

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Long-Term Spinal Cord Injury Facility
North Texas Health Care System
VA Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA [40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508] and Title 38, Part 26.4(a) (Environmental Effects of VA Actions), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and document potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Action.

Background

The VA North Texas Health Care System Dallas VA Medical Center (VAMC) is an 84-acre campus which is a referral center for the VA North Texas Health Care System and a major teaching and medical research center. Also on campus is the Energy Center and VA Community Center which includes conference facilities, a Wellness Center, and Child Care Center. The Dallas VAMC employs approximately 3,300 people. The number of veterans the Dallas VAMC serves and the services it provides are constantly expanding; therefore, to continue to satisfy the demands of VA, the Dallas VAMC continues to upgrade its campus.

Proposed Action

The VA is planning to undertake a building expansion program at the Dallas VAMC. The first project will be the Long-Term Spinal Cord Injury (LTSCI) Facility, which is discussed in more detail below.

The proposed project, located in the eastern portion of the existing VAMC campus, will include the construction of a LTSCI building, parking garage, and warehouse; and the renovation of areas in the basement of existing Building 2. The LTSCI building will be located to the southeast of the current Mental Health Building (Building 1) adjacent to Building 74. The new LTSCI building will be a three-story, approximately 152,000 square foot structure whose primary function will provide residences for Veterans with long-term spinal cord injuries. In addition, the building will also house an Outpatient Spinal Cord Injury Clinic, administrative offices and physical/occupational therapy departments.

The LTSCI parking garage will adjoin the LTSCI building to the north. The proposed garage will be no more than a five-story structure and will have approximately 1,000 parking spaces. The parking garage will provide parking for staff and patients of the LTSCI facility as well as other public and staff who use the VAMC campus. The proposed warehouse will be located to the northeast of the LTSCI parking garage. It will be an approximately 80,000 square foot structure.

Several existing buildings will be demolished as part of site preparation activities. Building 10 was determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the VA, Texas Historical Commission (THC), and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) was established. The MOA specifies that Building 10 can be demolished but outlines several mitigation measures that must be undertaken and documented by VA.

