



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Mississippi National River  
and Recreation Area

111 Kellogg Blvd. E, Ste 105  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1256

651-290-4160 phone  
651-290-3214 fax

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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ALAN ROBBINS-FENGER

651-290-3030 X250

### **National Park Service Announces Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bureau of Mines Property**

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Disposition of the Bureau of Mines, Twin Cities Research Center has been completed and is available to the public. The Final EIS represents the culmination of several years of research, planning and public involvement to determine the future use and management of the Bureau of Mines property.

The public reviewed a Draft EIS in 2006 and provided comment. The substantive comments received on the Draft EIS were used to complete the Final EIS. In addition, the Final EIS outlines the future disposition of the property as preferred Alternative D, Open Space / Park land use scenario. Under this preferred alternative the federal government would demolish the 11 buildings and related infrastructure on-site and restore the property to a natural condition resembling an open space or park. The EIS process evaluated the potential impacts of alternative future uses of the Bureau of Mines property on the natural, socioeconomic, historic, and cultural resources on-site and in the immediate area.

The Notice of Availability of the Final EIS, published in the Federal Register on December 11 will begin a 30 day no-action period during which the Final EIS will be made available to the public. After the 30 day no-action period, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued by the Secretary of the Interior (or designee). The ROD is the instrument by which the final disposition of and future management authority for the Bureau of Mines property will be formalized and announced.



The Bureau of Mines property has a long and rich history. The 27-acre parcel is located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. The site was once part of Fort Snelling Military Reservation and contains Coldwater Spring.

Congress abolished the Bureau of Mines in 1996 and closed the Twin Cities Research Center that year. Congress later directed the National Park Service (NPS) to lead the public planning process to determine the ultimate disposition of the Bureau of Mines since the property lies entirely within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a unit of the NPS.

A limited number of paper copies of the Final EIS are available on a first-come basis by contacting the NPS at 651-290-4160 or by emailing [miss\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:miss_info@nps.gov). The Final EIS on compact disc is also available by contacting the NPS. An online version of the Final EIS can be accessed at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>.

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