

B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

at Dyess AFB, Texas, or Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Public Scoping Materials Available

The Department of Defense is developing a new bomber aircraft, the B-21 “Raider,” which will eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft. The Air Force eventually intends to procure at least 100 B-21 aircraft as part of three basing decisions, Main Operating Base (MOB) 1, MOB 2 and MOB 3.

The Air Force is preparing this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential beddown impacts of MOB 1 at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas or Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota. MOB 2 and MOB 3 beddowns will be evaluated as part of a separate decision-making process in the future, following MOB 1.

The MOB 1 beddown will involve new facilities construction, B-21 flight operations and increases in personnel needed to support the mission.

As a direct result of the National Emergency declared by the President on Friday, March 13, 2020, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the U.S. and the Center for Disease Control’s recommendations for social distancing and avoiding large public gatherings, the Air Force has canceled the six previously scheduled scoping meetings from March 31, 2020 to April 9, 2020 listed in the original notice of intent published on March 6, 2020 (Federal Register, Vol. 85., No. 45, 13148). All public scoping meeting materials will be available on the project website: www.B21EIS.com no later than March 31, 2020. For those without access to the website, a request may be made to mail a hardcopy package of scoping materials. This request may be submitted to Ellsworth and Dyess Public Affairs offices at the points of contact listed below.

Inquiries should be directed to:

Dyess AFB Public Affairs, (325) 696-4820, or after hours (325) 268-6554

Ellsworth AFB Public Affairs, (605) 385-5056, or after hours at (605) 391-7436

Written scoping comments can be mailed to:

Leidos

ATTN: B-21 EIS

1456 Woodlawn Way

Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

Electronic scoping comments can be submitted on the public website at www.B21EIS.com.

Preliminary additional information about the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, a description of the Proposed Action and various alternatives being considered, and a brief summary of expected impacts is available in the Supplementary Information section of the original notice of intent referenced above. That notice is available at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/06/2020-04593/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-an-environmental-impact-statement-for-the-b-21-main-operating-base-1-mob>

For those who do not have ready access to a computer or the internet, a copy of the original notice of intent referenced above will be made available by mail upon request to the contacts for either Dyess or Ellsworth Public Affairs offices listed above. An Amended Notice of Intent cancelling the six previously scheduled meetings was published on March 24, 2020 (Federal Register, Vol. 85, No. 57, 16619). This notice will also be posted to the project website listed above and made available by mail for those who do not have ready computer or internet access upon request to the contacts listed above.

Written scoping comments will be accepted at any time during the environmental impact analysis process up until the public release of the Draft EIS. However, to ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, **scoping comments should be submitted no later than May 9, 2020.**

The scoping process will be used to involve the public early in the planning and development of the EIS to help identify issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis. To effectively define the full range of issues and concerns to be evaluated in the EIS, the Air Force is soliciting scoping comments from interested local, state, and federal agencies, Native American tribes, and interested members of the public.