

and marine ecological research. The NEFSC is the research arm of NMFS in the Greater Atlantic Region. The NEFSC conducts research and provides scientific advice to manage fisheries and conserve protected species in the Atlantic Ocean, primarily from Maine through North Carolina. However, some limited fisheries research is conducted in more southern estuaries and Atlantic Ocean. The NEFSC provides scientific information to support the North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and numerous other domestic and international fisheries management organizations.

The NEFSC collects a wide array of information necessary to evaluate the status of exploited fishery resources and the marine environment. NEFSC scientists and their partners conduct fisheries-independent research onboard NOAA-owned and operated vessels or on chartered vessels. The gear types used fall into several categories: trawl gear used at various levels in the water column, longlines with multiple hooks, gillnets, and other gear. Of research gear used by NEFSC, only trawl, hook and line gear (including longline gears), fyke nets, and gillnets are likely to interact with marine mammals resulting in serious injury or mortality.

Information Solicited

Interested persons may submit information, suggestions, and comments concerning the NEFSC's request (see **ADDRESSES**). NMFS will consider all information, suggestions, and comments related to the request during the development of proposed regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals by the NEFSC, if appropriate.

Dated: September 8, 2026.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2026-18613 Filed 9-10-26; 8:45 am]

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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Notice of Meeting

Per 45 CFR Chapter XXI § 2102.3, the next meeting of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for September 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and will be held in the Commission offices at the National Building Museum, Suite 312, Judiciary Square, 401 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20001-2728. Items of discussion may include buildings, infrastructure, parks, memorials, and public art.

Draft agendas and additional information regarding the Commission are available on our website: www.cfa.gov. Inquiries regarding the agenda, as well as any public testimony, and requests to submit written or oral statements should be addressed to Thomas Luebke, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, at the above address; by emailing cfastaff@cfa.gov; or by calling 202-504-2200. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should contact the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting date.

Dated September 4, 2026 in Washington, DC.

Zakiya N. Walters,
Administrative Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026-18545 Filed 9-10-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41) (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 4370m *et seq.*), The DoD (referred to herein as "the Department of War" or "DoW") announces the availability of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), following DoW's evaluation of the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of an integrated non-ferrous smelting and refining facility and associated infrastructure in Montgomery County, Tennessee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rose Johnson, Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Energy, Installations, and Environment, (571) 372-6793, rose.m.johnson140.civ@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Project Crucible is a covered project under the FAST-41 statute. FAST-41 is intended to provide transparency into the environmental review and authorization process for infrastructure projects, which is accomplished by posting projects on the Permitting Dashboard. The Project Crucible FAST-41 Permitting Dashboard can be viewed at <https://www.permits.performance.gov/>

permitting-project/fast-41-covered-projects/project-crucible.

The Final EA evaluates the reasonably foreseeable environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of Project Crucible, an integrated non-ferrous smelting and refining facility near Clarkesville, Montgomery County, Tennessee. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and DoW NEPA Implementing Procedures to inform DoW's decision whether to provide financial assistance through the DoW Office of Strategic Capital to Crucible Metals, LLC for Project Crucible and to inform the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) decision-making responsibilities associated with the Connected Actions. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Indian Tribes, TVA, and other participating agencies were involved in review and consultation related to the Proposed Action.

The Final EA evaluates the reasonably foreseeable environmental effects of the Proposed Action and no action alternative. Environmental resource areas carried forward for detailed analysis in the EA include air quality and greenhouse gases, water resources, acoustic environment, biological resources, cultural resources, utilities, solid and hazardous waste and hazardous materials, transportation, and socioeconomics. Based on the analysis presented in the EA, which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA and DoW NEPA Implementing Procedures, and in coordination with the USACE, Tennessee SHPO, federally recognized Indian Tribes, USFWS, and TVA, DoW finds that implementation of the Proposed Action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Endangered Species Act Section 7. The DoW consulted with the USFWS under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act regarding the proposed action and received concurrence with DoW's finding that the Proposed Action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species. USFWS also acknowledged DoW's "no jeopardy" conference determinations for species proposed for listing. There are no federally designated critical habitats in the proposed project area.

National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. In consultation with

federally recognized Tribes, Tennessee SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, DoW found that construction activities associated with the project would adversely affect three archaeological resources and one historic site. DoW proposed phased identification and assessment of effects resulting from construction of the connected utility infrastructure. The Tennessee SHPO concurred with this finding, the phased approach, the proposed conditions on the undertaking to avoid and minimize effects, and the proposed mitigation measures to resolve adverse effects. DoW has documented its decision, including the final conditions on the undertaking and the measures to resolve adverse effects, in the FONSI.

The Final EA and FONSI will be available to view and download electronically at <https://www.denix.osd.mil/ProjectCrucible> on September 11, 2026. The documentation is available from any internet access including from computers freely available at public libraries.

Dated: September 9, 2026.

Stephanie J. Bost,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2026-18606 Filed 9-10-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Establishment of Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committees—Homeland Defense Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Establishment of Federal advisory committee.

SUMMARY: The DoD (referred to herein as “the Department of War” or “DoW”) is publishing this notice to announce it is establishing the Homeland Defense Board (HDB) as a discretionary Federal advisory committee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Freeman, Advisory Committee Management Officer for the DoW, 703-692-5952.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with authority described in Chapter 10 of Title 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1008(a)(2), the Secretary of War (SecWar) approved the establishment of the HDB. The public or interested organizations may submit written statements about the HDB’s mission and functions. The HDB will operate in accordance with chapter 10 of Title 5,

U.S.C. (“commonly known as the Federal Advisory Committee Act” or “FACA”), as amended, and 41 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 102-3, “Federal Advisory Committee Management,” [90 **Federal Register** 58417; December 16, 2025], and DoW policies and procedures.

Written statements may be submitted at any time or in response to the stated agenda of planned meetings of the HDB. All written statements shall be submitted to the HDB Designated Federal Officer (DFO), and this individual will ensure that all written statements are provided to the membership for their consideration. Once established, the HDB’s DFO’s contact information will be available on the DoD portion of the FACA Database which is maintained by the General Services Administration (GSA): <https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/s/account/001t000000DCAooAAH/departments/of/defense>.

Consistent with 41 CFR 102-3.65(a), the DoW is publishing the HDB’s Public Interest Determination.

Pursuant to 41 CFR. 102-3.60(a), to establish, renew, reestablish, or merge a discretionary (agency discretion) advisory committee, an agency must first consult with the GSA Committee Management Secretariat (the Secretariat) and, as part of the consultation, provide a written public interest determination approved by the head of the agency to the Secretariat with a copy to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). In addition, pursuant to 41 CFR. 102-3.35, an agency shall follow the same consultation process and document in writing the same determination of need before creating a subcommittee under a discretionary committee that is not made up entirely of members of a parent advisory committee.

Information on the following factors for the HDB is provided to the Secretariat to demonstrate that establishing the HDB is in the public interest:

1. *Annual Budget:* The Department of War (DoW) estimates annual operating costs to support the HDB are \$350,000, which includes personnel travel, meetings, and contract support.

a. *Federal personnel on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis:* The estimated annual personnel costs to the DoW are 0.75 full-time equivalent at \$300,000, which includes basic pay with cost-of-living allowance.

b. *Other Federal internal costs:* \$30,000.

c. *Proposed payments to members:* Consistent with 10 U.S.C. 173, members of the HDB are not compensated for their services, except for travel and per

diem reimbursement for official HDB-related business.

d. *Proposed number of members:* As authorized by the Secretary of War (SecWar), the HDB will be composed of not more than 20 members and subcommittees, if authorized, will be composed of not more than 15 members.

e. *Reimbursable costs:* The estimated reimbursement costs, including travel, for DBB staff and members are \$20,000.

2. *If applicable, the total dollar value of grants expected to be recommended during the fiscal year:* N/A.

3. *Criteria for selecting members to ensure the committee has the necessary expertise and fairly balanced membership:* As described in its proposed charter and membership balance plan, the HDB will be composed of members who are eminent authorities in the fields of homeland defense, military strategy, defense support of civil authorities (DSCA), interagency integration, critical infrastructure and cybersecurity, strategic competition, and regional geopolitics, specifically western hemisphere policy:

(1) SecWar to serve as member and Chair.

(2) Assistant Secretary of War for Homeland Defense and Americas Security Affairs to serve as member and Vice Chair.

(3) Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Homeland Defense.

(4) Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Defense Continuity and Mission Assurance.

(5) Military Department Representatives: One DoW civilian officer and one field-grade/mid-grade officer from each Military Department.

(6) Such other members as the SecWar or the Deputy Secretary of War (“the DoW Appointing Authority”) may appoint or designate.

In evaluating candidates for the HDB, the DoW reviews the educational and professional credentials of individuals with extensive professional experience in the subject matters anticipated to be tasked to the HDB. The DoW has found that viewing the complex issues facing the DoW through a multidisciplinary advisory committee provides the DoW and, more importantly, the American public with a broader understanding of the issues on which subsequent policy decisions are based. Membership shall be fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the HDB. The HDB’s membership balance is not static, and the DoW Appointing Authority may change the membership based upon work assigned to the HDB.

4. *List of all other DoW Federal Advisory Committees:* A complete