



## 7.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

NEPA-implementing regulations require a review of irreversible and irretrievable effects that result from development of the Proposed Project (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500–1508). Irreversible commitments of resources are those that are expended in a way that cannot be completely restored to their original condition. Irretrievable commitments of resources are those that occur when a resource is removed or consumed and will therefore never be available to future generations for their use. These commitments of resources apply primarily to the use of non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels, water, labor, and electricity. Two categories, Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) and Human Health and Safety, evaluated in Chapter 4, are not subject to the trade-off between short-term use and long-term productivity and are therefore not evaluated in this section.

Navy Base ICTF construction activities would result in the irretrievable commitment of fossil fuels for electricity and for the operation of vehicles and equipment, as well as labor and fiscal resources that would otherwise be available for other projects. The use of water for dust control during construction activities would be irreversible.

An irreversible and irretrievable loss of existing resources within the Navy Base ICTF study area would also occur as a result of Alternatives 1–7 and the No-Action Alternative. Resources lost would include permanent loss of varying amounts of soil, vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, waters of the U.S., EFH, coastal resources, and cultural resources.

Irreversible loss of biological resources would occur under the Navy Base ICTF alternatives. These losses would include waters of the U.S. such as tidal salt marsh, freshwater wetlands, and tidal open waters; vegetation including marsh, marine water, and urban development land cover classes; and EFH such as estuarine emergent marsh, oyster reefs/shell banks, intertidal flats, and estuarine water column.

Construction of the Navy Base ICTF under Alternatives 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 would result in the irretrievable loss of NRHP-listed buildings. The potential for archaeological sites to exist within the Proposed Project or River Center project site is unlikely; however, if an archaeological site that is eligible for the NRHP were to be damaged or destroyed, that site would be irretrievable.