

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Construction and Operation of the 2018 Master Plan - Phase 4 Expansion
Massachusetts National Cemetery
Bourne, Barnstable County, Massachusetts

The U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) hereby gives Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the VA's Proposed Action to implement the proposed 2018 Master Plan for the Phase 4 expansion at the Massachusetts National Cemetery (MNC), located at Connery Avenue, Bourne, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, 02532. The Phase 4 expansion would be constructed in an approximately 50-acre area within the existing 750-acre MNC property and provide approximately 12,000 new interment areas, including 4,000 pre-placed double depth crypts, 300 over-sized pre-placed crypts, 200 traditional full casket crypts, 6,000 in-ground cremation sites, and 1,500 columbarium niches. Additionally, the Phase 4 expansion would provide new roadways, a new maintenance outbuilding, and associated improvements to existing infrastructure. The Phase 4 expansion would extend the longevity of the MNC for approximately 10 years.

The Draft SEA was prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ([NEPA]); 42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and VA's NEPA implementing regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

This NOA starts the 30-day review period for the Draft SEA. The Draft SEA is available for review in print at the MNC Public Information Center/Administration building; the Jonathan Bourne Library, 19 Sandwich Road, Bourne, MA 02532; and the North Falmouth Library, 6 Chester Street, North Falmouth, MA 02556; and may be electronically downloaded at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp>. Any substantive comments received during the 30-day review period will be documented and addressed in the Final SEA.

VA additionally invites all interested members of the public to attend a public meeting to discuss the proposed Phase 4 expansion on Thursday, August 01, 2019, from 6-8 PM, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 4 Home Depot Drive, Plymouth, MA 02360.

All comments on the Draft SEA are requested within 30 days of the publication of this NOA. Please address all comments to Mr. Fernando Fernández, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Construction & Facilities Management, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, DC, 20001; (202) 632-5529; or fernando.fernandez@va.gov. Please reference "Massachusetts National Cemetery" in all correspondence.