

Raul Hector Castro Land Port of Entry, Douglas, Arizona

Environmental Impact Statement

SCOPING MEETING HANDOUT



Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts resulting from the expansion and modernization of the Raul Hector Castro (RHC) Land Port of Entry (LPOE) and the proposed construction of a new Commercial LPOE in Douglas, Arizona. The RHC LPOE is owned and managed by GSA and operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The new commercial LPOE would address traffic safety and hazard concerns resulting from space constraints, inefficient traffic flows, and increasing traffic demands at the RHC LPOE.

Project Background

The RHC LPOE is a port of entry for vehicles and pedestrians crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, between Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora in Mexico. The port is a full-service, multi-modal facility where CBP officers inspect commercially-owned vehicles (COVs), privately-owned vehicles (POVs), and pedestrians. The port has been operating since 1914, with existing facilities constructed in the 1930s. The existing Main Building and the Garage were built in 1933 and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to steady increases in traffic, poor pedestrian infrastructure, lack of separations between traffic types (COV, POV, and pedestrian), and outdated facilities and technologies, the facilities at the RHC LPOE no longer function adequately and pose safety and security risks for CBP officers and the general public. The existing RHC LPOE has spatial constraints, with limited interior space for offices and processing and limited opportunity for expansion within its current footprint. Additionally, the City of Douglas has expressed concerns over the truck traffic currently traveling through its downtown area and posing safety risks to the community.

Proposed Alternatives

The project consists of two main components: 1) construction of a **new Commercial LPOE** at a site located approximately 5 miles west of the existing port; and 2) expansion and modernization of the existing RHC LPOE to a **Non-Commercial LPOE**, which would be dedicated to processing only POVs and pedestrians. The EIS will consider two “**action**” alternatives and one “**no action**” alternative. The two “**action**” alternatives are described as follows:

- **Alternative 1.** Includes construction of the new Commercial LPOE first, followed by a phased expansion and modernization of the existing RHC LPOE **after** the Commercial LPOE is operational.
- **Alternative 2.** Includes construction of the new Commercial LPOE and phased expansion and modernization of the existing RHC LPOE **at the same time**, to include land acquisition near the existing RHC LPOE, allowing expansion and modernization activities to occur while the existing RHC LPOE remains operational.

Sub-alternatives may be considered for each alternative with respect to the management of historic structures located at the existing RHC LPOE.

The “no action” alternative assumes that GSA would not expand and modernize the RHC LPOE or construct a new commercial LPOE and that operations would continue under current conditions. The current issues at the RHC LPOE would not be addressed.



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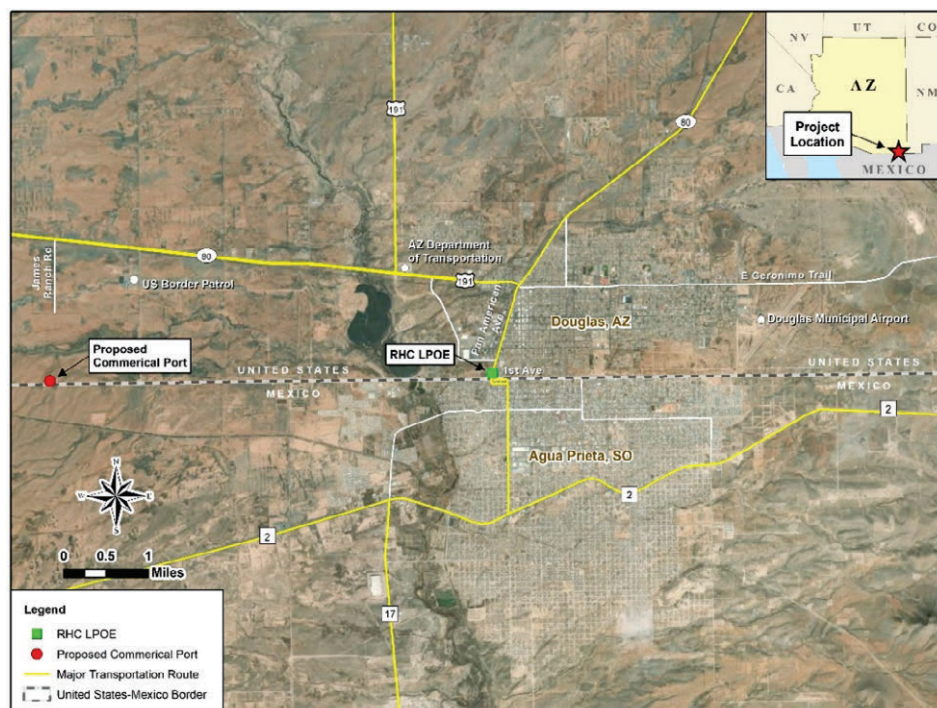


Figure 1. Location of RHC LPOE and Proposed New Commercial Port

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

We are currently in the Public Scoping process phase of the NEPA process. The views and comments of the public are necessary to help determine the scope and content of the environmental analysis. An important objective of scoping is to identify specific elements of the environment that might be affected if the proposal is carried out. Potentially significant impacts raised during scoping will be analyzed in detail in the EIS.



Scoping Comments

Scoping comments must be received by August 22, 2022 and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- In writing. Submit comments at the scoping meeting.
- By e-mail. Send to osmahn.kadri@gsa.gov. Please reference “Douglas Scoping Comment” in the subject line.
- By U.S. mail. Send to:

Attention: Osmahn Kadri, NEPA Project Manager
General Services Administration
c/o Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc.
77 Upper Rock Circle, Suite 302
Rockville, MD 20850

For further information, please contact [Osmahn Kadri](mailto:Osmahn.Kadri), NEPA Project Manager, General Services Administration at (415) 522-3617.