



Fact Sheet

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Continental United States (CONUS) Interceptor Site (CIS) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act requires the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to prepare an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 for the locations that would be best suited for future deployment of an interceptor capable of protecting the homeland against threats from nations such as North Korea and Iran. The Department of Defense has not made a decision to deploy or construct the CIS.

Overview

- NEPA requires Federal agencies to ensure decision-makers make informed decisions based on an understanding of the environmental impacts/consequences of their proposed actions.
- Under NEPA, Federal agencies are required to coordinate with other agencies having environmental expertise or regulatory oversight and give the public the opportunity to have input and comment on proposed actions, alternatives and environmental analysis

Details

The MDA is preparing this EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that could result from the future deployment of a CIS. The CIS EIS will be prepared in two stages resulting in a draft and final EIS. The CIS EIS will include a statement of the purpose and need for a CIS, a description of all reasonable alternatives (i.e., locations selected from MDA's comprehensive siting study) to meet the purpose and need, a description of the environment to be affected by those alternatives, and an analysis of the direct and indirect effects of the alternatives.

EIS Process

Notice of Intent (NOI). The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* on July 16 to let the public know of MDA's intent to prepare the CIS EIS. The NOI provides a brief description of the proposed action and alternatives, information on the scoping process, locations of public meetings and MDA's point of contact. During the scoping process, MDA is asking for assistance in identifying significant issues to analyze in the CIS EIS. Several public scoping meetings are being held during the scoping period.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). A draft CIS EIS will be prepared in accordance with the scope decided in the scoping process. It will be based on Agency expertise and issues raised during the public scoping process. It will contain a reasonable range of alternatives, a full description of the affected environment, and an analysis of the impacts of each alternative. The DEIS will be made available to the public and agencies to review and comment for at least 45 days after publishing a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*. Several public meetings will be held for the public to gain additional information.

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Based on comments on the DEIS, MDA will prepare a FEIS. The FEIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which will publish a NOA in the *Federal Register*. Once the NOA is published, MDA must wait 30 days before making a final decision to implement its decision.

Record of Decision (ROD). A concise statement that states the final decision and discusses the MDA's choice among the alternatives considered.