



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jack D. Dale, Superintendent
8115 Gatehouse Road
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

July 18, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Anthony H. Griffin
FROM: Jack D. Dale 
SUBJECT: BRAC Final Environmental Impact Statement

With great disappointment, I report that the Fort Belvoir Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) **does not** address any of the concerns which had been previously articulated in my letter to the Army, concerns which were also referenced in a letter from Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly.

Despite the capacity analysis which demonstrated a significant shortage of classroom space projected for those schools most likely to be impacted, the final EIS merely reiterates a projected school impact of 3,258 school-aged children within the local 'region of influence' (ROI). In what appears to be a contradiction, however, the EIS also minimizes the reported impact by stating that the impact would likely be less; that no re-located employees are required to move; that the anticipated population increase due to BRAC activity "would be less than one percent of the 2010 Fairfax County population forecast"; and that local effects "would be expected to be minor to moderate."

I cannot agree that the local effects would be 'minor or moderate' as stated in the EIS. The local effects would require Fairfax County Public Schools to accommodate an influx of approximately 3,000 students. The "minor to moderate" effect would result in a need to construct the capacity equivalent of 1.95 elementary schools and 32 middle school. This potential expense of \$77.1 million represents nearly 10% of the five year Capital Improvement Program.

The Final EIS speculates that the impact would likely be less due to the potential for some students to be home-schooled, attend private schools, or due to some families moving into the areas around Ft. Belvoir, replacing families moving away. However, no evidence to support these assumptions is provided nor does the report indicate how much less than the reported 3,258 students could be anticipated.

Finally, and most incredibly, the EIS indicates that the vast majority of people moving into the area would be federal civilian employees and contractors who would be "tax-paying citizens" and that "their tax dollars would support public services." Residential tax dollars are not sufficient to pay for public facilities. Through the County's Comprehensive Policy Plan, Residential Density Criteria, and development review process, monetary contributions are routinely proffered by developers seeking approval for residential rezoning applications in order to help off-set the cost of school capital facilities. A private development which resulted in excess of over 3,000 new students would be expected to provide a significant monetary contribution to off-set impacts to school capital facilities.

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On behalf of Fairfax County Public Schools and members of the Fairfax County School Board, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Final EIS for the impending BRAC action. I ask that these comments be joined with those of other agencies responding to the Final EIS. FCPS continues to encourage coordination between the Army's project consultants as the EIS moves forward to the Record of Decision and implementation. Our points of contact are Dean Tistadt, chief operating officer (703-246-6950), and Gary Chevalier, director, Office of Facilities Planning Services (703-246-6920).

Thank you for your attention and for your consideration of our comments.

JDD/lms

cc: John Warner, U.S. Senate
Jim Webb, U.S. Senate
Thomas M. Davis III, U.S. House of Representatives
James P. Moran, U.S. House of Representatives
Frank R. Wolf, U.S. House of Representatives
Fairfax County School Board
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Dean A. Tistadt, Chief Operating Office, FCPS
Gary Chevalier, Director, Office of Facilities Planning Services, FCPS
Kevin Sneed, Director, Design and Construction, FCPS
James P. Zook, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning