



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Federal Bureau of Prisons

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*Washington, DC 20534*

July 21, 2023

**Update on the Proposed FCI/FPC Letcher County, KY, Project**

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and WSP (BOP's contractor) held a virtual meeting with the Letcher County Planning Commission (LCPC) on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, to provide the LCPC an update on the proposed FCI/FPC Letcher County, KY, project.

Since the public scoping meeting that was held on November 17, 2022, in Letcher County, the BOP and WSP have been updating the following areas of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

- Revising the purpose and need for the proposed project
- Currently evaluating alternatives
- Scoping with federal and state agencies:
  - Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office
  - U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Kentucky Department of Transportation (DOT)
  - Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection
- Updating affected environment
- Updating potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures
- Updating local conditions
  - Population
  - Economy
  - Housing
  - Education
  - Health Care
  - Emergency Services
  - Utility Services

The next steps are as follows:

- Field teams to conduct new wetland delineation in accordance with new federal guidance
  - Last delineation is 7 years old; USACE requires delineations <5 years old for jurisdictional determinations and permit applications

- Access habitats as changes could have occurred in some early-stage succession habitats
- Confirm conditions for potential of state/federally listed threatened or endangered species
- Note presence of wildlife or their signs (mammals, birds, amphibians, fish)
- Document extent of invasive plant species
- Revisit streams to identify if sedimentation is occurring from previous mining activities
- Identify areas for potential wetland mitigation
- Verify data provided by regulatory agencies
- Field teams to resurvey historic sites and structures, archaeological survey
- Gather current traffic data; discuss with Kentucky DOT need for improvements
- Update all remaining topic areas: land use, hazardous materials, air quality, noise conditions, etc.
- Provide periodic updates on progress and status via project website:  
<https://www.proposed-fci-letchercountyky.com>

The National Environmental Policy Act process is as follows:

- Draft EIS published in the Federal Register
- 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIS
- Public meeting concerning the Draft EIS
- Final EIS published
- 30-day public comment period on the Final EIS
- Bureau leadership reviews the public record and decides whether to proceed with the proposed action
- Decision memorialized in the Record of Decision (ROD)

BOP's goal is to adopt a ROD in the Spring of 2024.