

BUREAU OF PRISONS STATEMENT/RESPONSE ON THE STATUS OF THE LETCHER COUNTY PRISON PROJECT

On June 17, 2019, the Bureau of Prisons will publish a Withdrawal of Record of Decision in the Federal Register related to the proposed construction of a U.S. Penitentiary and Federal Prison Camp in Letcher County, Kentucky. This document withdraws the Record of Decision published April 12, 2018 and explains that given new information received, additional analysis should be undertaken to determine if there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns on the proposed action. A re-examination requires that the Record of Decision be withdrawn pending additional environmental analysis.

The new information was presented in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget submission, "Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2020," and is based on four factors: population trends, cost effectiveness of construction, economic impact, and project complications.

The Bureau of Prisons will engage internal resources as well as National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) professionals to evaluate and analyze the new information, in light of the environmental analysis previously completed. In accordance with the provisions of NEPA, the Bureau will publish any findings or conclusions related to this analysis, and allow for a public comment period related to the new information and analysis.