



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River
and Recreation Area

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News Release

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Release of a draft Environmental Impact Statement for Disposition of the former Bureau of Mines Twin Cities Research Center Main Campus Hennepin County, Minnesota

The National Park Service (NPS) announces the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the disposition of the former Bureau of Mines Twin Cities Research Center (Center), Hennepin County Minnesota, and invites public comments on the draft EIS. The NPS also seeks written proposals from government and university entities who may be interested in acquiring the former Bureau of Mines property. Written proposals from university and government entities must address the criteria listed in the Federal Register Notice of Availability (NOA). The NOA and criteria can be accessed on the websites listed below. Verbal proposals will not be considered. The draft EIS can be accessed online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>; select the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area from the drop-down park list or go to www.nps.gov/miss/bom and follow the links.

Congress in 1996 in Public Law 104-134, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Center to a government or university entity. Additionally, Public Law 106-113 allows the Secretary to accept financial remuneration for the Center and distribute the funds to the National Park Service's Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) and the National Wildlife Refuge System for the benefit of their programs in Minnesota.

The draft EIS does not identify a potential future owner or how that owner would use the Center; instead the draft EIS analyzes the environmental impacts of three different future land use scenarios and how they may or would impact natural, cultural, and historic resources. The NPS has not identified a preferred alternative at this time, but intends to review the public comments received in response to the draft EIS, revise the document as necessary, and identify a preferred alternative in the final EIS.

Written proposals received by the NPS will accompany the final EIS to assist the Secretary of the Interior in making a decision on disposition of the Center.

The draft EIS is available online, and paper copies are available for review at the Nokomis Branch of the Minneapolis public library and at the offices of Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA), Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) and Longfellow Neighborhood Association. Members of the public who do not have access to the Internet or a computer may call the NPS office at (651) 290-4160 to request a copy. Limited print copies of the draft EIS are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

An open house to receive comments and answer questions on the draft EIS will be held on Monday, September 25 and Tuesday, September 26, 2006, times: 1-4pm, and 6-9pm each day, location:

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center
3815 American Blvd. East
Bloomington, MN 55425
for directions call: (651) 290-4160

Comments and written proposals on the draft EIS must be postmarked by the end of the 60-day comment period or **midnight, October 24, 2006**. Comments may be submitted in several ways. The preferred method is through the "Planning, Environment and Public Comment" (PEPC) website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> mentioned above. If you use this method, please wait for the system to confirm your message was received. In addition, comments and proposals may be submitted:

- By U.S. mail addressed to: Superintendent, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 111 Kellogg Blvd. East, Suite #105, St. Paul, MN 55101
- By fax to: (651) 290-3214
- By email to: miss_bomcomments@nps.gov
- Hand deliver to: Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 111 Kellogg Blvd. East, Suite #105, St. Paul, MN 55101

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