gorges of Kitchen Creek and its 22 waterfalls flowing through a glen of giant pines, hemlocks, and oaks; this area would become the nucleus of Ricketts Glen State Park (Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [DCNR] n.d.; Pidgeon 2014). Construction on the Falls Trail began in 1889 and it opened in 1893. Colonel Ricketts died in 1918, and his heirs, through the Central Penn Lumber Company, sold 48,000 acres to the Pennsylvania Game Commission from 1920 through 1924, retaining 12,000 acres around the Stone House estate and waterfalls (Pennsylvania DCNR n.d.; Pidgeon 2014). In 1942, the heirs sold 1,261 acres including the Falls and Glens area to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a state park (Pennsylvania DCNR n.d.). Additional land purchased from Colonel Ricketts' son in 1943 and 1949 resulted in a park nucleus of approximately 10,000 acres; other purchases increased the park to its present size. In 1969, the Ricketts Glen State Park was declared a National Natural Landmark. The National Natural Landmarks Program includes sites designated by the Secretary of the Interior for their "condition, illustrative character, rarity, diversity and value to science and education (NPS 2021)". The National Park Service administers the program, working cooperatively with landowners to promote the conservation of these sites. In 1993, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania designated Ricketts Glen State Park a State Park Natural Area, guaranteeing it will be preserved in its natural state in perpetuity (Pennsylvania DCNR n.d.).

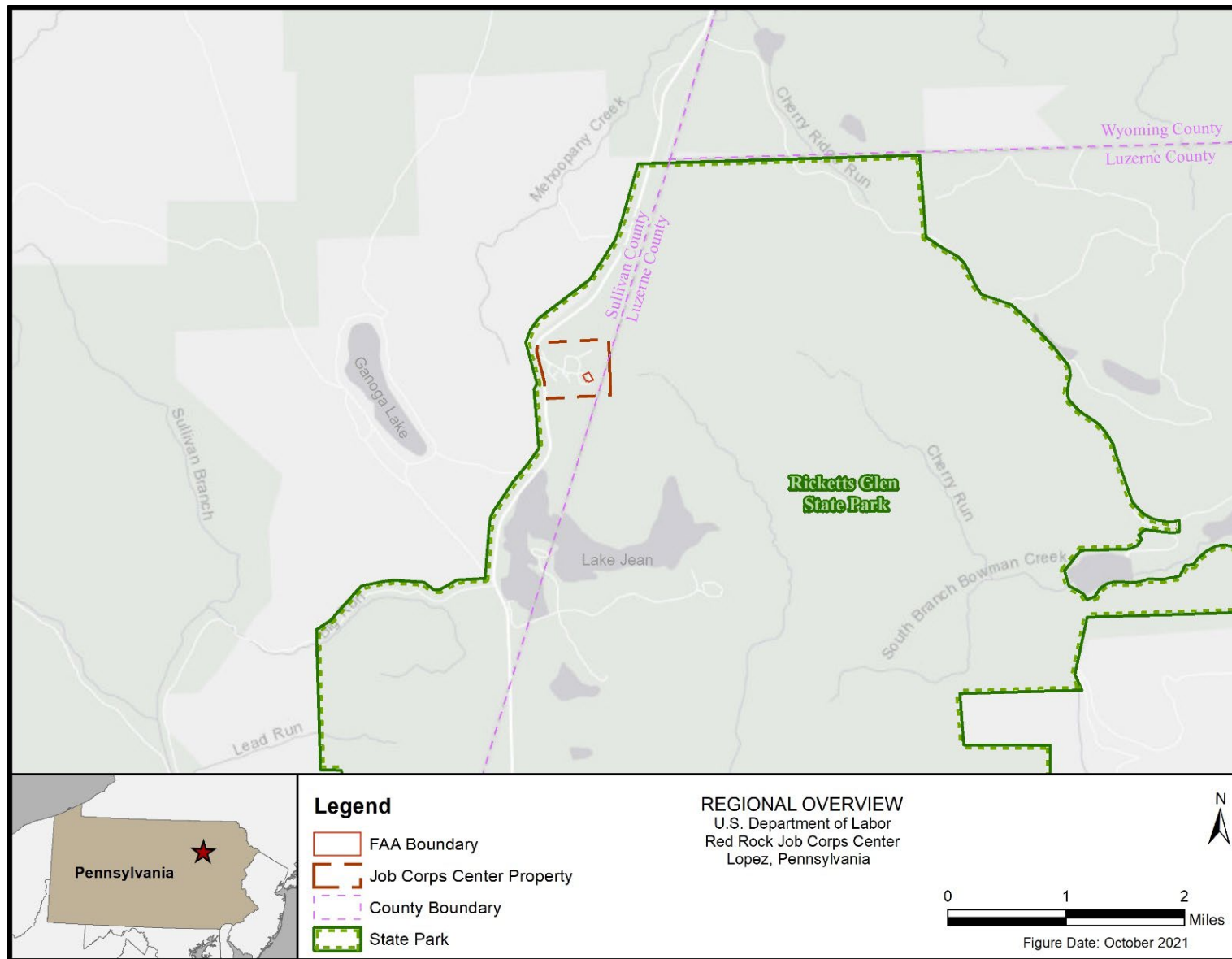


Figure 1. Regional Overview

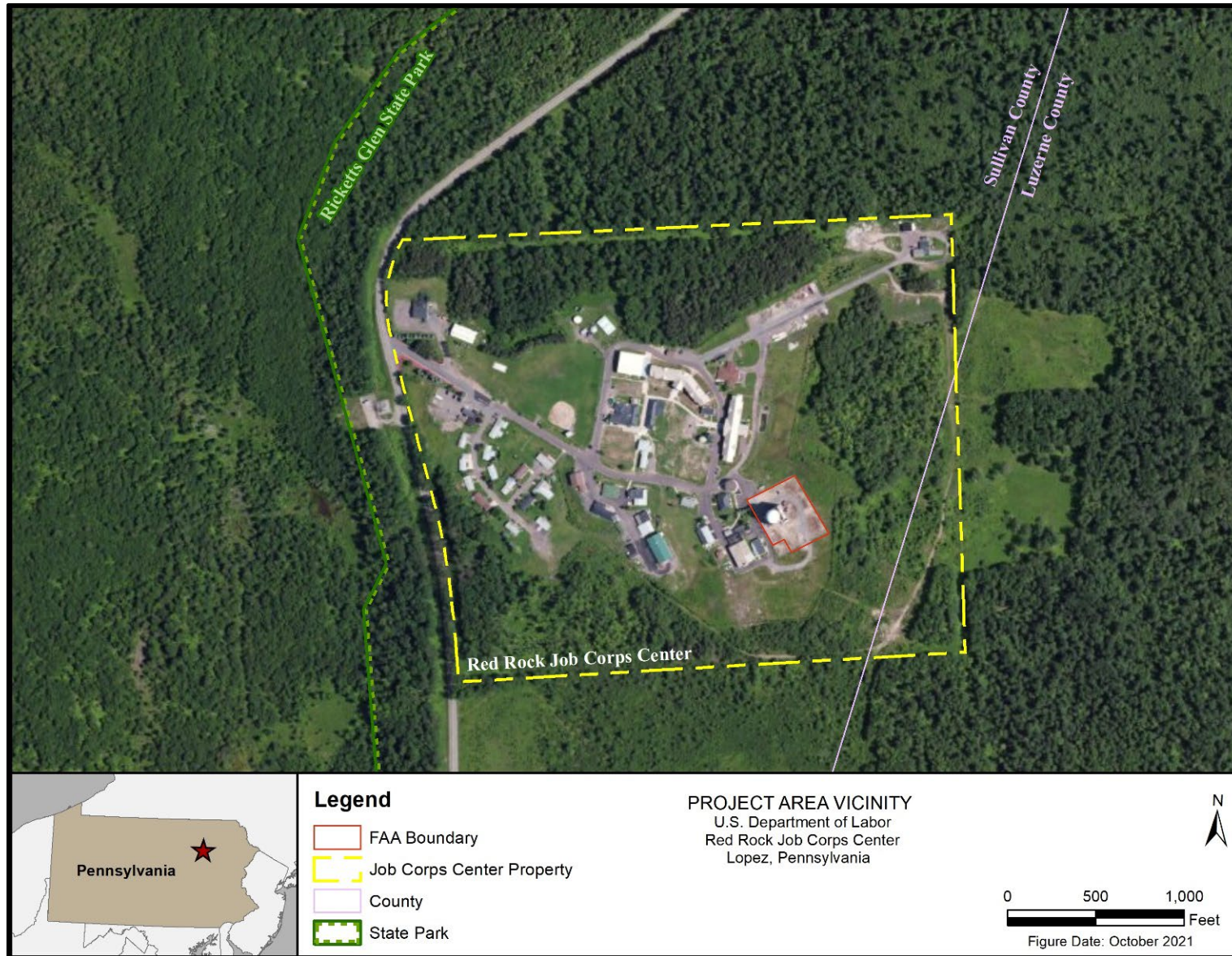


Figure 2. Project Area Vicinity

3.2.2 Benton Air Force Station

In 1949, the 648th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron was formed at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Soldiers from Fort Indiantown Gap rotated duty manning the new radar equipment installed at Mud Pond, nicknamed for the small pond on the 98-acre site on top of Red Rock Mountain within Ricketts Glen State Park. The site was leased from the Miners National Bank of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1950 for use as an Air Force Station (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] 2019).

Construction began in 1950 on the new installation at Red Rock Mountain and the station became fully operational with two AN/CPS-6B V beam search/height finder radar scanners in September 1951 (Bartizek 2005; Fort Wiki 2020; Winkler 1997:151). It took 25 people to operate the AN/CPS-6B radar unit (Winkler 1997:75). The station initially had both a Ground-Control Intercept (GCI) and an early warning mission (Fort Wiki 2020). The early warning mission involved tracking and identifying all aircraft entering their airspace while the GCI mission involved guiding Air Force interceptors to any identified enemy aircraft. Controllers at the station vectored fighter aircraft at the correct course and speed to intercept enemy aircraft using voice commands via ground-to-air radio (Fort Wiki 2020). The installation was named Benton Air Force Station in December 1953 after a nearby town, with a permanent Air Force identification of P-30 (Fort Wiki 2020). This installation was one of the last group of twenty-three radar stations constructed as part of the Air Defense Command permanent network (Military Wikia.Org n.d.; Winkler 1997).

The installation was divided into the main site, a cantonment area, a housing area, and a radio site. The main site housed the operations buildings, the radar towers, and the backup generators. The cantonment area housed the enlisted barracks, the bachelor officer's quarters, the orderly room, the dining hall, the motor pool, and other support buildings. Apart from the main site was a small 15 unit housing area for married personnel (Fort Wiki 2020). Bachelor officer's quarters and enlisted barracks were two-story buildings with a lounge and game room (Bartizek 2005). Family housing was constructed for key personnel in 1950s (Bartizek 2005).

In 1958, the transition from a manual GCI system to an automated system began with the installation of the FST-2 coordinate data transmitter and replacement of the AN/CPS-6B radar units with two AN/FPS-35-6B height-finder radar units, Benton Air Station became part of the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) system, the first large computer-based military command and control system (SAGE identification Z-30) (Bartizek 2005; Fort Wiki 2020; Winkler 1997:151). The SAGE system connected dozens of long-range radar stations to control centers by sending data over telephone lines. The FST-2 was a very large digital system using vacuum tube technology. Over 6900 vacuum tubes were used in each FST-2 requiring 21 air-conditioned cabinets, 40 tons of air conditioning, 43.5 KVA of prime power, and a large new addition to the operations building. The FST-2B modification added two more cabinets but with newer solid-state (transistor) technology to process coded responses from aircraft transponders. Benton AFS received FST-2 serial No. 1 circa 1958 (Bartizek 2005; Fort Wiki 2020).

In 1961, a new AN/FPS-35 search radar was installed atop a five-story structure (currently located within the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] compound); it was one of only twelve

ever built (Bartizek 2005). The new radar unit weighed 70 tons (Winkler 1997:80) and was painted in a red/white checkerboard pattern (Military Wikia.Org n.d.). The AN/FPS-35 radar at the Benton Air Force Station along with the same radar located in Manassas, Virginia, were used as part of a missile detection test in 1962; test results indicated that this radar had marginal value for detecting submarine-launched ballistic missiles (Winkler 1997:151).

Two remote unattended gap-filler radar sites, required because of the region's hilly topography, were located at Ulysses near the New York border in Potter County, and at Joliet, southwest of Pottsville (Bartizek 2005). These sites were equipped with short range FPS-14 or FPS-18 search radars and FST-1 Coordinate Data transmitters that sent digitized radar target data to a SAGE direction center and to the main radar site. Several other sites were planned but never built or never activated (Fort Wiki 2020; Radomes.Org n.d.). In 1963, two additional radars were installed and Benton Air Force Station became a joint use site with the FAA as an auxiliary to the FAA tower at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport (Bartizek 2005). The lease with the Miners National Bank was terminated in 1965 (USACE 2019).

In 1974, the AN/FPS-35 radar was replaced by an AN/FPS-67B search radar unit, which is now located within the current FAA radiomen onsite (Bartizek 2005; Fort Wiki 2020). In 1975, the 648th Radar Squadron and Benton Air Force Station were deactivated in June (Bartizek 2005). The former Benton Air Force Station was transferred to the FAA in 1975 (DOL 2018a).

3.2.3 Red Rock Job Corps Center

DOL began leasing the former Benton Air Force Station in 1978 from the Bureau of State Parks, DCNR of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (DOL 2018a). The Red Rock Job Corps Center was established in 1978 and consists of 37 buildings, 26 structures, and 7 staff residences (Figure 3) (DOL 2018a). The buildings were constructed within a span of more than 60 years, from 1951 to 2013 (DOL 2018a). Thirty-two buildings and two structures were built between 1951 and post-1966 and are associated with the former Benton Air Force Station (1951-1963) and the subsequent Benton Air Force Station/FAA joint use (1963-1975). Twelve buildings and twenty-four structures were constructed between 1978 and 2013 (DOL 2018a).

The Red Rock Job Corps Center provides residential living, academic education, recreation, and vocational training for a population of 244 students (184 resident men and 60 resident women).

The Red Rock Job Corps Center provides career technical training in several vocational trades including:

- Automotive Mechanics
- Auto Body Repair
- Carpentry
- Electrical
- Hotel Management
- Office Administration
- Plumbing
- Residence Counselor Training

Each training program prepares students to earn an industry-recognized certification through a state agency or national accrediting body. The Job Corps Center also provides academic training, including basic reading and math. It also offers a General Education Development/High School Diploma Program.

All students must complete the college application and recommendation process for their career training program as well as other center requirements. All college students must maintain satisfactory attendance and progress requirements.

3.3 Project Purpose

The purpose of the Proposed Action Alternative is to construct a new cafeteria, expand an existing recreational facility to alleviate health and safety concerns, improve operations, and enhance the student experience.

3.4 Project Need

The proposed project is required because the Red Rock Job Corps Center has identified unsafe conditions at the existing recreation building (Building 9) and deteriorated conditions and a lack of needed capacity at the existing dining hall (Building 10) (DOL 2018a).

Specific concerns identified for the recreation building (Building 9) are:

- The building is in poor condition, deteriorated, and moldy.
- The interior finishes are deteriorated and the EPDM roof is leaking.
- There is a ground water stream running through the crawlspace. Humidity and moisture from the crawlspace have deteriorated the steam heating pipes below the first floor, wood floor joists, and first floor finishes.
- The building does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards.
- The mechanical equipment is at end of its useful life. The steam distribution piping is severely corroded and the system is obsolete (with exception of a newly installed boiler).

Specific concerns identified for the dining hall (Building 10) are:

- The building is undersized and many of its interior finishes as well as the exterior masonry walls, soffits, and fascia have been deteriorated/ are dilapidated. The building does not function well for its intended use.
- The rooftop equipment does not have proper flushing causing roof leaks into the building spaces.
- Many doors and frames are damaged and severely corroded due to prolonged exposure to weather and heavy use.
- The steam distribution piping is severely corroded and there are several steam and hot condensation water leakage throughout the building.
- The electrical panel boards are deteriorated.

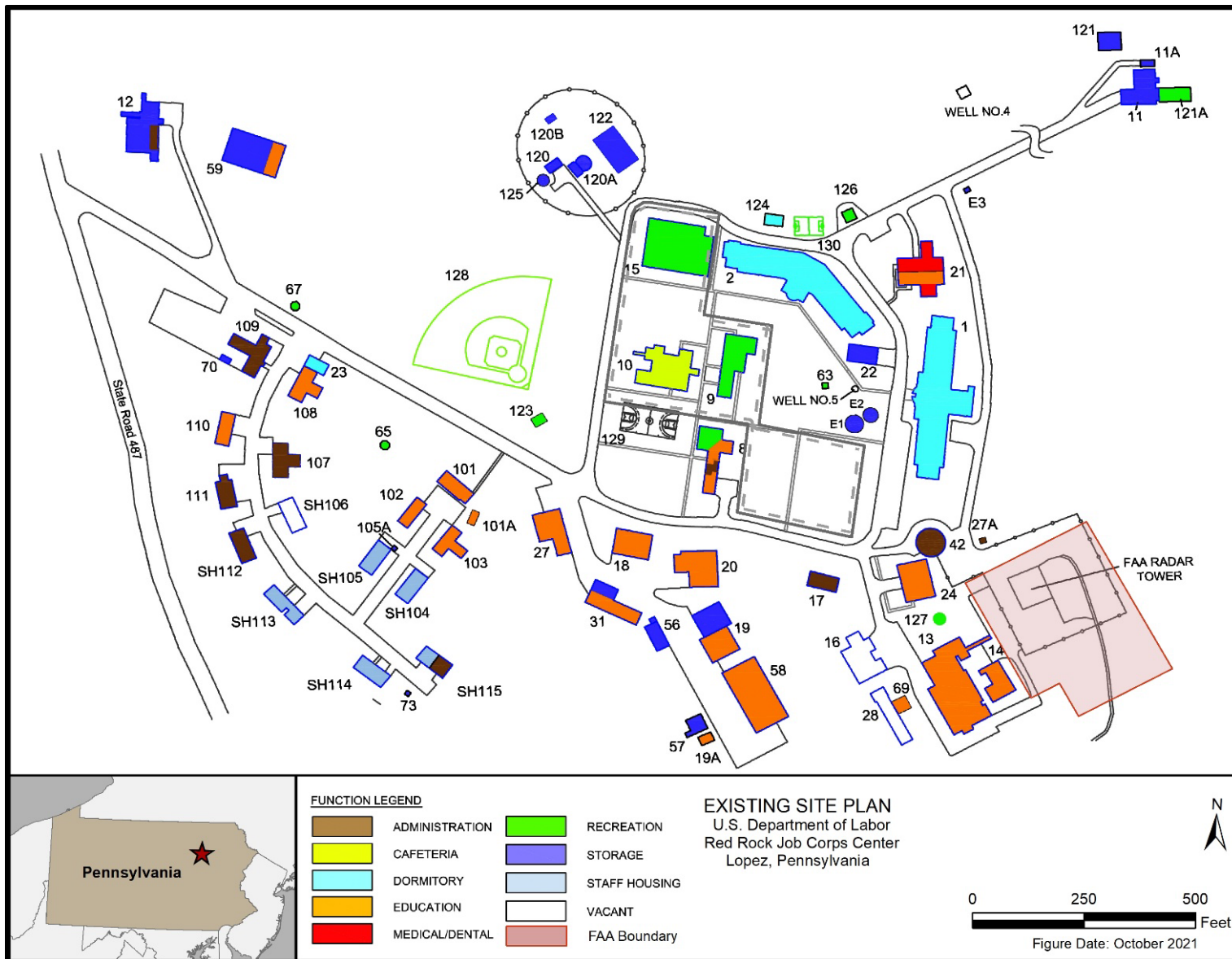


Figure 3. Existing Site Plan

4.0 ALTERNATIVES

NEPA requires federal agencies to explore a range of reasonable alternatives and analyze effects that the alternatives could have on the natural and built environment. This section describes the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives.

4.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative consists of continued use of the existing cafeteria (Building 10) and existing gymnasium (Building 15) located in the northern portion of the Red Rock Job Corps Center.

4.2 Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative is to construct a new 9,000 square-foot cafeteria to replace the existing dining hall, and a 6,000-square foot addition on the existing gymnasium (Building 15) to replace the existing recreation building, in the north portion of the Red Rock Job Corps Center (Figure 4). The new cafeteria building would contain new kitchen equipment, dining area furniture/seating, and building utility services. Construction would include approximately 800 linear feet of new sanitary and domestic water lines from the new cafeteria to Water Treatment Building 22 and the Waste Water Treatment Plant Building 122 located immediately northwest of the project area.

The existing Gymnasium (Building 15) is a two-story structure which was constructed in 1978. The building has 11,810 gross square feet area, housing the gymnasium, weight rooms, offices and storage areas. The building has a concrete foundation with structural steel framing. The roof is steel with metal roofing. The roof was replaced in 2011. The recreation addition would be constructed on the south side of the existing gymnasium (Building 15) and would include 1,300 square feet for Arts and Crafts. Damaged siding on Building 15 would be replaced after the addition is constructed. The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system in Building 15 would also be upgraded and a new system would be installed in the addition. All related site grading and seeding, and underground utility removal would be implemented.

Phased demolition of two existing buildings being replaced by the new construction and gymnasium addition: the dining hall (Building 10, built in 1951) and a recreation building (Building 9 built in 1951), would also occur. Hazardous waste inspections would be conducted for Buildings 9 and 10 and any abatement or remediation activities would be completed prior to building demolition.

Construction would involve excavation, grading, demolition, and movement of heavy equipment on the Red Rock Job Corps Center property. Construction activities would take place during the daylight hours and the expected duration for construction is currently unknown.

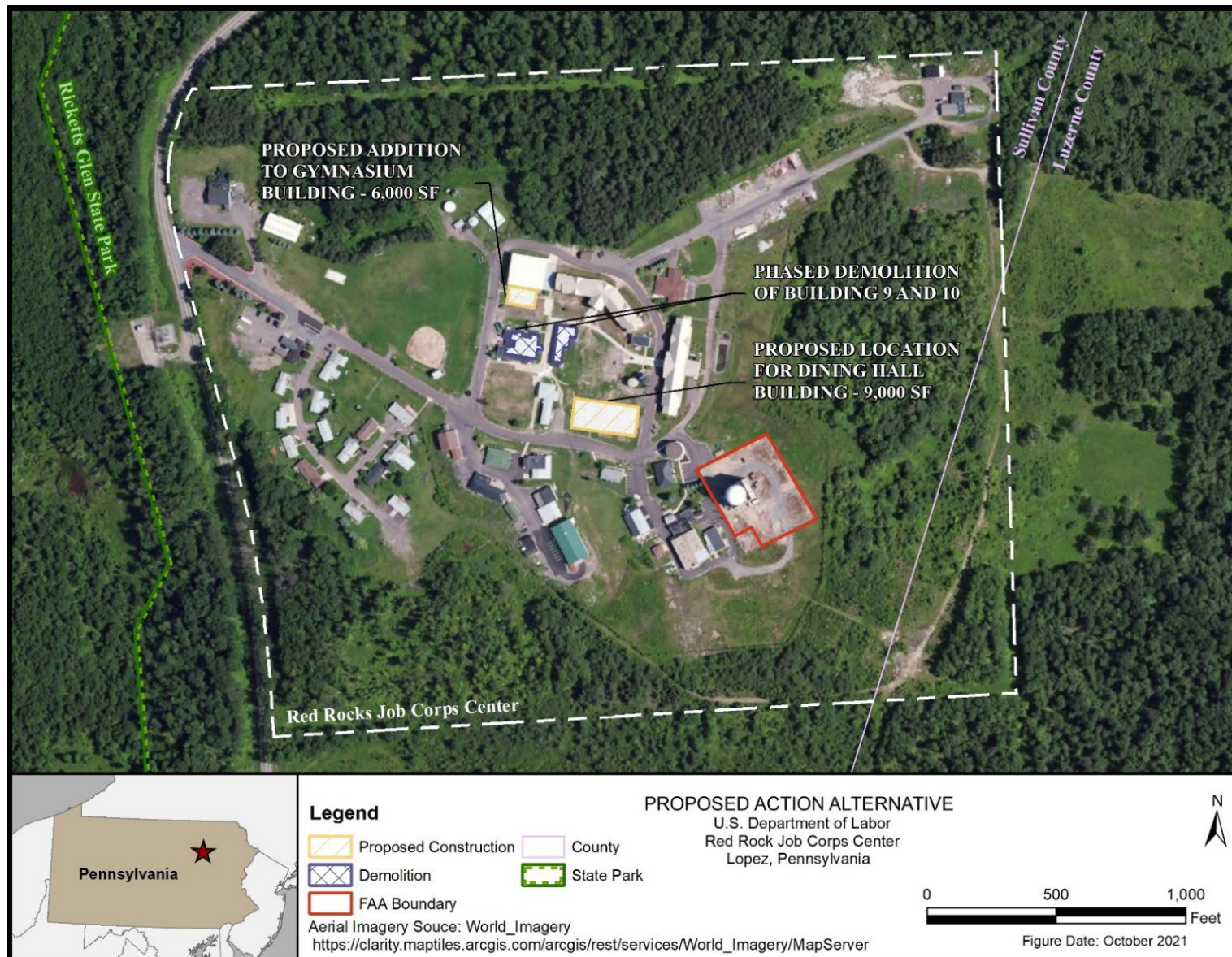


Figure 4. Proposed Action Alternative

5.0 THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section provides a description of the existing environmental conditions of the geographic area that could potentially be affected by the No Action or Proposed Action Alternatives. Following each impact topic, a description of the potential environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative compared to the No Action Alternative is presented. The impact topics addressed are described below.

As part of this assessment, scoping letters describing the Proposed Action Alternative were submitted to various federal and state agencies to solicit comments regarding any possible impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative. Copies of the agency correspondence letters are presented in Appendix A.

Cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative, combined with impacts from past, current, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, are evaluated at the end of this section.

5.1 Impact Analysis Methods

An environmental impact is defined as a change in a resource from the existing environmental baseline conditions caused by or resulting from one of the project alternatives. Impacts may be determined to be beneficial or adverse and may apply to the full range of natural, aesthetic, cultural, and economic resources of the property and its surrounding environment. The term “significant”, as defined in Section 1508.27 of the Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500), requires consideration of both the context and intensity of the impact evaluated. Significance can vary in relation to the potentially affected environment such as society (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Because of the nature of the proposed project, all impacts may be presumed to be localized unless stated otherwise. Factors contributing to the evaluation of the intensity of an impact are listed in Section 1508.27 of the CEQ’s Regulations for Implementing NEPA.

The degree of potential impacts discussed in this EA are characterized as follows:

- Significant impact - the impact is severe, major, and highly disruptive to current or desired conditions.
- No significant impact - the impact is slight, but detectable (minor) or the impact is readily apparent and appreciable (moderate).
- Little to no measurable impact - the impact is not measurable at the lowest level of detection (negligible).
- No impact - a resource is present, but is not affected.
- Resource not present.

5.2 Impact Topics Analyzed

Two impact topics were assessed for potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Action Alternative. These topics include: cultural resources and socioeconomics. Impact topics considered but not further assessed are described in Section 5.2.1. Table 1 at the beginning of this EA lists each of the impact topics and subtopics and the environmental impact. As noted in the following analysis, none of the potential impacts identified in this EA are significant.

5.2.1 Impact Topics Dismissed

Resources that are either not present or for which the Proposed Action Alternative would have little to no measurable effect were dismissed from further consideration in this EA. The following provides rationale for the dismissal of these topics.

Air Quality. The Federal Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401-7671q) required the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to establish a series of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for air quality pollutant levels for six criteria pollutants. Current standards for these pollutants are available on the USEPA website (<https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table>). Areas where ambient concentrations of a given pollutant are below the applicable ambient standards are designated as being in “attainment” for that pollutant. An area that does not meet the NAAQS for a given pollutant is classified as a “non-attainment” area for that pollutant. Areas where pollutants were once designated as nonattainment but are now meeting and maintaining the standard are redesignated as a “maintenance area.”

During construction under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be a negligible increase in air emissions. Emissions would be created from land clearing, paving concrete and asphalt surfaces, and landscaping. There would also be additional mobile emissions from commuting construction workers and construction equipment. Any impacts from these changes would be short-term and limited to the construction period. All applicable construction and operation permits would be obtained as required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

During the operation of the new facilities, there would be negligible change in stationary source emissions as a new HVAC system would be installed at the new building and the HVAC system where the addition is being placed would be upgraded. This would result in a negligible changes to stationary source emissions because only approximately 15,000 SF would be constructed. There are no anticipated changes to mobile source emissions.

The project area is located within Sullivan County, Pennsylvania which is designated as “in attainment” for all USEPA NAAQS criteria pollutants (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection [PADEP] 2021). Because the county is in attainment for all NAAQS and the project would occur on a relatively small footprint within the much larger area of Sullivan County, there would be no impact to the county’s status in regard to the NAAQS. Further, the project would comply with all county ordinances and state guidance and regulations concerning emissions and air quality; therefore, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

Ecologically Critical Areas. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) require consideration of the severity of impact (intensity) on unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to ecologically critical areas. Evaluation of the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) Conservation Explorer Map shows that the Red Rock Job Corps Center and the project area are within several vital ecological areas including two designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and two Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

NHAs, identified through the County Natural Heritage Inventory (CNHI) program of the PNHP, are intended to identify essential habitat of species of concern or natural communities that can absorb very little activity or disturbance without substantial impact to the natural features (PNHP 2021). According to the Conservation Planning Report retrieved from the Pennsylvania DCNR, the project area is within the Mehoopany Creek Headwaters and Lake Leigh NHAs. Several plant species of concern and a dragonfly species of concern were identified within these two NHAs (Pennsylvania DCNR 2021a).

IBAs are areas recognized as being globally important habitat for the conservation of bird populations. There are about 10,000 IBAs worldwide. The project area overlaps the North Mountain – Ricketts Glen State Park (IBA Site Number 48) and Loyalsock-North Mountain Forest Block (IBA Site Number 5025) IBAs. Over 75 breeding bird species have been identified within the Ricketts Glen State Park IBA. Recreational overuse, inappropriate development, and overgrazing by deer are the most concerning conservation issues of this IBA. This area was merged with the Loyalsock-North Mountain Forest Block IBA in 2013 (Audubon 2021a). The Loyalsock-North Mountain Forest Block IBA, one of the three large landscape forest block IBAs across northern Pennsylvania, is comprised of the World's End State Park IBA, North Mountain – Ricketts Glen State Park and Dutch Mountain Wetlands IBA (Audubon 2021b).

While the Red Rock Job Corps Center is located within several ecologically critical areas, the immediate area where construction activities would occur is located on previously-disturbed and graded land within the center of the campus. None of the sensitive habitats that are associated with the ecologically critical area designations would be affected by the Proposed Action Alternative; therefore, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

Floodplains and Floodways. The project area is located in an area of minimal flood hazard (Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] Flood Insurance Rate Map, Flood Plain Panels 42113C0385C). Therefore, the project area does not contain a floodplain or coastal barrier or zone and the resource category is not present (FEMA 2020). No impacts would result because this resource is not present within the project area.

Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands. Prime farmland has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Unique land is land other than prime farmland used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. Both categories require that the land be available for farming uses.

Approximately 10 percent or 27,800 acres of Sullivan County are devoted to agriculture (Sullivan 2011). The Natural Area Inventory for Sullivan County, produced by the PNHP in 1995 and updated in 2001, highlights the dramatic topography of the county with its steep ravines and high, rocky plateaus, a product of the geologic processes of glaciation and melting from the last ice age. The mostly rocky, poorly drained soils within this topographic region are not well-suited for agriculture. Agricultural activities are restricted to the valley floors of the Loyalsock and Muncy Creeks and to the gently rolling hills of northern Sullivan County (PNHP 1995).

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) web soil online mapping tool, eight soil types were identified within the proposed project area at the Red Rock Job Corps Center. Of the eight, four were identified as Prime Farmland. They comprise of the following: MoB-Morris channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes; OgB-Oquaga channery silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes; OgC-Oquaga channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes; and WrB-Wurtsboro channery loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes (NRCS 2021).

The Red Rock Job Corps Center is located on land that has been previously disturbed and graded during construction of the Job Corps Center. The function of agriculture and crop cultivation is not consistent with the current land use (see Land Use section) of the parcel and the overall mission of the DOL who owns the property; therefore, this topic was not further assessed.

Soils and Geology. There are three major soil associations within Sullivan County, which are closely relating soils derived from sandstone, red and gray shales, and siltstone. These three soil associations - Morris-Oquaga-Wellsboro, Wellsboro-Oquaga-Morris, and Bystrochrepts-Oquaga-Wellsboro – share common characteristics such as being deep to moderately deep soils existing on moderate to very steep slopes. Their drainage characteristics range from somewhat poorly drained to somewhat excessively drained (PNHP 1995). Sullivan County is underlain by Marcellus shale, a bedrock layer which has great potential for the extraction of natural gas (Sullivan County 2011). The Red Rock Job Corps Center is underlain by the Mauch Chunk Formation, a planar bedded sandstone with some cross bedded sandstones (PA DCNR 2021b).

The Proposed Action Alternative would have little to no measurable impact on the soil or geology at the project area because the soils present at the property were compacted and disturbed from previous site development. Construction activities may involve excavation, grading, and movement of heavy equipment at the site. These activities would disturb the surface soil, increasing the potential for soil erosion by wind or runoff. However, impacts would be negligible because appropriate sediment control measures would be applied in accordance with local regulations to reduce and control erosion. Geological hazards such as sinkholes, caves, mines, or quarries do not exist on or adjacent to the project area (PA DNCR 2021c). This impact topic was therefore not further assessed.

Surface Water and Hydrology. While there are no streams, ponds, or other surface waters directly within the Job Corps Center property, the Red Rock Job Corps Center is

within a mile radius, at a point of high elevation, of several creeks and lakes. Many of these are classified as High Quality Coldwater Fisheries (HQ-CWF) by the PNHP; HQ-CWF is defined as a stream or watershed which has excellent quality waters and environmental or other features that require special water quality protection.

The closest water feature to the Center is Mehoopany Creek, a designated HQ-CWF surface water which is noted to experience flooding by beaver activity. Kitchen Creek, also a designated HQ-CWF surface water, is located west of the Job Corps Center and has tributaries from Ganoga Lake, Lake Jean and wetlands within Ricketts Glen State Park (PNHP 1995). A majority of the County's streams flow in a southwesterly direction to the Susquehanna River (Sullivan County 2011).

Lake Jean, also within the State Park, is a shallow man-made lake located south of the Center that was once the site of two smaller lakes, one natural and one man-made. The Lake is frequently used for fishing, boating, and swimming. Unlike Lake Jean, which remains largely undeveloped with the exception of a couple of parking lot and bathroom facilities by the beach, nearby Ganoga Lake is surrounded by single-family developments which are connected by the Lakeview Drive/Crest Avenue loop (PNHP 1995).

The Proposed Action Alternative would not change the current or historical drainage patterns for the project area. Excavation for the proposed project would not occur deep enough to affect groundwater. During construction activities, best management practices would be followed to avoid or minimize erosion and release of sediments that could enter surface waters via stormwater runoff. Therefore, this project would have little to no measurable impact on surface waters and hydrology; and, no further analysis is required.

Wetlands. Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and in normal conditions do support, a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) is a publicly available resource that provides detailed information on the abundance, characteristics, and distribution of United States wetlands. USFWS NWI maps were reviewed for the potential occurrence of wetlands at and in the vicinity of the project area.

Per USFWS NWI mapping, no wetlands are present within the Center property or within the project area (USFWS 2021d). The proposed construction of the cafeteria and the recreational facility expansion would occur within maintained lawns. Therefore, no impacts to wetland resources would be expected to occur as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative, and this topic is not further assessed.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitats. The USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) System was reviewed to determine whether any federally-listed endangered or threatened species have the potential to occur in the project area. According to the IPaC, one federally-listed endangered species, the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and one federally-listed threatened species, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), may occur in the project area (USFWS 2021a). The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is also listed as a candidate species within the project area.

The species of birds identified in Table 2 are protected under the Migratory Bird Act (16 USC 703-712) and have the potential to occur in the project area (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2021). Bald and golden eagles are also protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668-668c). Ten (10) of the migratory birds that have the potential to occur in the project area are listed as Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC). Birds designated as BCC represent those species in need of the highest conservation priority (USFWS 2021b).

The proposed project area is not within any designated critical habitat. The areas of proposed construction activities consist of maintained grass-covered lawns with no trees. These areas do not provide suitable habitat for the federally-listed threatened and endangered bat species or the monarch butterfly; and do not provide suitable nesting habitat for migratory birds. The nearest known bald eagle nest is located at Lake Jean, over 1.0 mile south of the project area (USFWS 2021c).

Although daytime construction noise may temporarily disturb or displace individual roosting bats or nesting birds that may occupy adjacent forested areas, it is expected that individuals would return to the roosting/nesting site once construction noise has ceased. Impacts resulting from construction would be temporary; conditions would return to normal once construction activities were completed. Therefore, there would be little to no measurable impact on federally-listed threatened or endangered species or migratory birds as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative and no further analysis of this topic is required.

Table 2. Migratory Birds near the Red Rock Job Corps Center

Common Name	Scientific Name	Bird of Conservation Concern	Sightings near Red Rock Job Corps Center Between 2016-2021
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	N	Y
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Y	Y
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus praticus</i>	Y	Y
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Y	Y
Canada Warbler	<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>	Y	Y
Eastern Whip-poor-will	<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>	Y	N
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Y	Y
Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Y	Y
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Y	Y
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Y	Y

Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2021.

Vegetation. Forest lands comprise 85 to 90 percent of Sullivan County (Sullivan County 2011). The project area is located within the Red Rock United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Quadrangle, an area dominated by a canopy of conifers with a varied assortment of shrubs and sedges in more open areas (PNHP 1995). Ricketts Glen State

Park is a National Natural Landmark, known for its old-growth and virgin forests. Some of the trees located in the park are 300-400 years old, over 120 feet high and over four feet in diameter. Ring counts on fallen trees have revealed those over 900 years old. The old-growth forests in the Glens Natural Area, just south of the Center, are mostly composed of Eastern Hemlock, Eastern White Pine, and many types of Oaks (Monumental Trees 2021).

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, construction of the cafeteria and the recreational facility expansion would occur within maintained lawns with no trees, adjacent to existing buildings. New areas of landscape vegetation may be installed as part of the new construction. Therefore, impacts to vegetation would have little to no measurable impact and this topic does not require further analysis.

Wildlife. The Proposed Action Alternative would have no measurable impact on wildlife present at the project area. The Red Rock Job Corps Center includes some tree cover but generally, does not provide high quality habitat for wildlife. Ricketts Glen State Park, in which the project area is located, is home white tailed deer, black bear, red and gray squirrels, porcupine, and raccoon. Other wildlife occurrences in the area include beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, mink, muskrat, red fox, and river otter (DCNR 2021c).

Noise from proposed construction and demolition activities may temporarily displace individual animals within adjacent forested habitat; however, this would not result in population level effects, as sufficient habitat is available within the vicinity of the site. Construction would occur during daylight hours and impacts resulting from construction would be temporary; conditions would return to normal once construction activities were completed. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would have little to no measurable environmental effects on wildlife and, no further analysis of this topic is required.

Land Use. The Red Rock Job Corps Center was formerly a radar facility, Benton Air Force Station. The Center is located within Colley Township within Sullivan County. The Job Corps Center property is on a 98-acre parcel (ID:020180001) with approximately half of the area comprising of forest land (53.6 percent) followed by development (20.5 percent), non-cropland (15.3 percent) and grass/pasture (6.8 percent) (AcreValue 2021). The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania owns the property and leases it to the DOL. Land use for this area would not change due to the Proposed Action Alternative. Therefore, land use was not further assessed.

Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential. Executive Order (EO) 13834 requires federal agencies to efficiently operate federal facilities. The EO addresses requirements for federal facilities in energy, water, fleet, buildings, and acquisition management. Currently, only parts 6, 7, and 11 are active (EO 13990). The Proposed Action Alternative includes construction of a 9,000-square foot cafeteria and a 6,000-square foot addition on the existing gymnasium which would require an incremental increase in the consumption of electricity and water at the 215,505 GSF Red Rock Job Corps Center. The additional energy and water consumption associated with the new facility and gymnasium addition is expected to have little to no measurable impact on

total energy and water use at the Center because the building would support the same functions that are already occurring within other buildings; there would be no increase in the number of staff; the new cafeteria would include a modern HVAC and plumbing system, and the gymnasium addition would include a HVAC upgrade, both of which would conserve more energy and use less water than HVAC and plumbing systems within Buildings 9 and 10, which will be demolished. Therefore, this topic was not carried forward for analysis.

Climate Change. Climate change refers to any significant changes in average climatic conditions (such as mean temperature, precipitation, or wind) or variability (such as seasonality and storm frequency) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). A report by the National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC) U.S. Climate Change Science Program and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides evidence that climate change is occurring as a result of human activity and associated rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and that it could accelerate in coming decades (NCADAC 2013). GHG trap heat in the atmosphere, and the major GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and fluorinated gases, which are gases that are typically emitted from industrial processes. The majority of CO₂ emissions, the primary GHG emitted through human activities, comes from the burning of fossil fuels (USEPA 2020). While climate change is a global phenomenon, it manifests differently depending on regional and local factors. General changes that are expected in the future as a result of climate change include hotter, drier summers; warmer winters; warmer water; higher ocean levels; more severe wildfires; degraded air quality; more frequent heavy downpours; and increased drought.

The Proposed Action Alternative would not result in an increase in the number of vehicles entering and exiting the Center during daily operations. During construction, the Proposed Action Alternative would include the use of heavy equipment, typical of demolition/construction projects. All applicable construction and operation permits would be obtained as required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would result in little to no measurable impacts to regional climate change.

Hazardous and Toxic Substances. The existing recreation building (Building 9) contains asbestos floor tile and the existing dining hall (Building 10) has three above-ground liquid-propane gas tanks and a dishwasher that is equipped with a solid/grease inline trap/interceptor (DOL 2018b). All asbestos containing materials (ACM) would be abated and removed in affected areas including the areas of the gymnasium connecting to the new addition, and demolition of Buildings 9 and 10. The ACM evaluation would be conducted on the exterior material, piping, and ductwork insulation in the existing gymnasium building. A hazardous material evaluation and inspection would also be conducted to identify hazardous and toxic substances and locations as part of the demolition of Buildings 9 and 10; hazardous material abatement and remediation would be performed prior to demolition. The construction contractor would be responsible for obtaining all required permits, including approvals from the PADEP as well as other appropriate state and local authorities.

Construction activities would result in the generation of a small amount of non hazardous construction waste. All debris generated during construction activities would be transported off-site and disposed of in compliance with applicable solid waste handling laws and regulations. Hazardous waste would not be generated by construction of the facility, nor would construction affect any hazardous waste sites. Therefore, hazardous and toxic substances were not further assessed.

Noise. Noise is usually defined as unwanted sound, a definition that includes both the psychological and physical nature of the sound. Under certain conditions, noise may cause hearing loss, interfere with human activities at home and work, and may affect human health and well-being in various ways. Sensitive noise receptors in the vicinity of the proposed project area include Red Rock Job Corps Center dormitories, staff housing, a ballfield and a tennis court. The Center is surrounded the Ricketts Glen State Park (forested land).

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, equipment used in demolition, site preparation and construction would generate noise above ambient levels. Estimated noise levels for heavy construction equipment range from 75 to 105 dB at 50 feet from the source and the sound intensity decreases 6 dB with each doubling of the distance from the source (USEPA 1971). During demolition and construction activities, sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project area would experience intermittent, temporary noise caused by construction equipment. Construction activities would only be conducted during daylight hours. Because noise impacts would be of short duration and only during daytime hours, there would be little to no measurable impact to noise from the Proposed Action Alternative.

Indian Trust Resources. Indian trust assets are owned by Native Americans but held in trust by the United States. Requirements are included in the Secretary of the Interior's Secretarial Order No. 3206, "American Indian Tribal Rites, Federal – Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act," and Secretarial Order No. 3175, "Departmental Responsibilities for Indian Trust Resources." Indian trust assets do not occur within the project area.

Transportation. The Red Rock Job Corps Center is located east of PA 487, a two-lane freeway between Lopez and Red Rock, Pennsylvania. It is the sole point of access to the Center via Mountain Springs Road. Average annual daily traffic counts of PA 487 for 2009 range between 782 and 1627, a higher than moderate range when compared to other state roadways in Sullivan County, yet still less than highly trafficked PA 220 (Sullivan County 2011).

During construction activities, there would be negligible impacts to transportation due to the Proposed Action Alternative. A short-term increase in vehicular traffic within the Center would occur during the demolition and construction phases of the Proposed Action Alternative due to truck and heavy equipment traffic and from commuting construction workers. Construction would be limited to the project site and no new access roads would be required. Because the impacts would have little to no measurable effect on transportation resources, no further analysis of this topic is required.

Utilities. Current utilities located at the Red Rock Job Corps Center include electrical service, natural gas, telephone/communications, and municipal water and sewer.

Electric. Pennsylvania Electric Company provides electrical service to the Job Corps Center. The system experiences frequent interruptions to service during high winds (more than 40 MPH). The Center relies on an 625 KVA emergency generator to power the entire campus during outages. A secondary distribution system is underground and overhead with pole, platform, and pad-mounted transformers. The system is owned and maintained by the Center and is in adequate condition (DOL 2018a).

Gas. Gas is provided by Liquefied Propane Gas (LPG) from Berwick Gas Company. Propane is stored in aboveground tanks throughout the Center (DOL 2018a).

Communication. Telephone service is provided by Frontier Communications and Verizon. The system is owned and maintained by the Center and is adequate (DOL 2018a).

Water and Sewer. The Red Rock Job Corps Center relies on Wells 4 and 5 for its domestic water supply. The water is pumped from the wells and then stored in two 85,000-gallon storage tanks (DOL 2018a).

Because the development of the new cafeteria and gymnasium addition is predicated upon the cessation of operation and the demolition of the existing recreation building (Building 9) and dining hall (Building 10), the Proposed Action Alternative would result in little to no measurable impact to the demand and usage of utilities at the Red Rock Job Corps Center. Therefore, this topic was not carried forward for analysis.

5.2.2 Impact Topics Retained for Analysis

Two impact topics were retained for further analysis as further described in Section 5.3 below. These topics warranted more detailed analysis because of the need to gather more extensive data to determine whether resources are present (e.g., archaeological resources) or due to the sensitivity of resources known to be present (e.g., low-income populations) within the project area or surrounding areas. Impact topics assessed include:

- Cultural Resources (see Section 5.3); and
- Socioeconomics (see Section 5.4).

5.3 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are prehistoric and historic sites, structures, districts, artifacts, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for traditional, religious, scientific, or any other reason. Cultural resources are discussed in terms of archaeological resources, including both prehistoric and historical occupations, architectural resources (historic buildings), and properties of religious or cultural significance to Native American Tribes, including Traditional Cultural Properties. Historic properties, as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), represent the subset of cultural resources listed on, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Identification of NRHP-eligible resources, including archaeological sites, architectural resources, and Native American resources, was conducted according to requirements of 36 CFR 800 for Section 106 of the NHPA. The Section 106 process was initiated with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), which contains the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on December 10, 2021 (Appendix A). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) was established in coordination with that office.

5.3.1 Affected Environment

The APE for cultural resources for the Proposed Action Alternative at the Red Rock Job Corps Center encompasses the footprint of the proposed construction of the new cafeteria and the addition to the existing gymnasium (the limits of disturbance) and includes the viewshed to and from the surrounding buildings and dormitories; the APE totals 10.45 acres (Figure 5).

Archival research included a review of listings on the NRHP, assessment of historic cartographic records and a general literature search. A site files search was conducted on October 20, 2021 using the online Pennsylvania's Historic & Archaeological Resource Exchange (PA-SHARE). Two resources, Ricketts Glen State Park and the Clemuel Ricketts Mansion, and one architectural survey were identified in the vicinity of the APE. The Red Rock Job Corps Center is located within Ricketts Glen State Park, which is defined as a district with undetermined NRHP eligibility (Resource Number 2016RE023096). The Clemuel Ricketts Mansion (Resource Number 1981RE00001) is located on Ganoga Lake, 1.4 miles west/southwest and is listed on the NRHP. One above ground (architectural) survey is being conducted in Sullivan and Lycoming Counties. The survey is a multi-phased, 3-year project to collect baseline data of underrepresented resources and prioritizes African American associated resources. The survey focuses on resources that have underrepresented historic functions, ethnic associations, or periods of construction.

5.3.1.1 Archaeological Resources

No archaeological survey has been conducted and no archaeological resources have been recorded in the APE. In 1939, the Red Rock Job Corps Center area was forested with cleared or open areas adjacent to the south and east; several plots of trees were located south and southeast in the cleared areas closer to Mud Pond (USDA Farm Service Agency 1939). Construction began in 1950 on the Benton Air Force Station with the clearing of the forest and surface grading of the area. Numerous buildings, including several two-story enlisted barracks and bachelor officer's quarters (BOQs), and one radome (i.e., radar antenna enclosure) were in various stages of construction by 1950 (USDA Farm Service Agency 1950). Four buildings (two rectangular [Building 9], one T-shaped [Building 10] and one U-shaped buildings) were being constructed in the APE at this time. By 1951, two additional rectangular buildings had been added west of the large U-shaped building in the APE (USDA Farm Service Agency 1951).

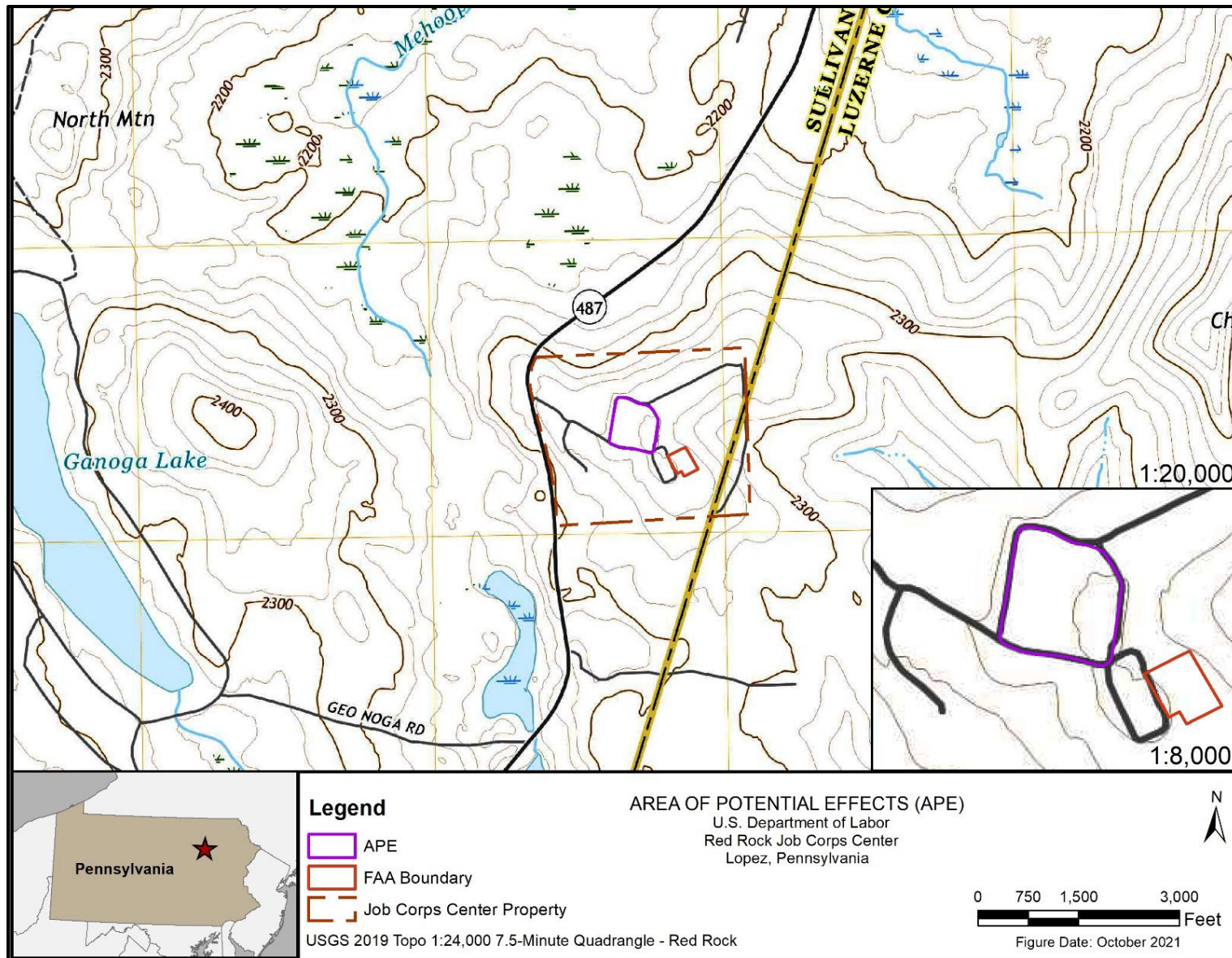


Figure 5. Area of Potential Effects (APE)

By 1959, two new radomes had been constructed along with the foundation of a square tower for a fourth radome in the southeast portion of Benton Air Force Station (USDA Farm Service Agency 1959). The six buildings in the APE retained their general layout and footprint (although alterations were made to Buildings 9 and 10 in 1959, 1966, and 1969) until 2010. By 2010, a barracks building north of the dining hall, the large U-shaped building, and the two rectangular buildings west of the U-shaped building had been demolished (Google Earth Pro 2010).

Based on historic aerial photographs, the APE has been previously disturbed from forest clearing and surface grading in 1939; construction of Benton Air Force Station buildings and installation of associated utility lines in 1950-1951; alterations and use of nearby staging areas for additions to Buildings 9 and 10 in 1959, 1966, and 1969; and demolition of four Benton Air Force Station buildings in 2010. No archaeological sites are expected to occur within the extensively disturbed APE. Concurrence with this archaeological assessment by the PHMC is pending (Appendix A).

5.3.1.2 Architectural Resources

The Red Rock Job Corps Center retains 32 buildings and 2 structures constructed between 1950 and 1959 for the Benton Air Force Station radar facility (DOL 2018a; Bartizek 2005; Winkler 1997:151). Based on historic photographs (The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader 1961; Radomes.Org 1971, 1973), the original two-story dormitories are similar in exterior configuration (with continuous roof awnings above the windows on both floors) to the World War II (WWII) - era standardized drawings for temporary buildings (Plan Number 700-1167: Barracks – 65 Men and Plan Number 700-1290: Guest house) (Wasch et al. 1991: 425, 435). Even though the Air Force developed new designs for airmen's dormitories, BOQs, and dining halls in late 1950 and 1951 (Kuranda et al. 2003: 5-20, 5:23), construction at Benton Air Force Station was under way by July 1950 (USDA Farm Service Agency 1950) and the building designs were most likely adapted from the WWII standardized drawings.

Building 9, currently used for recreation, was built in 1951. It is a one-story P-shaped building with concrete foundation, concrete masonry unit (CMU) and stucco exterior walls, and a wood roof overlaid with an ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) covering which is an extremely durable synthetic rubber roofing membrane (DOL 2018b). The EPDM roof was installed in 2007 (DOL 2018b). The interior finishes are deteriorated and the roof is leaking. There is a ground water stream running through the crawl space. Humidity and moisture from the crawl space are deteriorating the steam heating pipes below the first floor, wood floor joists, and first floor finishes. The interior flooring contains asbestos (DOL 2018b). In 1950 and 1951, Building 9 had a rectangular footprint (USDA Farm Service Agency 1950, 1951) but by 1959, a linear addition had been added on the north end (USDA Farm Service Agency 1959). By 1969, additions had been constructed to the east side of Building 9 creating a P shape (USDA Farm Service Agency 1969). The building footprint remained the same from post-1969 through present day (Nationwide Environmental Title Research [NETR] 1981, 1993, 2004; Google Earth Pro 2005, 2008, 2010, 2019). Building 9 served an unknown function at the Benton Air

Force Station and was a simple rectangular building with additions constructed by 1959 and 1969; no original design drawings have been identified (Kuranda et al. 2003; Wasch et al. 1991). Even though Building 9 is associated with Benton Air Force Station, it represents a small utilitarian building that has been altered by additions and deteriorated conditions. While Building 9 retains its location and setting, it has lost its physical integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; it is not considered eligible for the NRHP.

Building 10, the current dining hall, was also built in 1951. It is a one-story irregularly shaped square building with a concrete foundation; brick masonry, CMU, and wood siding exterior walls; and a wood roof with asphalt shingles (DOL 2018b). The current roof was replaced in 2002. The exterior walls, soffits, and fascias are dilapidated and the interior finishes are deteriorated. The steam distribution piping is severely corroded and several steam and hot condensation water leaks are present throughout the building (DOL 2019b). In 1950 and 1951, Building 10 had a T-shaped footprint (USDA Farm Service Agency 1950, 1951) but by 1959, the western portion had been enlarged (USDA Farm Service Agency 1959). By 1966, multiple additions had been incorporated into the building giving it an irregularly square-shaped footprint (NETR 1966). The building footprint remained the same for post-1969 through present day (NETR 1981, 1993, 2004; Google Earth Pro 2005, 2008, 2010, 2019). Building 10 most likely served as a dining hall at Benton Air Force Station, given its proximity to the enlisted men's barracks and the BOQs. No original design drawings have been identified for this 1950 T-shaped building (Kuranda et al. 2003; Wasch et al. 1991). By 1959 and 1969, additions to the building have radically altered the initial design. Although Building 10 retains its location and setting, it has lost its physical integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (loss of original enlisted men's barracks and BOQs); it is therefore not considered eligible for the NRHP.

Building 15, the gymnasium, was built in 1978 (DOL 2018b). It is a two-story building with a concrete foundation with structural steel walls and steel roof supports; the exterior walls are a combination of metal siding and stone masonry (DOL 2018b). In 2011, the gable roof was replaced with asphalt shingles and new gutters and downspouts were installed (DOL 2018b). Building 15 contains a basketball court, two weight rooms, a men's and women's locker room; and a mezzanine containing an office, equipment storage, general storage, and a mechanical room (DOL 2018b). Building 15 is a typical structural steel-metal-siding building that is less than 50 years old. It was constructed when the Red Rock Job Corps Center was first established. Building 15 is not considered eligible for the NRHP.

The APE is characterized by open spaces associated with the baseball field to the west or created by the demolition of Benton Air Force Station enlisted men's barracks and BOQs in the center, by large two-story modern dormitories on the north and east (constructed in 2007 and 2009), and by smaller one-story buildings remaining from the Benton Air Force Station period located downhill to the south (Figure 3). The buildings within the APE represent different materials, styles, and massings indicative of the various construction and building alteration phases that occurred at the Red Rock Job Corps Center and

contribute to a lack of general cohesiveness of design and style. The viewshed within the APE has been altered from the original configuration of the Benton Air Force Station through demolition of buildings and infill of modern styles. PHMC requested supplemental information on December 16, 2021; additional information was provided to PHMC on January 13, 2022. On January 27, 2022, PHMC concurred that the Benton Air Force Station was not eligible for the listing on the NRHP due to a lack of integrity and/or significance (Appendix A).

5.3.1.3 Properties of Religious or Cultural Significance to Native American Tribes

Native American Tribes with a potential interest in the project area based on location or historical ties to the area were identified through the PHMC website. The DOL initiated consultation with the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Cayuga Nation, the Delaware Nation of Oklahoma, the Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Oneida Indian Nation, the Onondaga Nation, the Seneca Nation of Indians, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, the Shawnee Tribe, the Stockbridge Munsee Community, Wisconsin, and the Tuscarora Nation in letters dated **July X, 2022** (Appendix A). Based on a preliminary review, no properties of religious or cultural significance to Native American tribes are known to occur within the proposed project area.

5.3.2 Environmental Consequences

Impact analyses presented here are intended to comply with the requirements of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA and in accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations implementing Section 106 (36 CFR Part 800, Protection of Historic Properties). A determination of either adverse effect or no adverse effect must be made for affected NRHP-listed or eligible cultural resources. An adverse effect occurs whenever an impact alters, directly or indirectly, any characteristic of a cultural resource that qualifies it for inclusion in the NRHP (e.g., diminishing the integrity of the resource's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association). A determination of no adverse effect means that historic properties are present, but the effect would not diminish in any way the characteristics of the cultural resource that qualify it for inclusion in the NRHP.

5.3.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no changes to existing conditions from ground disturbance as a result of new construction would occur. No archaeological sites are likely to be present (based on extensive prior ground disturbance) and no intrusion of Native American resources would occur. The existing facilities, Building 9 (Recreation) and Building 10 (Dining Hall) would continue to be used. Because the proposed project would not take place, there would be no impacts to cultural resources.

5.3.2.2 Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to archaeological resources are expected because there is no potential for intact archaeological resources to occur (based on extensive prior ground disturbance). Although Buildings 9 and 10 were associated with the Benton Air Force Station and still retain their integrity of location and setting, the buildings no longer retain their original configuration and physical integrity related to design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; they are not considered eligible for the NRHP. No visual impacts would occur as the current viewshed has been disrupted by the lack of architectural cohesiveness within the APE and the demolition of enlisted men's barracks and BOQs associated with the Benton Air Force Station. On January 27, 2022, PHMC concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for above ground resources for the proposed project (Appendix A). Based on a preliminary review, no properties of religious or cultural significance to Native American tribes are known to occur within the proposed project area. The Proposed Action Alternative is expected to have no impact to cultural resources.

5.4 Socioeconomic Environment

This section describes the existing socioeconomic conditions, as well as potential impacts that could result from taking no action or implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative.

5.4.1 Affected Environment

In this section, current socioeconomic conditions with potential to be affected by the proposed project are presented.

5.4.1.1 Economic Development

Local Economic Activity. The Red Rock Job Corps Center has approximately 244 students between 16 and 24 years of age, 184 resident men and 60 resident women (DOL 2018a).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's (USCB) American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year 2019 estimates, Sullivan County's labor force, comprising of a little over half of the county's working population 16 years and over, was estimated at 2,897 persons with an unemployment rate of 6.2 percent. Major employment sectors in the County include educational services, and health care and social assistance (22.2 percent); manufacturing (17.6 percent); construction (10.8 percent); and retail trade (9.9 percent) (USCB 2021a). Historically, agriculture, coal mining and forestry were major sectors with significant economic and land use impacts (Sullivan County 2011).

There remains a lot of unknowns regarding how the economic situation will fare within the coming months and years due to the Covid-19 virus. Containing the virus is essential to reopening businesses and schools, bringing back jobs, and returning the economy back to pre-pandemic levels.

Regional Economic Activity. The Federal Reserve System publishes Beige Book reports eight times a year covering economic conditions throughout the twelve regional Reserve Bank Districts. Economic activity within the Philadelphia Federal Bank Reserve District (Third District) continues to grow moderately; however, activity in most sectors remains below levels observed prior to the pandemic. Labor shortages and supply chain disruptions continue to present challenges in most sectors. Low-wage workers have struggled with wage pressures stemming from stagnant wage growth. A majority of firms expressed optimistic outlook for the continued economic growth over the next six months (Federal Reserve District 2021).

5.4.1.2 Population Demographics

According to the USCB ACS 2019 estimates, Sullivan County has a population of 6,135 within an area of approximately 452 square miles (population density 13.57 persons/mi²). This density is considerably lower than the State of Pennsylvania which has a population density of 277.75 persons/mi². The population has been steadily decreasing, leveling out around the low 6,000s, ever since peaking at 12,134 in 1900 (Sullivan County 2011). Within an overwhelming majority of those identifying as one race (99.3 percent), 95.6 percent are White, 2.4 percent are Black or African American, less than 0.2 percent are Asian and Native American, and 1.1 percent are some other race (USCB 2021b). The median household income was \$47,407. The percentage of residents reported as living below the poverty threshold was 13.2 percent for Sullivan County (USCB 2021c).

5.4.1.3 Housing

The median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in Colley Township is \$44,167 (Table 3). This is 18 percent less than the median value of owner-occupied housing in Sullivan County, which has a median average of \$154,400. Out of 594 total housing units in Colley Township, 594 or approximately 89.9 percent are 1-unit, detached housing units. Approximately 90 percent of housing units in Colley Township are owner-occupied while 10 percent are renter-occupied.

A search on the National Association of Realtors website for property for-sale within 10 miles of the Red Rock Job Corps Center revealed 86 properties available including 45 open lots/acreage, 40 single-family homes and 1 manufactured home available. Ten homes were listed between \$30,000 and \$100,000; eleven homes were listed between \$102,000 and \$150,000. An additional ten homes were listed between \$155,000 and \$300,000, and another eleven priced out between \$345,000 and \$600,000. One single-family home in the area had a listed price of over \$800,000 (National Association of Realtors 2021).

Table 3. Housing Characteristics, 2019

Jurisdiction	Total Housing Units	Percent Vacant	Percent Owner Occupied	Median Value Owner Occupied	Median Rent Renter Occupied	Median Household Income
Colley Township	594	74.3	90	\$126,000	\$697	\$44,167
Sullivan County	5,574	57.3	82.0	\$154,400	\$643	\$47,407
Luzerne County	150,693	13.0	58.6	\$125,700	\$810	\$53,972
Pennsylvania	5,742,828	10.7	68.4	\$192,600	\$951	\$63,463

Source: USCB 2021b.

5.4.1.4 Community Services

Community services examined include education, health services, law enforcement, fire protection, and recreation.

Education. The Red Rock Job Corps Center is located within Sullivan County, Pennsylvania. The Center falls within the Sullivan County School District. The District has one elementary school and one high school. Sullivan County Elementary School, located 11 miles away, is the closest school to the Job Corps Center.

In Sullivan County, approximately 48.1 percent of the population 25 years and over have a high school diploma, and approximately 17.5 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher. Comparatively, in the State of Pennsylvania, approximately 34.3 percent of the population 25 years and over possess a high school diploma with 31.9 percent holding a bachelor's degree or higher. Sullivan County has a greater percentage of residents with a high school diploma than in the State of Pennsylvania, but a lower rate of those holding bachelor's degrees (USCB 2021c).

Health Services. The Sullivan County Medical Center, located approximately 20 miles from the Job Corps Center at 217 King Street, Laporte, PA 18626, provides county residents with medical services that includes General Dentistry and Family Medicine (Vitals 2021).

Law Enforcement. The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, located approximately 20 miles away from the Job Corps Center at 245 Muncy Street, Laporte, PA 18626, provides law enforcement services within Sullivan County (Sullivan County 2021a).

Fire Protection. The Mildred Fire Company & Ambulance (Station 58), located 11.7 miles north of the Job Corps Center at 113 School Road, Mildred, PA 18632, is one of nine fire departments that provide emergency services throughout Sullivan County (Sullivan County 2021b).

Recreation. Indoor recreation activities at the Red Rock Job Corps Center include the main student lounge and recreation area, pool room, a game room, and a theater in the

recreation building (Building 9); arts and crafts in the Group Life building (Building 8), and an indoor basketball court, weight room, and locker rooms in the Gymnasium (Building 15) (DOL 2018a). Outdoor recreation facilities consist of an athletic field, a softball field, a basketball court, and a volleyball court (DOL 2018a).

The Red Rock Job Corps Center is located within Ricketts Glen State Park, a 13,193-acre park spanning Columbia, Luzerne, and Sullivan counties. The park host many recreational activities including hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, camping, swimming, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing. Notable natural features within Ricketts Glen State Park include Lake Jean and the twenty-two waterfalls along the Falls Trail within the Glens Natural Area, a National Natural Landmark. The Glens became a registered National Natural Landmark in 1969. In 1993, it became a State Park Natural Area. The park is managed by several entities based on activity and focus of preservation: the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry (BOF) for long-term forest health and native plant conservation; Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) for hunting, trapping and fishing; and DCNR Bureau of State Parks (BSP) for healthful outdoor recreation and environmental education (DCNR 2021a; DCNR 2021c).

5.4.1.5 Environmental Justice

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations*. The purpose of this EO is to avoid the disproportionate placement of adverse environmental, economic, social, or health impacts from federal actions and policies on minority and low-income populations or communities.

For environmental justice considerations, these populations are defined as individuals or groups of individuals subject to actual or potential health, economic, or environmental threat arising from existing or proposed federal actions and policies. Low-income, i.e., at or below the poverty threshold, is defined as the aggregate annual mean income for a family of four at or below \$26,200 in 2020 (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services [HHS] 2020).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB), Sullivan County, at 13.2 percent, has a slightly higher percentage of residents below the poverty level when compared to the State of Pennsylvania at 12.4 percent (USCB 2021c).

5.4.1.6 Protection of Children

On April 21, 1997, President Clinton issued EO 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*. This EO recognizes that a growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health risks and safety risks.

DOL intends to fully comply with EO 13045 by incorporating these concerns in decision-making processes supporting DOL policies, programs, projects, and activities. In this regard, the DOL ensures that it would identify, disclose, and respond to potential adverse

social and environmental impacts on children within the area affected by a proposed DOL action.

5.4.2 Environmental Consequences

In this section the potential impacts to socioeconomic resources that could result from taking no action and implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative are described.

5.4.2.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on economic development, population demographics, housing, community services, and environmental justice because there would be no change from existing conditions.

5.4.2.2 Proposed Action Alternative

The following section details potential impacts to each aspect of socioeconomics that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative.

Economic Development. The Proposed Action Alternative would result in beneficial impacts due to increased revenue to the region during the construction phase due to use of regional construction labor. Long-term effects on the local economy would have little to no measurable impact.

Population Demographics. The Proposed Action Alternative would not result in any detectable changes to the demographics of the local or regional areas.

Housing. The Proposed Action Alternative would not result in any detectable changes to housing in the local or regional areas.

Community Services. There are no anticipated impacts to police, fire, and law enforcement public services (i.e., police and fire protection, hospital services) or recreational opportunities as a result of the proposed construction at the Red Rock Job Corps Center. There would be no increase in staff as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative and therefore there would not be any additional demand on these services.

Environmental Justice. The Proposed Action Alternative would not negatively affect low-income or minority families with respect to health, community disruption, transportation, planned development, or employment. No families, whether in these socioeconomic groups or not, would be relocated as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative. There would be no changes in local populations or other social factors as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative. The Job Corps Center would continue to provide services to low income families, through their educational and training program. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would meet the requirements of EO 12898.

Protection of Children. There are no anticipated impacts to the safety of children during the construction phase of the project. Appropriate federal and state safety measures and health regulations would be followed to protect the health and safety of all residents as well as workers. Safety measures, barriers, and “no trespassing” signs would be placed around the perimeter of construction sites to deter children from playing in these areas,

and construction vehicles and equipment would be secured when not in use. There would be no impacts to the safety of children from the operation of the new cafeteria and the gymnasium addition. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would meet the requirements of EO 13045.

5.5 Cumulative Impacts

A cumulative impact analysis evaluates the incremental effects of implementing the Proposed Action Alternative when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future DOL or other actions at the Red Rock Job Corp Center and the actions of other parties in the surrounding area, where applicable. A five-year planning horizon was used for this assessment (five years into the past and five years into the future).

5.5.1 Actions at the Red Rock Job Corp Center Property

Within the past five years, the operator has completed and began current maintenance, repair, and minor renovation projects on the Red Rock Job Corp Center campus. These projects have included:

Completed Projects

- Improvement of the storefront building entrance at the Sullivan Dormitory (Building 1)
- Installation of a new Gymnasium floor
- Replacement of Building 21 roof

There are no current projects other than the Proposed Action Alternative discussed in this EA.

Reasonably foreseeable future actions other than the Proposed Action Alternative that may occur at the Center include the following construction, repair, renovation, and replacement projects funded or recommended as of the most recent Facility Planning Report (DOL 2018a):

- Center-wide HVAC system upgrades and repairs
- Improve Center water supply and resolve excessive inflow and infiltration of the Center sewage system
- Resurface/repair deteriorated roads and sidewalks
- Prepare a study of upgrades and improvement of the reliability of the Center's primary electrical distribution system

5.5.2 Actions by Others in the Surrounding Area

No projects are planned in the surrounding area by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) or Sullivan County related to Route 487 (PennDOT 2021a, 2021b, 2021c; Sullivan County 2011) or by Pennsylvania DCNR in regard to trail improvements in the Ricketts Glen State Park (Pennsylvania DCNR 2020).

5.5.3 Potential Cumulative Impacts

Recent maintenance, repair, and minor renovation projects conducted at the Red Rock Job Corps Center did not appear to have resulted in any adverse impacts and led to the beneficial impacts of needed improvements to the facility.

All of the potential future projects planned for the facility are expected to result in beneficial impacts to continued operation of the Center, while any adverse impacts would likely be negligible or mitigated, pending assessment as part of future NEPA studies, if required.

5.5.3.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed project would not occur. Therefore, there would be no action that would potentially contribute to cumulative impacts resulting from past, present and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the surrounding area.

5.5.3.2 Proposed Action Alternative

As presented in Sections 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4, the Proposed Action Alternative would have little to no measurable impacts on ecologically critical areas or other unique natural resources, soils and geology, surface water, threatened and endangered species, vegetation, wildlife, energy requirements and conservation potential, climate change, noise, economic development, transportation, and utilities. The potential effects associated with most of these impact topics would be short-term effects related to construction (i.e., soils and geology, surface water, threatened and endangered species, wildlife, noise, economic development and transportation) and any adverse effects would be avoided or minimized with the implementation of the mitigation measures and BMPs presented in Section 5.6.

Impact topics that would be affected by the Proposed Action Alternative over the long term were determined to not involve sensitive or limited resources (e.g. ecologically critical areas or other unique natural resources and vegetation). Lastly, the amount of energy and water resources needed to operate the new cafeteria and gymnasium addition would not have an appreciable effect on energy conservation, climate change, or existing utilities. The Proposed Action Alternative, therefore, in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities, would not contribute to significant cumulative impacts in the surrounding area.

5.6 Mitigation Measures or Best Management Practices

The No Action Alternative would not require implementation of any mitigation measures. Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative, however, would incorporate measures to mitigate environmental impacts during construction, operation, and maintenance activities, as follows:

- Prior to commencement of any demolition or construction activities, a silt fence or other suitable control device would be placed between the construction area and any potentially affected waterway or drainage area. The barrier would be

maintained in a functioning capacity until the area is permanently stabilized upon project completion. Other erosion control measures to minimize indirect impacts to aquatic resources may include staked straw bales, brush barriers, sediment basins, and diversion ditches.

- Runoff from construction areas would be collected and stored in an approved and permitted storm water collection system prior to discharge.
- Once initiated, project construction would be carried out in an expeditious manner in order to minimize the period of disturbance to the environment.
- If needed, water sprayers would be used during dry weather in conjunction with grading and excavating to minimize fugitive dust.
- During construction, all necessary measures would be taken to prevent oil, tar, trash, debris, and other pollutants from entering adjacent waterways. Construction areas would be cleaned on a daily basis and onsite trash containers would remain closed, except when adding or removing trash.
- Upon completion of the construction activities, all adjacent disturbed areas would be permanently stabilized with a grass or vegetative covering.

In combination, these practices are designed to prevent or reduce environmental impacts.

6.0 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This EA was conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500), and the DOL NEPA Compliance Procedures (29 CFR §11). As analyzed and discussed in this EA, impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative for new construction of a cafeteria and expansion of the existing gymnasium at the Red Rock Jobs Corp Center have been considered and no significant impacts were identified. Therefore, issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact is warranted and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

7.0 AGENCY CONSULTATION

The DOL contacted federal and state agencies and twelve federally-recognized Native American tribes regarding the Proposed Action Alternative. The letters and agency responses are presented in Appendix A. The following agencies were consulted:

- USFWS, Pennsylvania Ecological Services Field Office
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Cayuga Nation
- Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Oneida Indian Nation
- Onondaga Nation
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Seneca-Cayuga Nation
- Shawnee Tribe
- Stockbridge Munsee Community, Wisconsin
- Tuscarora Nation

8.0 PREPARERS OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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APPENDIX A
AGENCY COMMENT SOLICITATION LETTERS

