

Abbreviated Final General Management Plan
Environmental Impact Statement
MINUTEMAN MISSILE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Final
General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
Jackson and Pennington Counties, South Dakota

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site was authorized by an act of Congress on November 29, 1999 (Public Law 106-115) with a total of 7.85 acres. The national historic site consists of two noncontiguous facilities: the Delta One launch control facility (6.35 acres) and the Delta Nine launch facility (1.5 acres). A plan is needed to guide decision-makers on where the visitor / administrative facility should be located, what visitors should learn about the site, and how visitors should access the site. Each of these decisions has implications for how visitors experience and use the national historic site and the facilities needed to support those uses, how the site's resources are protected and interpreted, and how the National Park Service manages its operations.

The *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* examines four alternatives for managing the national historic site for the next 25 years. It also analyzes the impacts of implementing each of the alternatives. The "no-action" alternative 1, consists of the existing national historic site management and trends and serves as a basis for comparison in evaluating the other alternatives. The concept for national historic site management under alternative 2 would be to present the site as though it were still in operation (ready-alert status, i.e., before July 1991 when the START treaty was signed) at the end of the Cold War. The concept for national historic site management under alternative 3 would be to present the site in its stand-down appearance (i.e., from the ratification of the START Treaty in October 1992 to the establishment of the national historic site by Public Law 106-115 in 1999), symbolizing the nation's preparedness during the Cold War. The concept for national historic site management under alternative 4, the National Park Service's preferred alternative, would be to present the Delta facilities as symbols that commemorate the Cold War. Under this alternative, Delta One would be presented in its ready-alert status (as in alternative 2), and Delta Nine would be presented in its stand-down appearance (as in alternative 3).

The *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* was distributed to other agencies and interested organizations and individuals for their review and comment. This abbreviated *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* presents the comments and agency responses. The draft and abbreviated final constitute a full final document and environmental impact statement. Because there were no changes made to the draft document as a result of public comments, the National Park Service is authorized to print this abbreviated final document.

For further information, please contact the superintendent, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, 21280 SD Hwy 240, Philip, SD 57567.

INTRODUCTION

This is an abbreviated *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* for Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. The material included here is to be combined with the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*, which was distributed for public review February 27, 2008. The 60-day public review period ended April 29, 2008. The abbreviated format has been used because there are no changes to the draft document and no modifications to the analysis provided in the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*.

Use of this format is in compliance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations or CFR 1503.4 (c)). The draft and abbreviated final documents together comprise the full *Final General Management*

Plan / Environmental Impact Statement, its alternatives, associated environmental impacts, and comments that have been received and evaluated and responses to them.

Following the announced release of this *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* in the *Federal Register*, there will be a 30-day no-action period. A "Record of Decision" of the approved final plan will then be signed by the regional director, Midwest Region, National Park Service (NPS), and copies will be made available to the public.

For further information, please contact the superintendent, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, 21280 SD Hwy 240, Philip, SD 57567.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This section summarizes the agency, organization, and public comments received on the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*. These comments allow interested parties (including NPS decision-makers) to review and assess how other agencies, organizations, and individuals have responded to the proposed actions and alternatives and their potential impacts. The National Park Service provides responses to those comments that are considered substantive or when responses are helpful for clarification or other purposes.

Substantive comments are those that (1) question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the environmental impact statement, (2) question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of environmental analysis, (3) present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the environmental impact statement, or (4) cause changes or revisions in the proposal. There were no substantive comments received.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A notice of availability of the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* was published in the *Federal Register* on February 28, 2008. The draft document was distributed February 27, 2008 to a mailing list of 238. The official review and comment period was from February 29, 2008, to April 29, 2008. These individuals received information about the dates, times, and locations of three public open house meetings held in Rapid City, Wall, and Pierre. The availability of the document and information about the public meetings were also announced in the local newspapers.

Three public meetings were held: Tuesday March 18, 2008, 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Wall Chamber Community Center in Wall, South Dakota; Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 3:30

p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, South Dakota; and Thursday, March 20, 2008, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Black Hills Visitor Information Center in Rapid City, South Dakota. A total of 72 individuals attended the meetings. Public comments were recorded by the planning team.

COMMENT SUMMARY

Forty-six written responses were received, including those provided at public meetings. Comment analysis indicates strong support for either the National Park Service's preferred alternative (alternative 4) in its entirety, or for locating the visitor center at exit 131 off Interstate 90. As required, tribal and agency letters are reproduced in this document. The following summarizes the comments.

The Tribes. Seventeen (17) tribes that have been identified as having a cultural affiliation with the national historic site were sent copies of the document on February 27, 2008. The tribes were asked to review the draft document and provide the National Park Service with comments. Two tribes commented. The Oglala Sioux Tribe passed Resolution No. 08-23 strongly supporting the preferred alternative and the location of the visitor center at exit 131 off Interstate 90. The Rosebud Sioux tribal historic preservation officer responded with "no objection" to the preferred alternative 4.

Federal and State Agencies. The U.S. Forest Service, Buffalo National Grasslands, concurred with the identification of alternative 4 and the proposed transfer of land and jurisdiction (pending a detailed survey) to the National Park Service as the preferred alternative.

The Environmental Protection Agency responded with a "Lack of Objection" to the

National Park Service's identification of alternative 4 as the preferred alternative.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service responded with a "No Objection" to the preferred alternative.

The state historic preservation officer had no comments on the general management plan, but did indicate that issues regarding architecture, site/cultural landscape, and archeology that would require Section 106 consultation during the implementation phase of the plan. The National Park Service will conduct Section 106 consultation with the state historic preservation office during implementation of the approved management plan.

Local Agencies. Jackson County, South Dakota, responded with Resolution 205-8 strongly supporting the location of the visitor center at exit 131 off Interstate 90. No reference was made to any alternative.

Summary. The public's comments have been considered by the National Park Service in preparing this abbreviated *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*, consistent with the requirements of 40 CFR 1503. The following section contains NPS responses to some general questions/comments. The National Park Service responses clarify or provide new information or explain why the public comments do not warrant further agency response.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Comment: Three commenters requested that the visitor center be located at exit 127 off Interstate 90. Alternative 2 is the only alternative that proposed the visitor center at exit 127.

NPS Response: The National Park Service is mandated to protect resources, provide for appropriate visitor experience, and consider costs of implementation. The enabling legislation also called for an assessment of the two exits (127 and 131)

to determine which one would be the most appropriate as the location of the visitor/administrative facility. Therefore, a "Choosing by Advantages" workshop was conducted to determine the alternative that provided the best resource protection and visitor experience and was the most cost-effective. A short description of this workshop is contained on page 35 of the draft document.

During the course of the planning project, in-depth discussions were held with the water department, department of transportation, NPS Intermountain Region health officer, the United States Air Force, and local cities to determine the condition of the existing infrastructure at each exit and what would be needed to upgrade or install needed infrastructure. As a result it was determined that the interstate ramps at exit 127 would need to be reconstructed to support visitation; electrical infrastructure would need to be run an additional mile to the south side of Interstate 90; water would have to be brought in over several miles; a wetland exists nearby; and the costs for upgrades, improvements, and mitigation far outweighed any advantages gained by placing a visitor facility at exit 127. Exit 131 was determined to be the preferred location for the visitor center because it did possess adequate infrastructure for electric and water hookups, there would be no natural resource damage or redesign of the interchange, and construction at this location would result in a substantial reduction in one-time costs as well as long-term operating costs. Therefore, no change is needed to the *General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*.

Comment: One commenter requested that the visitor experience as described in alternative 3 be implemented.

NPS Response: The National Park Service is mandated to protect resources while providing for visitor experience. During

public scoping, most members of the public specifically requested that Delta One remain as it did during active duty. Alternative 4 was developed to respond to this request, and it accommodates the largest number of visitors and protects resources without removing original fabric. Therefore, no change is needed to the *General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*.

Comment: Two commenters requested that a socioeconomic impact study be conducted on locating the visitor center at exit 131 off Interstate 90.

NPS Response: The National Environmental Policy Act requires that the *Environmental Impact Statement* contain an assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of each alternative. The “Environmental Impact Statement” (chapter 4) does contain these impacts. The “Affected Environment” (chapter 3) section on socioeconomics is on page 142, methods and assumptions for impact analysis are on page 161, and the impacts are contained under each alternative. The National Park Service believes the potential impacts of the alternatives on the socioeconomic environment have been adequately analyzed and disclosed. Therefore, no change is needed to the *General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*.

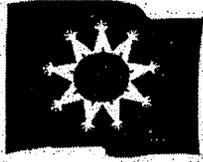
Comment: The Wall Chamber of Commerce expressed their feeling that the visitor center should be located at exit 127. They present several issues of concern regarding commercial development, the view-

shed, and traffic, and they request an economic impact study be undertaken.

NPS Response: The enabling legislation states that the general management plan “include an evaluation of the appropriate location for a visitor facility and administrative site” at either exit 127 or exit 131 off Interstate 90. During the planning process numerous meetings and consultations were held with various state, local, and federal agencies such as the Department of Transportation, the state historic preservation office, the local water company, and the National Park Service’s health officer to assist in making this determination. Using this information, an analysis indicated that exit 131 was the preferred location for the visitor/administration facility, in part because this exit already contains commercial development and could accommodate more development, the interchange at exit 131 already receives 1.5 million visitors per year and would not require redesign, and water and electric are already available at this exit, which would be a significant cost savings over exit 127. For more details, please see the alternative 4 impacts starting on page 205 of the draft document, including the socioeconomic impacts as explained in the previous comment.

Each of these concerns was adequately addressed in the environmental impact statement starting on page 205 of the draft document; therefore, no changes are needed in the *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*.

COMMENT LETTERS



Office Of The Secretary
Elizabeth Waters

Oglala Sioux Tribe

P.O. Box 2070
Pine Ridge, S.D. 57770
Phone: 605 867-5821 ext. 268
Fax 605 867-2609



To : Superintendent Mark E. Herberger
Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
21280 S. Highway 240
Philip, South Dakota 57567

From : Elizabeth Waters, Secretary
Oglala Sioux Tribe

Date : April 3, 2008

Re : Oglala Sioux Tribal Council Action

Please find enclosed, Resolution No. 08-23, entitled "Resolution of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council Supporting the Preferred Alternative of the National Park Service to Locate the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Visitor Center (MMNHS) at the Exit 131 (Cactus Flat)."

Said Resolution was approved by the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at a Duly Called Special Session with a vote of: 13 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain; and 0 Not Voting.

If you have any further questions, please contact my office at (605) 867-5821 – ext. 268.

Thank-you,

Attachment

cc: OST Parks and Recreation
OST Executive Committee
OST Finance Committee
OST Tribal Council
File

RESOLUTION OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL
OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE
(An Unincorporated Tribe)

RESOLUTION OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO LOCATE THE MINUTEMAN MISSILE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE VISITOR CENTER (MMNHS) AT THE EXIT 131 (CACTUS FLAT).

WHEREAS, the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) adopted its' Constitution and By-Laws by referendum vote on December 14, 1935, in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 USC 476), and

WHEREAS, Article III of the Constitution establishes the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council as the Governing Body of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and is empowered to promulgate and enact resolutions and ordinances through its' enumerated powers, and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §(a) of the Constitution empowers the Oglala Sioux Tribe to negotiate with Federal, State, and local governments on behalf of the Tribe, and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §(m) authorizes the Oglala Sioux Tribe to regulate the conduct of trade and the use and disposition of property upon the reservation, and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service (NPS) has distributed a Draft Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (MMNHS) and the public comment period is open for sixty (60) days, from February 29, 2008, through April 29, 2008, and

WHEREAS, NPS General Management Plans are long-term documents that establish and articulate a management philosophy and framework for decision making and problem solving in national park areas, which identifies and assesses various management alternatives and related environmental impacts relative to site operations, visitor use and access, resources management, and general development at Minuteman Missile, and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service presents four (4) alternatives in the draft and their preferred alternative is Alternative #4, which is the Cactus Flat site on Exit 131 off of Interstate 90, and

WHEREAS, public participation is crucial to the successful development of this Draft Management Plan and continues to be very important during this review period (National Park Service Public Comment letter is hereby attached and incorporated by reference herein), now

RESOLUTION NO. 08-23
Page Two

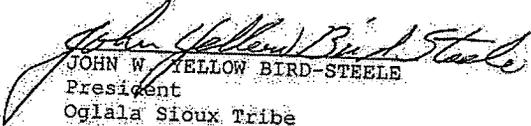
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council of the Oglala Sioux Tribe does strongly support the National Park Service preferred alternative for the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Visitor Center, which is Alternative #4 at Cactus Flat, located at Exit 3 on Interstate 90 in Jackson County adjacent to the northeast exterior boundary of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oglala Sioux Tribe strongly recommends another meeting on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

I, as the undersigned Secretary of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, of the Oglala Sioux Tribe hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the vote of: 13 for; 0 against; 0 abstain; 0 not voting during a SPECIAL SESSION held on the 27th day of MARCH 2008.

A-T-T-E-S-T:


JOHN W. YELLOW BIRD-STEELE
President
Oglala Sioux Tribe


ELIZABETH WATERS
Secretary
Oglala Sioux Tribe

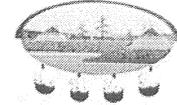


Preserving the Land, Cultural
Heritage, Tradition for the
Future Generation

Rosebud Sioux Tribe

*Tribal Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 809*

*Rosebud, South Dakota
Telephone: (605) 747-4255
Fax: (605) 747-4211
Email: rstthpo@yahoo.com*



Russell Eagle Bear
Officer

Kathy Arcoren
Administrative Assistant

March 4, 2008

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
Superintendent, Mark E. Herberger
21280 SD Hwy. 240
Philip, South Dakota 57567

Re: Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Herberger,

We are responding to your letter dated February 27, 2008 in reference to the EIS and the Management Plan for the Minuteman Missile national Historic Site.

As the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe I appreciate your notification of the undertaking and the awareness you are demonstrating for the archaeological sites and cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples.

At this time we have no objection of the preferred alternative #4 to present the Delta facilities as symbols that commemorate the Cold War.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Kathy Arcoren
for Mr. Russell Eagle Bear



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Nebraska National Forest

125 North Main Street
Chadron NE 69337-2118
308-432-0300
308-432-0304 TDD

File Code: 1900/5500

Date: April 29, 2008

Mark Herberger
Superintendent
Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
21280 SD Hwy 20
Phillip, SD 57567

Dear Mr. Herberger:

The following is in response to the Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement for the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site.

Items of concern and cooperation include the following:

The Buffalo Gap National Grassland will require issuance of a special use authorization to provide utility companies access across the Grassland in advance of new utility installations. This authorization would provide for the construction and maintenance of such utilities as electric, water, and telecommunications cable to facilities where these do not already exist. The Forest Service requires proponent funding for staff time under existing Cost Recovery Regulations to process Special Use Authorization requests and administration of the authorizations for new utility lines. Additional short term cost and annual payment of land use fees will be the responsibility of companies providing the services.

Surveys of the affected National Grassland areas, to obtain metes and bounds description of parcels chosen for the monument, should be required prior to drafting legislation. The purpose of conducting surveys is to correctly and legally describe the USDA Forest Service land and interests to be legislatively transferred to the USDI National Park Service. Prior to spending funds for surveys, we recommend with assistance of Forest Service staff, that these areas be flagged and location maps, using USGS quadrangle maps or similar quality, be produced so comments on the locations can be made before drafting legislation.

The Delta 9 Launch Facility is specifically mentioned in the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1999, Public Law 106-155 of the 106th Congress (Act) under Section 3(a)(2)(B). The National Grassland area across from Delta 1 Control Facility and the proposed Visitor Center lands will need quality maps prepared subsequent to the surveys.

We concur, pending a detailed survey to legally describing the 5.0 acres of the Delta 9 site as depicted in Alternative 4, as previously agreed upon by Kevin Atchley, Wall District Ranger, that the effective area of the site is transferred with full jurisdiction to the USDI National Park Service, Badlands National Park for the purposes of the above Act. Existing public road access for ingress and egress to this site from the public road is included in the Act and shown on the map of record.



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The Monument should provide quality location maps and legally describe the parking area on 3.65 acres of National Grassland across from the Delta One launch facility and the 25 acres at the visitor center.

There will be a need to keep Forest Service permitted livestock and Monument visitor vehicles separated. After the Monument acquires National Grassland property, the Monument should install fences within the property boundary to deter livestock interaction with the Monument visitors and their vehicles. It is Park Service responsibility to determine fencing needs to keep vehicles and livestock separated.

The Monument needs to estimate any change in grazing capacity on the National Grassland due to the reduction of available grazing land. The 25 acre Visitor Center site in particular may require a change in capacity for those specific pasture(s). Please contact Kevin Atchley, Wall District Ranger to obtain pertinent information regarding this concern.

Access to the visitor center and launch facility should come directly off the county road rights of way without the need to cross additional National Grassland, this access should be shown on the map attached to the Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Charlie Marsh (for)
DONALD J. BRIGHT
Forest Supervisor

cc: Kevin Atchley
Randy Karstaedt



RECEIVED States Department of the Interior

FEB 28 2008

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
21280 S. Hwy 240
Philip, SD 57567



This constitutes a report of the Department of the Interior prepared in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 631 et. seq.). We have reviewed and have NO OBJECTION to this proposed project.

February 27, 2008

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A3823 (MIMI)

Dear Interested Party:

[Signature]
Date Supervisor

The enclosed Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Minuteman Missile National Historic Site is sent for your review and comment. General management plans are long-term documents that establish and articulate a management philosophy and framework for decision making and problem solving in national park areas. This document identifies and assesses various management alternatives and related environmental impacts relative to site operations, visitor use and access, resources management, and general development at Minuteman Missile. Of the four alternatives presented in this draft, the National Park Service Preferred Alternative is #4.

Public participation has been crucial to the successful development of this Draft General Management Plan and continues to be very important during this review period. Therefore, we ask for your thoughtful evaluation and comment. Your input will be carefully reviewed and incorporated as applicable before finalizing the plan.

Public comments will be accepted for 60 days – from February 29, 2008 to April 29, 2008. If writing, please address your comments to Superintendent Mark E. Herberger, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, 21280 SD Hwy. 240, Philip, SD 57567. You may contact the superintendent by phone at 605-433-5552 or by fax at 605-433-5558. You may also submit comments electronically via the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> and click on the link to Minuteman Missile National Historic Site.

In conjunction with the public review of this draft plan, three "open house" public meetings are scheduled to present information and invite comments. Prepared written comments are encouraged and will be accepted at the open houses. The time and locations of the three meetings are given below. Please stop in at any time, there will be no formal presentation.

- Tuesday, March 18, 2008 @ 3:30pm to 6:30pm
Wall Chamber Community Center, Main Street, Wall, SD
- Wednesday, March 19, 2008 @ 3:30pm to 6:00pm
South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD
- Thursday, March 20, 2008 @ 3:30pm to 6:00pm
Black Hills Visitor Information Center, I-90 Exit 61, Rapid City, SD

We thank you in advance for your attention and we appreciate your concern for the future of Minuteman Missile National Historic Site.

Sincerely,

[Signature: Mark E. Herberger]

Mark E. Herberger, Superintendent
Minuteman Missile NHS

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

APR - 8 2008

Ref: 8EPR-N

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
Attn: Superintendent Mark Herberger
21280 SD Highway 240
Philip, SD 57567

RE: Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
Draft General Management Plan/
Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
CEQ# 20080068

Dear Mr. Herberger:

EPA has reviewed the National Park Service's (NPS) DEIS associated with the NPS's Minuteman Missile National Historic Site established in 1999. Our comments are provided in accordance with our authorities under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4332(C), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7609.

This Site contains the best-preserved example of the Minuteman II defense system in the nation. Under Preferred Alternative 4, the DEIS proposes to: 1) restore the Delta One launch control facility to its ready-alert status; 2) rehabilitate the Delta Nine launch facility containing the deactivated Minuteman II Missile and its silo and underground utility support building to its stand-down appearance; and 3) construct a 7,700 square foot visitor/administrative facility and shuttle system north of Exit 131 along U.S. Interstate 90 in South Dakota. This newly-built facility would be located near the existing Delta One (Exit 127) and Delta Nine (Exit 116) facilities.

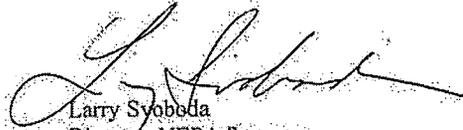
As a result of our review, we agree with the NPS's conclusion that Alternative 4 is also the Environmentally Preferred Alternative, as it best meets the six criteria defined in Section 101 under NEPA. EPA does have one potential concern related to wetland resources. In the Section of the DEIS titled "Impact Topics Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail" (DEIS p.27), it states: "The National Grasslands property located on the south side of exit 127 contains a wetland. However, if this location was selected, impacts on the wetland would be avoided or minimized through design of the visitor/administrative facility. Therefore wetlands were dismissed as an impact topic." Based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory web-based maps, it appears that emergent wetlands do occur locally in this area and therefore could be impacted by the construction of this facility as proposed under Alternative 2. In the event that Alternative 2 is chosen, these impacts should be fully disclosed and the appropriate site-specific

mitigation measures identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), consistent with NEPA requirements.

EPA has rated the NPS's DEIS Preferred Alternative LO (Lack of Objection). "LO" indicates that EPA's review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. However, the selection of Alternative 2 would be cause for concern and potential impacts to wetland resources would need to be fully disclosed and mitigated as noted above. A copy of EPA's rating criteria is enclosed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact me at (303) 312-6004 or Douglas Minter of my staff at (303) 312-6079.

Sincerely,



Larry Syoboda
Director, NEPA Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

Enclosure



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Rating System for Draft Environmental Impact Statements

Definitions and Follow-Up Action*

Environmental Impact of the Action

LO - - Lack of Objections: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC - - Environmental Concerns: The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce these impacts.

EO - - Environmental Objections: The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no-action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU - - Environmentally Unsatisfactory: The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1 - - Adequate: EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis of data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2 - - Insufficient Information: The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3 - - Inadequate: EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act and or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

* From EPA Manual 1640 Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment. February, 1987.



March 19, 2008

Mark E. Herberger, Superintendent
Minuteman Missile NHS
21280 S Hwy 240
Phillip SD 57567

RE: Comments on Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for
Minuteman Missile National Historic Site

Dear Mr. Herberger:

Thank you for allowing the South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to comment on the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. After review of the document, the SHPO has the following general comments. Please note that all of the following issues would be subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended).

1. Architectural Comments

- a. What are the security concerns for Delta 1 and Delta 9? If security cameras or other equipment are installed at either facility, the SHPO would want to review this project to assess the impact to these resources.
- b. The SHPO would want to review any proposed changes or upgrades to HVAC systems, sprinkler systems, or other mechanical, electrical, or plumbing system changes. These changes could have the potential to adversely affect historic resources.
- c. Any changes involving the replacement of historic materials (such as the carpet or linoleum in Delta 1) should be reviewed by SHPO to assess the impacts to historic resources.
- d. If UV filters are installed on exterior windows at Delta 1, the SHPO should review this undertaking to assess any potential changes to the windows (such as color and reflectivity), which may adversely affect historic resources.

2. Archaeological Concerns

- a. Any new construction associated with Minuteman Missile NHS, such as the construction of a visitor center or administrative facility, should be

Office of Tourism
Governor's Office of Economic
Development
Tribal Government Relations
711 E. Wells Ave / Pierre, SD 57501-3389
Phone: 605-773-3301 / Fax: 605-773-3256
travel@sd.com / sdgreatprofits.com /
sdtribalrelations.com

South Dakota Arts Council
300 Governors Dr. / Pierre, SD 57501-2294
Phone: 605-773-3131 or 1-800-423-6666 in SD
Fax: 605-773-6962
sda@state.sd.us / sdarts.org

South Dakota State
Historical Society
300 Governors Dr. / Pierre, SD 57501-2217
Phone: 605-773-3458 / Fax: 605-773-6041
sdhistory.org

South Dakota Housing
Development Authority
PO Box 1237 / Pierre, SD 57501-1237
Phone: 605-773-3181 / Fax: 605-773-5184
sdhda.org



submitted to the SHPO for review to assess the potential impacts to archaeological resources.

3. Site/Cultural Landscape Comments

- a. If a viewing enclosure is installed on the launch support building at Delta 9, the SHPO will need to review this undertaking to develop a design that will minimize the adverse effect resulting from such construction.
- b. Any changes to the site or cultural landscape (such as the construction of parking lots, installation of interpretive signs, or construction of permanent ramps) should be reviewed by the SHPO to minimize the potential for adverse effects to historic properties.
- c. The SHPO would encourage the NPS to acquire land or easements surrounding these facilities to prevent future adverse developments by other parties.
- d. Would it be possible to remove the cell tower that was recently installed near Delta 1? Its installation has negatively impacted the historic landscape of the facility.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. Should you require any additional information or have questions about these comments, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Divis at (605) 773-6005 or Kate.Divis@state.sd.us. Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of our state is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jay D. Vogt
State Historic Preservation Officer



Kate Divis
Restoration Specialist

JACKSON COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA
RESOLUTION 2005 - 8

WHEREAS, Jackson County is extremely concerned that locating the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site visitor center at I-90 Exit 127 would cause visitors to travel beyond the existing tourism corridor of Cactus Flats, Badlands National Park, Interior, and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, Location of the visitor center at I-90 Exit 127 may divert traffic flow and reduce visitation to Jackson County's many existing tourism businesses located on Loop 240 and in the Interior area; and

WHEREAS, location of the visitor center at I-90 Exit 127 may impair the preservation of the historical and cultural aspects of the actual historical site; and

WHEREAS, We are convinced that the visitation to the visitor center would be much greater at Cactus Flat, Exit 131 with existing traffic to the Badlands National Park; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the greatest opportunity for economic development and optimum growth to our tax base, while maintaining the scenic integrity of our area for other tourism related growth, it is important to build and expand upon the infrastructure of our existing rural communities of Kadoka, Interior and Cactus Flat; and

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Jackson County Board of Commissioners do strongly support the location of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site visitor center at Cactus Flat, Exit 131.

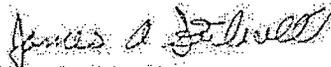
Adopted this 12 th. day of April, 2005.

ATTEST:



Vicki D. Wilson
Jackson County Auditor

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JACKSON COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA



James A. Stilwell
Chairman



PHILIP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
"Where the Sun Kisses the Earth"
PO Box 378, Philip, SD 57567
Phone 859-2645. Fax 859-2622. E-mail cphilip@gwtc.net

Minuteman Missile NHS
21280 SD Hwy. 240
Philip, SD 57567

March 12, 2008

Gentlemen;

It has come to the attention of the Philip Chamber of Commerce that the location of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site visitor center is yet to be determined. We are surprised at this development since we believed that the location of the visitor center was to be at Interstate 90 Exit 131.

Obviously, we in the Philip community are interested in any spin-off economic development that might occur along with the proposed visitor center. However, our greatest concern is the long-term success of the facility. It seems to us that the most likely location for the visitor center is at Exit 131.

Over a million visitors exit the interstate at Exit 131 annually. What better place to construct a visitor center than near the hub of vehicular traffic? Utilities presently exist at Exit ~~131~~ representing a major cost saving during construction. The visual integrity of the launch site will be maintained if development occurs at Exit 131 rather than near Exit 127. Building the visitor center at Exit 127 will represent a serious change in the flow of traffic along Interstate 90 while constructing it at Exit 131 will maintain current traffic patterns.

This project has the potential to affect the travel industry in much of western South Dakota with a good deal of the impact occurring in Kadoka, Wall and Philip. It is incumbent on those who will decide the location of the visitor center to consider the overall impact and to place the center in the location most likely to achieve long-term success.

If we ignore history, we are doomed to repeat it. Many of us in America grew up in the era when the threat of a nuclear attack was a very real thing. Many homes had bomb shelters, and we were taught in school to hide under our desks in the event of an attack. We also remember the economic impact the construction of the missile bases had on our local economies. Let us not forget. The preservation of the launch site and the construction of the visitor center illustrate a point in history that this world should long remember.

The Philip Chamber of Commerce implores you to place the visitor center in the location that will most likely lead to long term viability. We believe strongly that that location is Exit 131. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kent Olson
President Co-chair

Corwin Thorson
President Co-chair

Cc:

Honorable Tim Johnson
Governor Mike Rounds

Stephanie Herseth
Honorable Jim Bradford

Honorable John Thune
Honorable Mark DeVries

Honorable Theresa Two Bulls

**PINE RIDGE
AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

The Lakota Trade Center
Suite 103
P.O. Box 375
Kyle, South Dakota 57752

Phone: 605-455-2685
Fax: 605-455-2785
Email: pracc@ewis.net

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March 20, 2008

Superintendent Mark Herberger,
21280 SD Hwy 240,
Philip, SD 57567

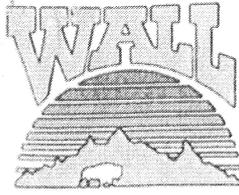
RE: Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Visitor Center

The Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce (PRACC) would like to express our support of the proposed location of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Visitor Center at Interstate 90 exit 131. It is our belief this is the best location for the new visitor center and would anticipate it would spur some visitors to the Pine Ridge Reservation. The reservation receives very little visitation from I-90 travelers and would expect to attract some portion of those who stop at the new center.

We would hope that the National Parks would emphasize the importance and history to the United States military during World War II of the Badlands Bombing Range located on the Pine Ridge Reservation. In addition we would like to see the center express the high rate of Oglala Sioux Tribal members who have served in the U.S. military throughout history and in the present day.

If you should have any questions regarding this letter of support, please feel free to contact our office at (605)455-2685.


Ivan Sorbel
Executive Director
Pine Ridge Area Chamber
of Commerce



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

501 Main St. • P.O. Box 527
WALL, SOUTH DAKOTA 57790-0527
www.wall-badlands.com

1-888-852-9255 • (605) 279-2665 • FAX (605) 279-2067

March 18, 2008

Superintendent Mark Herberger
Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
21280 SD Highway 240
Philip SD 57567

Dear Mr. Herberger:

The Wall Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce has been following the rapidly developing plans of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Visitor Center and Administration Facility, including the choice of the Facility's location. We believe it would be in our community's best interest to have our comments on record now.

The Wall Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce strongly recommends that the proposed Visitor Center Facility be near the same physical location as the actual Minuteman Missile Launch Control Facility located at Exit 127. We think the best site is on the south side of Exit 127. We believe that if the Visitor Center is in close proximity to the Launch Facility, the visitors will have a more realistic experience and understanding of this historic landmark, without the distraction of other residential and commercial development. By locating it at 127 on the south side of the interstate, it is still close to the Launch Control Facility yet the Visitor Center will not distract from the experience of the Launch Control Facility. The Exit 127 location would most effectively educate and interpret this vital part of the Cold War Era and allow the visitor a sense of the remoteness and isolation military personnel experienced at the site, an integral part of visiting Minuteman Missile NHS.

The Wall Community is very concerned about what kind of impression the Minuteman Missile NHS Facility would make on the traveling public. We believe that if the Facility is located at Exit 127, it will be a great addition to the tourism industry of all of Western South Dakota. Building the facility at Exit 131 would encourage more residential and commercial development on private land adjacent to the Badlands Loop Scenic Byway and Badlands National Park. This would be an unnecessary duplication of infrastructure that is available elsewhere only a few miles in either direction in Wall or Kadoka. This development would become more of a distraction and potential eyesore to visitors traveling on Badlands Loop Scenic Byway through Badlands National Park.

The Wall Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce is very interested in the environmental impact on our area with this development. We are specifically concerned with the viewshed of both Badlands National Park and the surrounding Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. Any further

Western hospitality.....it's been here all the time!

development that would go along with the facility, if located at Exit 131, would distract from the open spaces and aesthetics of the native prairie ecosystem of both the Park and the Grasslands.

From a traffic safety standpoint I-90 Exit 131 is already a very busy exit. An I-90 Exit 127 Facility would decrease the number of stops necessary for visitors, and therefore the chance of automobile and pedestrian accidents. Currently visitors stop at Exit 131, the Temporary Contact Station; Exit 127, the Launch Control, Delta One; and Exit 116, Missile Silo, Delta Nine. Many visitors could find visiting three locations inconvenient and time consuming. Parking would be plentiful at Exit 127. Visitors could then be safely shuttled the short distance to the Launch Control facility, or better yet, a small walking path could be constructed from the Visitors Center to Delta One for those wishing to see the natural beauty of the area. Only one more stop would be necessary to make it to the Delta Nine facility at Exit 116. A system like this would allow for a minimum of construction or parking around the Delta One and provide a safe environment for the visitors.

The current proposals do not take economic impact of the communities on the I-90 Corridor into consideration. We believe an economic impact study should be completed prior to any final action on the four alternatives.

In conclusion, the Wall Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce feels that if resource conservation and visitor service and safety are priorities for the National Park Service, then Exit 127 is by far the better choice. We feel that Wall has a deep insight into the traveling public that visits our area and how to best exhibit our natural resources for the benefit of tourists and local residents alike.

Thank you for allowing us to express our opinion on such an important decision. The Board would be happy to visit about these issues at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Kent Jordan
President



**ARIZONA AEROSPACE FOUNDATION
TITAN MISSILE MUSEUM
1580 WEST DUVAL MINE ROAD
GREEN VALLEY, AZ 85614
PH: 520-625-7738
FAX: 520-625-9845**

FAX COVER SHEET

PAGE 1 of 3

DATE: April 29, 2008

TO: Mark E. Herberger
Superintendent
Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
21280 SD Hwy. 240
Philip, SD 57567

FAX: (605) 433-5558

FROM: Yvonne C. Morris
Director, Titan Missile Museum
1580 W Duval Mine Rd
Green Valley, AZ 85614
520.625.4598
ymorris@titanmissilemuseum.org
www.titanmissilemuseum.org



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Mark E. Herberger
Superintendent
Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
21280 SD Hwy. 240
Philip, SD 57567

via facsimile (605) 433-5558

April 29, 2008

Re: Public Comment on Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Minuteman Missile National Historic Site

Dear Superintendent Herberger:

I am writing to you to comment on the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. I reviewed the plan with great interest. Clearly, the National Park Service has done its homework.

The Titan Missile Museum provides stewardship for the only other Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) site that has been preserved for the benefit of the public—the Titan Missile National Historic Landmark. Since opening to the public in 1986, more than one million people from around the world have visited the site. We offer one-hour guided tours of the underground missile site that include touring the launch control center and level 2 of the missile silo. Our marketing budget is small, yet roughly 50,000 visitors find the museum every year. Because we're located in Southern Arizona, our peak visitor season is November-April.

We have learned a number of things about what interests visitors to the Titan Missile National Historic Landmark that may be applicable to your future visitors as well: 1) They are surprised to find that the Titan II, like the Minuteman ICBM, was built as a deterrent; 2) They are extremely interested in what life was like for missile crews, both on and off alert; 3) They are very interested in how the "war plan" would have been executed, and the role this site would have played had the United States engaged in a nuclear war; 4) They are very interested in the destructive capabilities of nuclear weapons in general, and the Titan II in particular; and most importantly, 5) They want to see as much of the underground missile site as possible, and they constantly ask the museum to extend the tour of the underground missile site.

What struck me most about the draft plan is that the visitor center for the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site can reasonably expect between
A Non-profit Organization

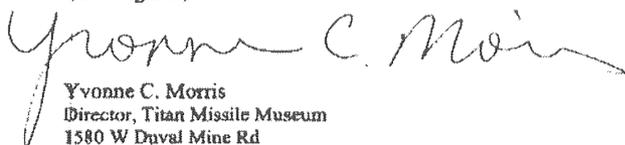
PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM - TUCSON
6000 E. Valencia Rd., Tucson, AZ 85706
Phone: (520) 574-0462 / Fax: (520) 574-9238
www.pimaair.org

TITAN MISSILE MUSEUM - SAHUARITA
1580 W. Duval Mine Rd., Green Valley, AZ 85614
Phone: (520) 625-7736 / Fax: (520) 625-9845
www.titanmissilemuseum.org 02/1/08

200,000 and 400,000 visitors per year. Once these visitors become aware of Delta One and Delta Nine, based on our experience at the Titan Missile National Historic Landmark, I believe that more than fifty percent of them will want to tour these facilities. I understand the reasoning underlying alternative 4, but I would urge the Park Service to consider implementing a plan that provides the most public access to Delta One and Delta Nine. Therefore, I would suggest that the National Park Service consider implementing alternative 3.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to contact me at the number or email address provided below. I'm looking forward to touring this important historic site some day in the future.

Best Regards,



Yvonne C. Morris
Director, Titan Missile Museum
1580 W Duval Mine Rd
Green Valley, AZ 85614
520.625.4598
ymorris@titanmissilemuseum.org
www.titanmissilemuseum.org





As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.