

B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown

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



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Public Scoping Brochure

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
for the B-21 Main Operating Base 1 Beddown
at Dyess AFB, Texas
or Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota



March – May 2020

What is the National Environmental Policy Act? The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is our national charter for making informed decisions while considering environmental impacts. NEPA requires all federal agencies making a proposal that may significantly impact the environment to consider:

- ▶ A range of reasonable alternatives.
- ▶ Potential environmental or human health consequences.
- ▶ Public and government agency input.

What is Scoping?



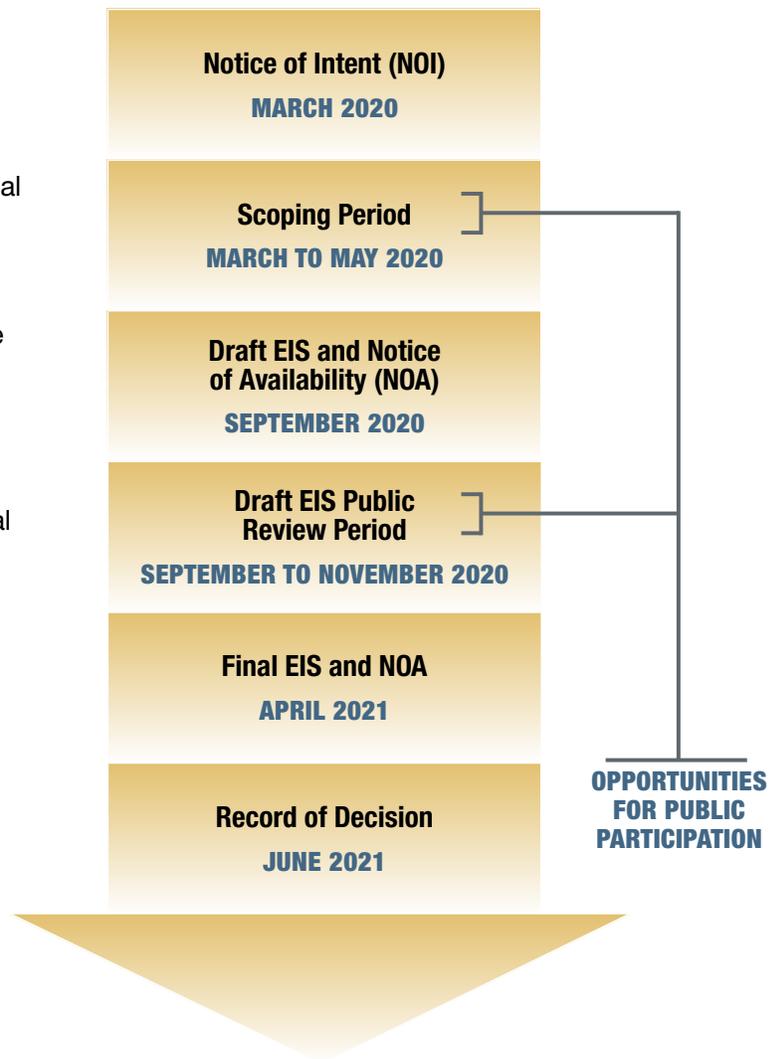
NEPA and Air Force regulations require tribal, government, agency, and public participation throughout the environmental impact analysis process. Scoping is part of the ongoing public involvement process associated with the

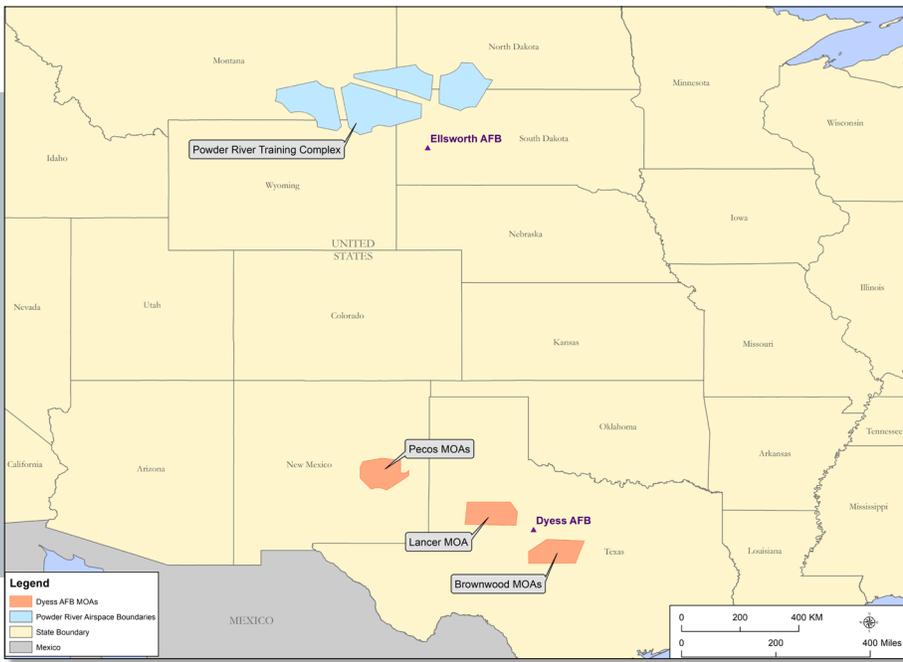
EIS. Due to COVID-19 precautions, all in-person public scoping meetings have been cancelled for this EIS, scoping will occur online, and the scoping comment period is being extended. During scoping, the Air Force is actively seeking feedback from Federal, state and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, and the public in development of the EIS.

What Environmental Resources will be Studied in the EIS?

- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Airspace Use and Management
- ▶ Biological Resources
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Earth Resources
- ▶ Hazardous Materials and Solid Wastes
- ▶ Health and Safety
- ▶ Land Use
- ▶ Noise
- ▶ Socioeconomics
- ▶ Water Resources

Timeline





THIS MAP SHOWS THE AIRSPACE THE U.S. AIR FORCE MAY UTILIZE DEPENDING ON THE BEDDOWN LOCATION.

What is the Background of the Project?

On October 27, 2015, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) announced that Northrop Grumman Corporation was awarded the contract for Engineering and Manufacturing Development and early production for the Long Range Strike Bomber.

The Secretary of the Air Force announced that the new bomber would be called the B-21 “Raider,” in honor of the Doolittle Raiders of World War II.

The B-21 will operate under the direction of the USAF Global Strike Command. The B-21 will have both conventional and nuclear roles and will be capable of penetrating and surviving in advanced air defense environments.

The B-21 Raider will eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft. The beddown of the B-21 will take place through a series of three Main Operating Bases (MOB), referred to as MOB 1, MOB 2, and MOB 3. The Air Force proposes to beddown MOB 1, which includes B-21 Operational Squadrons, a B-21 Formal Training Unit, and a Weapons Generation Facility in this EIS. The additional two MOB locations (MOB 2 and MOB 3) would be evaluated in future NEPA analyses, after the location for MOB 1 is chosen.

The Environmental Impact Statement will consider two beddown locations for MOB 1, where B-21 Raider training and operational activities would take place: Dyess Air Force Base (AFB), Texas and Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

What is the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action?

THE AIR FORCE’S PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION IS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOALS OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY BY MODERNIZING THE U.S. BOMBER FLEET CAPABILITIES.

- ▶ The B-21 Raider will:
 - Carry conventional payloads.
 - Support the nuclear triad by providing a visible and flexible nuclear deterrent capability.
 - Provide the only stealth bomber capability and capacity needed to deter and, if necessary, defeat our adversaries.
 - Assure allies and partners through the United States’ commitment to international treaties.

THE AIR FORCE’S NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION IS TO:

- ▶ Address the USAF bomber fleet’s lacking technology by providing a new, more technologically capable system to support the nation’s defense and deterrence capabilities.
- ▶ Identify an installation that implements USAF Global Strike Command’s B-21 MOB 1 mission objectives by providing an appropriate location that can:
 - Provide sufficient airfield, facilities, infrastructure, and airspace for B-21 training and operations.
 - Support personnel required for B-21 operation and maintenance.

What are the Elements of the B-21 MOB 1 Beddown?

▶ Personnel

- Personnel associated with the B-21 mission will include military personnel, contractors, and dependents at the chosen basing location.
- The B-21 mission would include initial training, transition/conversion training, refresher/requalification training, and instructor training.
- Students entering the B-21 program would be graduates of undergraduate aviator and maintainer training programs.
- Pilots and maintainers entering the program from another aircraft platform would go through a transitional training program, which would provide the requisite skills to meet the mission-qualified pilot or mission-qualified maintainer graduation criteria.
- MOB 1 Force Structure will consist of two Operational Squadrons and the B-21 Formal Training Unit.



▶ Facilities and Infrastructure

- Existing facilities and infrastructure would be leveraged to maximize facility reuse and minimize cost.
- Requirements would differ depending on the basing location.
- Construction would allow both initial operational flying and flight training activities associated with both the Operations and Formal Training Unit squadrons.

▶ Air Operations

- Both the Operations and Formal Training Unit squadrons would conduct air operations.
- Air operations would occur primarily during the day, with some operations at night.



► Airspace and Range Utilization

- No changes to any existing airspace would occur.
- The Powder River Training Complex would be the primary training area for aircraft operations for either basing location.
- Dyess AFB would utilize additional airspace within the Brownwood MOA, Lancer MOA, and Pecos MOA.
- The B-21 engine noise is expected to be quieter than the B-1B and about the same or quieter than the B-2.
- The B-21 is not expected to use low altitude training routes.



► Weapons Generation Facility

- A facility that is unique to the B-21 mission, which would require new construction at the selected base.
- Provides safer and more secure location for the storage of Air Force nuclear munitions.
- Provides a consolidated facility with a single, controlled site that accommodates maintenance, storage, and support functions under one roof to provide enhanced operations and security measures for the entire mission.
- Munitions Storage Areas for each of the basing locations have adequate capacity for conventional Air Force assets.



What are the Alternatives Being Considered in the EIS?

Commonalities Between the Dyess AFB Alternative and the Ellsworth AFB Alternative

The Proposed Action includes common elements among both candidate bases. These commonalities are associated with personnel, aircraft operations, ordnance use, range utilization, and facilities.

PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH THE B-21 MISSION:

- ▶ Includes military personnel, contractors, and dependents associated with two Operational Squadrons and one B-21 Formal Training Unit
- ▶ Approximately 3,900 military personnel
- ▶ Approximately 200 contractor personnel
- ▶ Approximately 2,300 spouses
- ▶ Approximately 6,700 children

AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE B-21 MISSION:

- ▶ Approximately 9,100 total B-21 operations per year.
- ▶ Approximately 94.5 sorties per month, 40% of which would be conducted between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

WEAPONS GENERATION FACILITIES (WGF) ASSOCIATED WITH THE B-21 MISSION:

- ▶ The WGF is a facility that is unique to the B-21 mission and would be newly constructed at the selected base.
- ▶ Provides a safer and more secure location for storage, maintenance, and support functions of U.S. Air Force nuclear munitions within a consolidated facility.
- ▶ Requires an estimated construction footprint of 35 acres, which includes an approximate 52,000-square-foot building.
- ▶ Due to national security, details regarding the infrastructure associated with the WGF is not releasable.

**Dyess AFB Alternative
Establish MOB 1 at Dyess AFB, Texas**



THIS FIGURE SHOWS THE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNED AREAS OF CONSTRUCTION FOR DYESS AFB.



THIS FIGURE SHOWS THE WGF LOCATION (IN YELLOW) FOR DYESS AFB.

Dyess AFB Alternative

Establish MOB 1 at Dyess AFB, Texas

The Dyess AFB Alternative would establish MOB 1 at Dyess AFB, Texas, which includes all common elements plus the construction of the facilities, infrastructure, and the Weapons Generation Facility (WGF), as seen in the figures below.

Ellsworth AFB Alternative

Establish MOB 1 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota

The Ellsworth AFB Alternative would establish MOB 1 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, which includes all common elements plus the construction of the facilities, infrastructure, and the WGF, as seen in the figures below. The Ellsworth AFB Alternative has two sub-alternatives associated with the WGF as indicated by the yellow boxes.

No Action Alternative

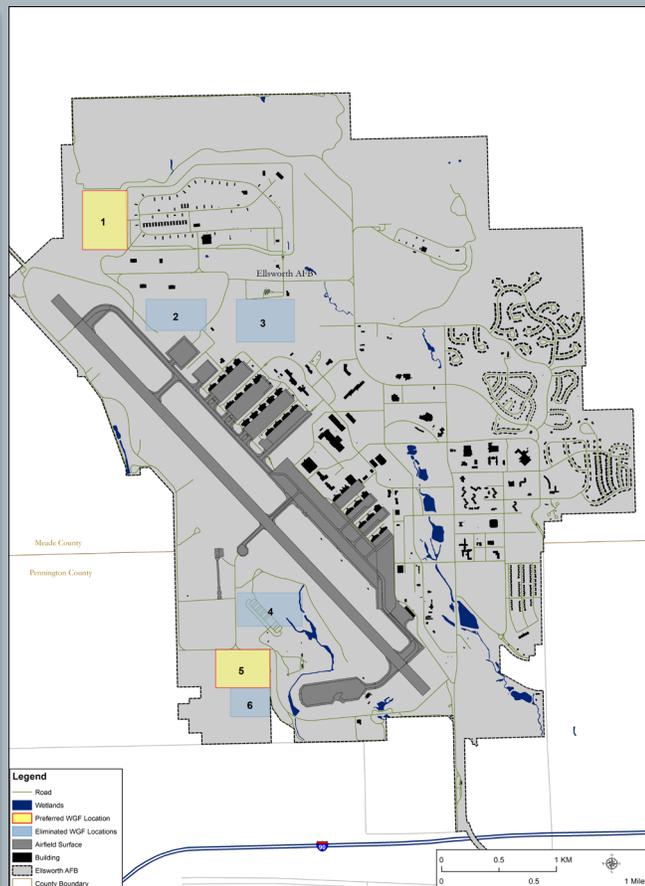
NEPA requires the alternatives analysis in an Environmental Impact Statement to include a No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative provides a baseline against which decision makers can compare the magnitude of potential environmental effects of the action alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative the B-21 beddown would not occur at either Dyess AFB, Texas or Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota and each individual installation would continue their current missions at current levels.

Ellsworth AFB Alternative

Establish MOB 1 at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota



THIS FIGURE SHOWS THE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNED AREAS OF CONSTRUCTION FOR ELLSWORTH AFB.



THIS FIGURE SHOWS THE WGF ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS (IN YELLOW) FOR ELLSWORTH AFB.



For more information or to submit scoping comments electronically,
please visit the project website at www.B21EIS.com.

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 (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

Scoping comments must be received or postmarked by May 9, 2020.