



# Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement



*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

## Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements: Public Scoping

### Introduction

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted to address concerns about federal actions and their effects on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most detailed analysis prescribed by regulations implementing NEPA. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is prepared after an EIS when substantial changes are made to a proposed action, there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns, or the purposes of NEPA will be furthered by completion of the SEIS. An SEIS is a public document and public involvement is a vital component of the NEPA process.

The U.S. Air Force has published a Notice of Intent to prepare an SEIS, pursuant to NEPA, for the proposed Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements. The Proposed Action includes the construction of a fuel pipeline and associated support facilities, and improvements to certain existing roadways on the island of Tinian in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

### Background of the U.S. Air Force Tinian Divert Project

In September 2016, the U.S. Air Force completed the Final EIS for Divert Activities and Exercises. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed December 7, 2016, which announced the U.S. Air Force decision to select the Modified Tinian Alternative, and specifically the North Option, as a future Divert location (see Figure 1). After the ROD, the U.S. Air Force conducted further evaluation of the fuel requirement and associated infrastructure, and of the existing surface roadway networks on Tinian. The U.S. Air Force now proposes to construct a fuel pipeline to transport fuel from the seaport to the airport, rather than using fuel trucks for fuel transfer. In addition, the U.S. Air Force also proposes to improve certain existing roads between the seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert-related projects.

### What is the Public Scoping Process?

Public scoping is an early and open process for identifying issues and alternatives to be addressed in an EIS and determining who (e.g., public and government agencies) is interested in the proposed action. While federal regulations do not require public scoping for an SEIS, the U.S. Air Force determined that conducting public scoping for the proposed infrastructure improvements will help inform interested stakeholders, elicit valuable community input, and provide transparency through a mutual exchange of information. The public scoping process began with publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register stating the U.S. Air Force's intent to prepare an SEIS. Comments received during the public scoping process will be considered in the preparation of the Draft SEIS. See the timeline on the back of this page for additional information regarding steps in the SEIS process.

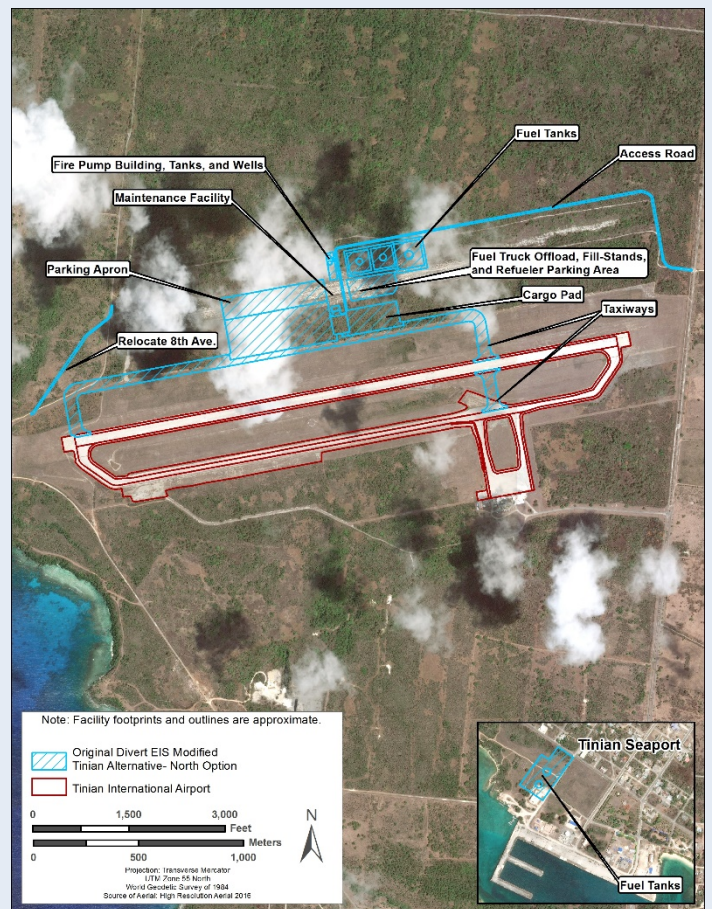


Figure 1: Original EIS Modified Tinian Alternative – North Option

## Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action is to construct a fuel pipeline from the Tinian seaport to Tinian International Airport, to include a booster pump house, boom storage building, and necessary utility connections at the Tinian seaport. The Proposed Action also includes the improvement of certain existing roads between the seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert-related projects. The Proposed Action would have three aspects:

- **Fuel Pipeline:** The pipeline would be constructed underground within a 20 foot easement and along existing right-of-ways, to the extent practicable. The U.S. Air Force is considering two direct routes from the seaport to the airport for the pipeline.
- **Seaport Support Facilities:** To support pipeline operations, a booster pump house, boom storage building, and associated infrastructure would be constructed at the Tinian seaport in place of the two seaport fuel storage tanks proposed in the original EIS.
- **Roadway Improvements:** Roadway improvements are proposed on Divert-related transportation routes that were analyzed in the original EIS, and would include, where necessary, removing and replacing the existing deteriorated asphalt cap of the roadway.

Figure 2 provides an overview of all proposed infrastructure improvements and alternatives.

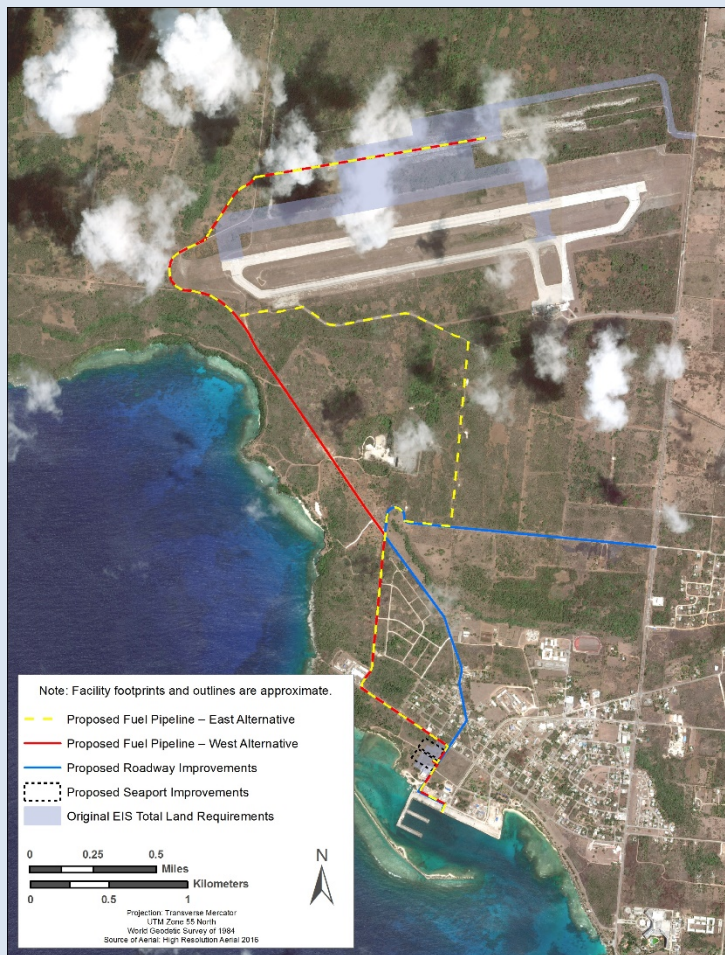
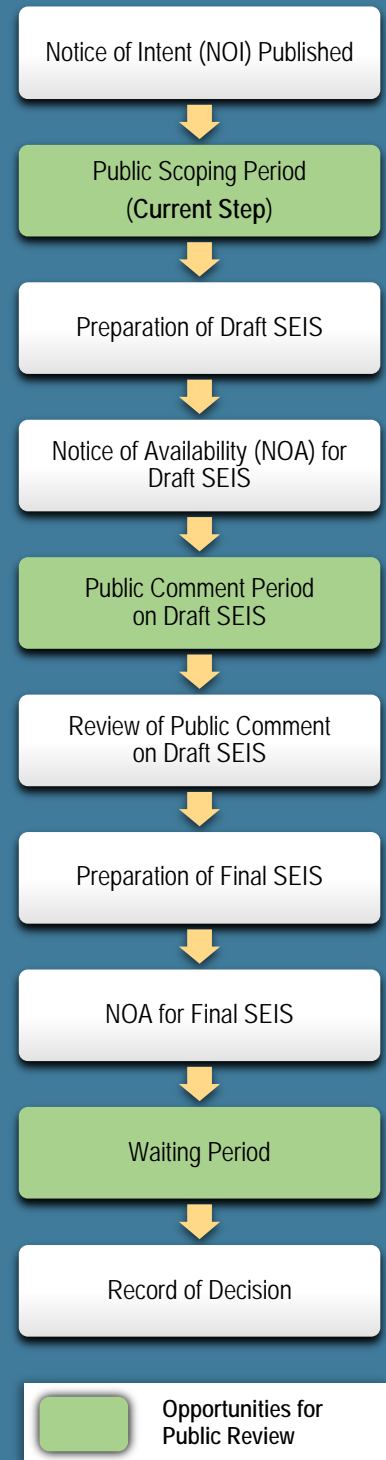


Figure 2: Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements  
Proposed Action and Alternatives

## Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements SEIS Timeline



Comments, suggestions, and relevant information are welcomed on the proposal. Please submit comments in English at the public scoping meeting, by visiting the project website, or contacting Ms. Melissa Markell at the address below. A Chamorro/Carolinian interpreter is available at the public scoping meeting to assist with translation of written comments into English.

Address comments to: Ms. Melissa Markell, AFCEC/CZN

Attn: Tinian Divert SEIS

2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155

JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

*The U.S. Air Force also welcomes comments under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800) regarding the identification of or effects on historic properties, and requests to become a consulting party in the Section 106 process.*