

VA SCOPING NOTICE

October 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Scoping for an Environmental Assessment for Proposed Seismic Upgrades at Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to address seismic deficiencies at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center, located at 1501 San Pedro Drive Southeast in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico (Figure 1). The purpose of the Proposed Action is to address existing seismic deficiencies. The Proposed Action is needed to improve safety for Veterans, staff, and visitors, and to ensure the continuity of health care services to Veterans. VA proposes to perform seismic upgrades to eight buildings.

VA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed seismic upgrades at the Medical Center. VA will prepare the EA in accordance with the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370h), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and VA Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26). The EA will evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts on the human environment resulting from the Proposed Action.

If you have comments on the scope of issues for analysis, or input on potential alternatives or information/analyses relevant to the Proposed Action, please submit your comments/input via email to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Albuquerque Seismic Upgrades EA" by November 18, 2021. For additional information or questions, please contact Ms. Christine Modovsky, VA Environmental Engineer, at Christine.Modovsky@va.gov or (202) 632-5352. Reference "Albuquerque Seismic Upgrades EA" in your correspondence.

VA anticipates publishing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in Winter 2022. VA will notify stakeholders via email/mail, publish a notice of availability of the Draft EA in the *Albuquerque Journal*, and solicit comments at that time. The Draft EA will be available for review at the San Pedro Public Library (located at 5600 Trumbull SE, Albuquerque, NM) and via the VA website: <https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/>.

