



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

April 16, 2025

Department of the Navy
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
ATTN: Jill Sears
1562 Mitscher Avenue
Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decision for Homeporting USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, Sinclair Inlet, Bremerton, Kitsap County, Washington

Dear Jill Sears:

On March 7, 2025, the Department of the Navy (Navy) submitted a Consistency Determination with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). Ecology issued a 21-day public notice on March 17, 2025.

The Navy proposes to replace the older Nimitz-class aircraft carrier at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton (NAVBASE Kitsap-Bremerton) with a newer Ford-class aircraft carrier, USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79). The project site is located within Kitsap County, within the City of Bremerton.

The proposal includes the permanent assignment of CVN 79 and personnel to NAVBASE Kitsap-Bremerton and the necessary infrastructure improvements to support the homeporting, specifically upgrades to the electrical distribution system. Upgrades to portions of the electrical distribution system to increase power supply would begin 2026. CVN 79 and approximately 2,800 military personnel, plus their family members, are expected to arrive no earlier than fiscal year 2029. The total number of personnel stationed at NAVBASE Kitsap-Bremerton associated with homeported aircraft carriers would decrease by approximately 340 because Ford-class aircraft carriers require a smaller crew than Nimitz-class aircraft carriers. Pier-side activities supporting the current Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, including maintenance, will continue in support of CVN 79. However, as a new ship, the Navy anticipates that maintenance activities for

CVN 79 would decrease compared to current maintenance activities for the older Nimitz-class carriers. No in-water work is proposed.

Electrical distribution system upgrades would include the demolition and replacement of an existing upland electrical substation, construction of a new upland electrical substation near the carrier pier, and upgrades to the transformers and switch gear of two existing electrical substations on the pier used for carrier homeporting. Due to existing upland geotechnical conditions at the location of the new substation, approximately 60 micro-piles would be installed on-land at a depth of 90 feet for stabilization. The length of the micro-piles is based on an approximate liquefiable layer thickness of 60 feet at the new substation site. The micro-piles would be installed using duplex drilling methods (i.e., a rotating outside casing and a rotating inside drill bit), as they cannot be driven via impact or vibratory hammer. The drilling steel (casing) would be advanced to the target depth, the internal bit would be withdrawn, the casing would be filled with grout (a watery concrete), the center bar would be plunged, and the casing would be partially withdrawn. This method of installation is quieter than pile-driving and does not produce vibrational noise typical of impact pile driving, substantially reducing environmental disturbances caused by noise.

Construction of the new substation is scheduled to start in early 2026, with work at the existing substation beginning in June 2026. The total proposed construction period is expected to last a minimum of 46 months, though actual construction activities will be intermittent and will occur over a span of two years within that timeframe.

Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with the Navy's determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's decision, please contact Teresa Pucylowski at teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov.

Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this decision with the PCHB (see filing information below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.

- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this decision on the Department of Ecology by mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

Address and Location Information

Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://elaho.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

Service on Ecology

Street Addresses:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Mailing Addresses:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
PO Box 47608
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

E-Mail Address:

ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Loree' Randall, Section Manager
Aquatic Permitting & Protection Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Sent via e-mail: jill.r.sears.civ@us.navy.mil

E-cc: Jarrett Schuster, Navy
Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology
fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov