

# Final Environmental Assessment

**Building 101 Mental Health Services & Correct Seismic  
Deficiencies in Building 100 Nursing Tower and Community  
Living Center**

Veterans Affairs Puget Sound  
Health Care System  
Seattle, Washington

Prepared For:  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

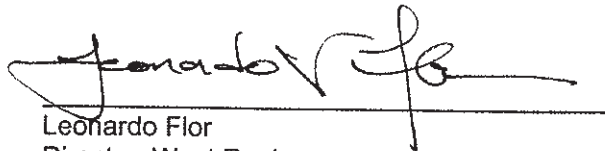
**Department of Veterans Affairs  
Puget Sound Health Care System  
VA Medical Center, Seattle, WA**

**Building 101 Mental Health Services & Correct Seismic Deficiencies in  
Building 100 Nursing Tower and Community Living Center**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct a new seven-story Mental Health and Research building (MH&R), construct a new seven-level 1,000 car parking structure, and seismically upgrade an existing eight-floor Nursing Tower (NT) (Building 100) and two-floor Community Living Center (CLC) for the VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VAPSHCS). The projects are located at the VA Puget Sound Medical Center Facility (VAPS) at 1660 S Columbian Way in the City of Seattle, King County, Washington. Additionally, the existing Mental Health Services Building (Building 24) and Buildings 18, 20, and 22 would be demolished for seismic deficiencies. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the VA prepared the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental effects of the proposed action.

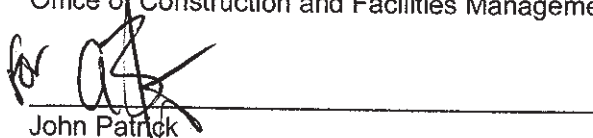
The VA's national list of medical centers with the most Exceptionally High Risk (EHR) Buildings lists the VAPSHCS as one of the most at risk facilities on the list. By implementing the proposed action, critical patient safety issues would be reduced by providing safe hazard free medical facilities. Currently, the VAPS campus is the VA tertiary referral center for veterans living in Alaska, Idaho, and Washington. The new MH&R building would accommodate the Mental Health Services currently housed in the existing Mental Health Building, and would add new areas for Research and administrative support. The NT would continue to provide a wide spectrum of clinical and administrative functions and the CLC would continue to provide inpatient care to special needs patients including frail, at-risk elderly patients suffering from traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and multiple sclerosis as well as injured military service members returning from foreign wars.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on the attached EA. The analysis performed in the EA concludes that there would be no significant adverse impact, either individually or cumulatively, to the human environment, provided mitigation measures and commitments consisting of best management practices and regulatory compliance measures described in the EA are fully implemented. Therefore, this FONSI is appropriate and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



Leonardo Flor  
Director, West Region  
Office of Construction and Facilities Management

30 August 2012  
Date



John Patrick  
Acting-Director, VA Puget Sound Health Care System

9/10/12  
Date