

WELCOME

Public Comment Meeting

***Draft EIS and NHPA Section 106 Consultation:
Reconfiguration of
VA Black Hills Health Care System***



Presentation Overview

- **Purpose of this meeting**
- **Summarize reconfiguration proposal and alternatives**
- **Summarize potential environmental impacts**
- **Next steps in EIS process**
- **Explain public comment process**
- **Hear comments**



Meeting Purpose



Integrate NEPA and NHPA

- **National Environmental Policy Act**
 - Prepare environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze effects of federal agency *action* on quality of *human environment*
- **National Historic Preservation Act**
 - Take into account effects of federal agency *undertaking* on *historic properties* and seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects



Purpose of EIS

- **Discloses environmental impacts of federal action and alternatives**
- **Provides information for federal agency decision-maker**
- **Does not mandate any action, alternative, or particular result**
- **Does not prohibit any action or alternative**
- **Does not prevent environmental impacts from happening**



Comment on Draft EIS

- **Invite comments on:**
 - **Adequacy of Draft EIS**
 - Analysis methodology, data, conclusions, mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects
 - **Merits of alternatives**
 - Reasonable range evaluated, comparable level of analysis
- **Comments are not a “vote” for or against any particular alternative**
 - **Decision based on multiple factors rather than individual interests or popularity**



Reconfiguration Proposal and Alternatives



Purpose and Need

- **Purpose:**

- Provide high quality, safe, accessible health care for Veterans into 21st century

- **Need:**

- Difficulty maintaining high quality, safe, accessible care at Hot Springs campus due to limitations in staffing, facilities, and costs
- Provide access to care closer to current and future Veteran population centers



Alternatives

Location	Alternatives*					
	A	B	C	D	E	F No Action
Hot Springs	<p>CBOC New Location in Hot Springs</p> <p>Existing VA Campus</p>	<p>CBOC New Location in Hot Springs</p> <p>RRTP 100 beds New Location in Hot Springs</p> <p>Existing VA Campus</p>	<p>CBOC in Building 12 (renovation)</p> <p>RRTP 100 beds Domiciliary (renovation)</p>	<p>CBOC New Location in Hot Springs</p> <p>RRTP 24 beds New Location in Hot Springs</p> <p>Existing VA Campus</p>	<p>Expand inpatient services</p> <p>Building 12 Renovation</p> <p>RRTP 200 beds Domiciliary (renovation)</p> <p>Other Upgrades / Renovations New programs & services</p>	<p>(No Change)</p> <p>Continue inpatient and outpatient services</p> <p>RRTP 100 beds</p> <p>Upgrades / Renovations Maintenance and clinical standards</p>
Rapid City	<p>MSOC</p> <p>RRTP 100 beds</p>	<p>MSOC</p>	<p>MSOC</p>	<p>MSOC</p> <p>RRTP 76 beds</p>	<p>CBOC</p> <p>(No Change)</p>	<p>CBOC</p> <p>(No Change)</p>

*Scoping did not yield new action alternatives. "No Action," (previously "H") was re-labeled "F", which had been a placeholder.

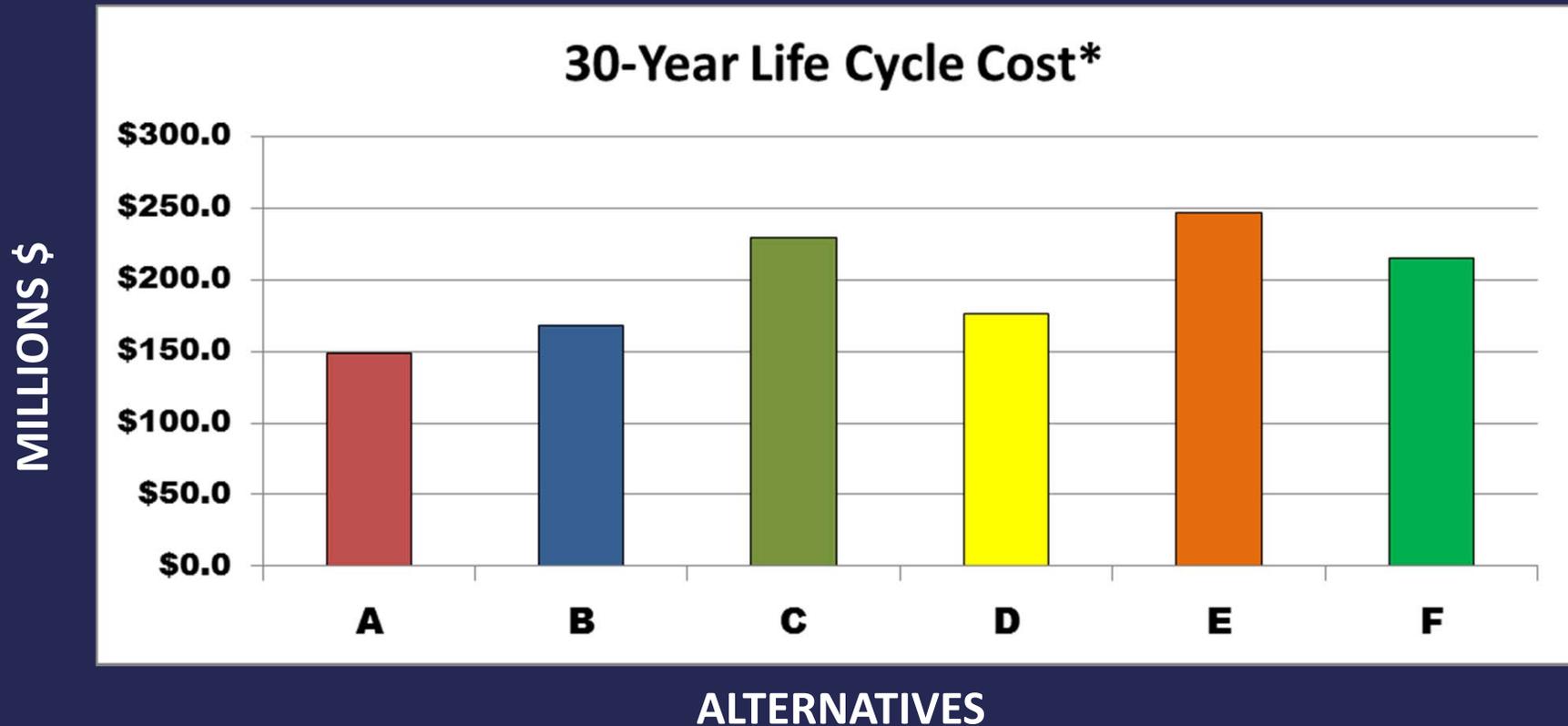
**Alternative G: future re-use by others of all/part of Hot Springs VA campus; supplement to Alternatives A–D. Would include "Medical Miracle" proposal.

CBOC = Community Based Outpatient Clinic

MSOC = Multi Specialty Outpatient Clinic

RRTP = Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

Alternatives



- ❖ Non-recurring costs (land acquisition, design, construction/build-out)
- ❖ Recurring costs (facility operations, lease, mothball facilities)
- ❖ 2012 dollars



Preferred Alternatives

- **VA's preferred alternative**
 - Alternative A
 - Would fulfill VA's mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical, and other factors
- **Environmentally preferable alternative**
 - Alternative F – No Action
 - Least impact to biological, physical environment; best protects, preserves, enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources



Potential Environmental Impacts



Impact Evaluation

- **Aesthetics**
- **Air quality**
- **Cultural resources**
- **Geology / soils**
- **Hydrology / water quality**
- **Wildlife / habitat**
- **Noise**
- **Land use**

- **Floodplain / wetlands**
- **Socioeconomics**
- **Community services**
- **Solid / hazardous materials**
- **Transportation / parking**
- **Utilities**
- **Environmental justice**



Summary of Impacts

- **Impacts – construction and operation**
- **Similar across alternatives but vary in magnitude and duration**
- **Minimize adverse impacts – mitigation, best management practices, permits**



Aesthetics

- **Visible presence of construction activities and equipment**
- **Change site appearance with new facilities**
- **Nighttime illumination or glare**



Air Quality

- **Dust and equipment emissions during construction**
- **Changes in emissions from stationary sources for heating, cooling, electricity**
- **Change in mobile source emissions from patient and employee travel**
- **No exceedances of standards**



Cultural-Historic Properties

- **Change in use of Hot Springs campus**
 - Diminish historic character and use of NHL
 - Affect setting of HS Historic District
- **Renovate, maintain, or mothball campus buildings**
 - Alter historic features and setting



Cultural-Historic Properties

- **Construction**
 - **Disturb cultural and archaeological materials**
 - **Introduce audible, visible elements to historic setting**
- **Re-use of campus**
 - **Diminish historic character and use of NHL**
 - **Affect setting of HS Historic District**
 - **Transfer ownership with enforceable historic protection measures**



Geology and Soils

- **Soil erosion and sedimentation during construction**
 - **Construction stormwater permit required**
- **Possible loss of farmland soils**



Hydrology and Water Quality

- **Stormwater runoff during construction**
 - Construction stormwater permit required
- **Possible change to surface drainage patterns**
- **Water use within municipal water supply**



Wildlife and Habitat

- **Loss of habitat for construction and displacement of wildlife**
 - **Avoid protected species habitat**
- **No operational discharges that could affect terrestrial or aquatic habitat**



Noise

- **Increase in noise during construction**
 - Daylight hours
- **Operational equipment noise compatible to surroundings**
 - Shield outside equipment if necessary



Land Use

- **Disturb adjacent land uses and users during construction**
- **New facilities located within compatible planned land use and zoning**
- **Re-use of campus by non-federal proponent subject to Hot Springs land use planning and zoning**



Floodplains and Wetlands

- **No construction in 100-year floodplain**
- **Avoid or compensate for loss of wetlands**



Socioeconomics

- **Construction benefits employment, housing, local economy**
- **Operation changes number and location of VA employees**
 - **Available workforce**
 - **Unemployment rate**
 - **Housing occupancy and demand**
 - **VA wages as portion of county wages**
 - **Local economy**



Community Services

- **Population change with construction workers and VA employees affects demand for services**
- **Negligible impact to HS VFD from removal of VA FD**
- **Possible increase for community health care providers**
- **School enrollment -1% to +4.4%**
- **Change in tax revenue**



Solid – Hazardous Materials

- **No impact on landfill capacities from construction waste**
- **Negligible change in location and amount of generated solid, medical, and hazardous wastes**



Transportation and Traffic

- **Disruption to roads and traffic circulation during construction**
 - Traffic control plans
- **Change in vehicle trips and traffic congestion**
 - Roadway improvements, traffic controls
- **Change in demand for public transportation**



Utilities

- **Projected requirements within capacity of service providers**
- **Less wastewater flow could affect operational design of Hot Springs wastewater treatment plant**
 - **Threshold for this effect is not known**



Environmental Justice

- **No disproportionate health or environmental effects to environmental justice communities**
- **Change in geographic access to care not disproportionately borne by Veterans from minority or low-income populations any more so than Veterans from general population**



EIS Next Steps



Respond to Comments

- **Comments/questions will not be addressed during this meeting, except to clarify a statement**
- **All written and verbal comments become part of the public record**
- **Comments considered individually and collectively**
- **Responses will be stated in Final EIS**



Respond to Comments

- **Response to comments may result in:**
 - **Modify alternatives**
 - **Evaluate new alternatives**
 - **Modify or supplement impact analysis**
 - **Make factual corrections**
 - **Explain why comments do not warrant further response**

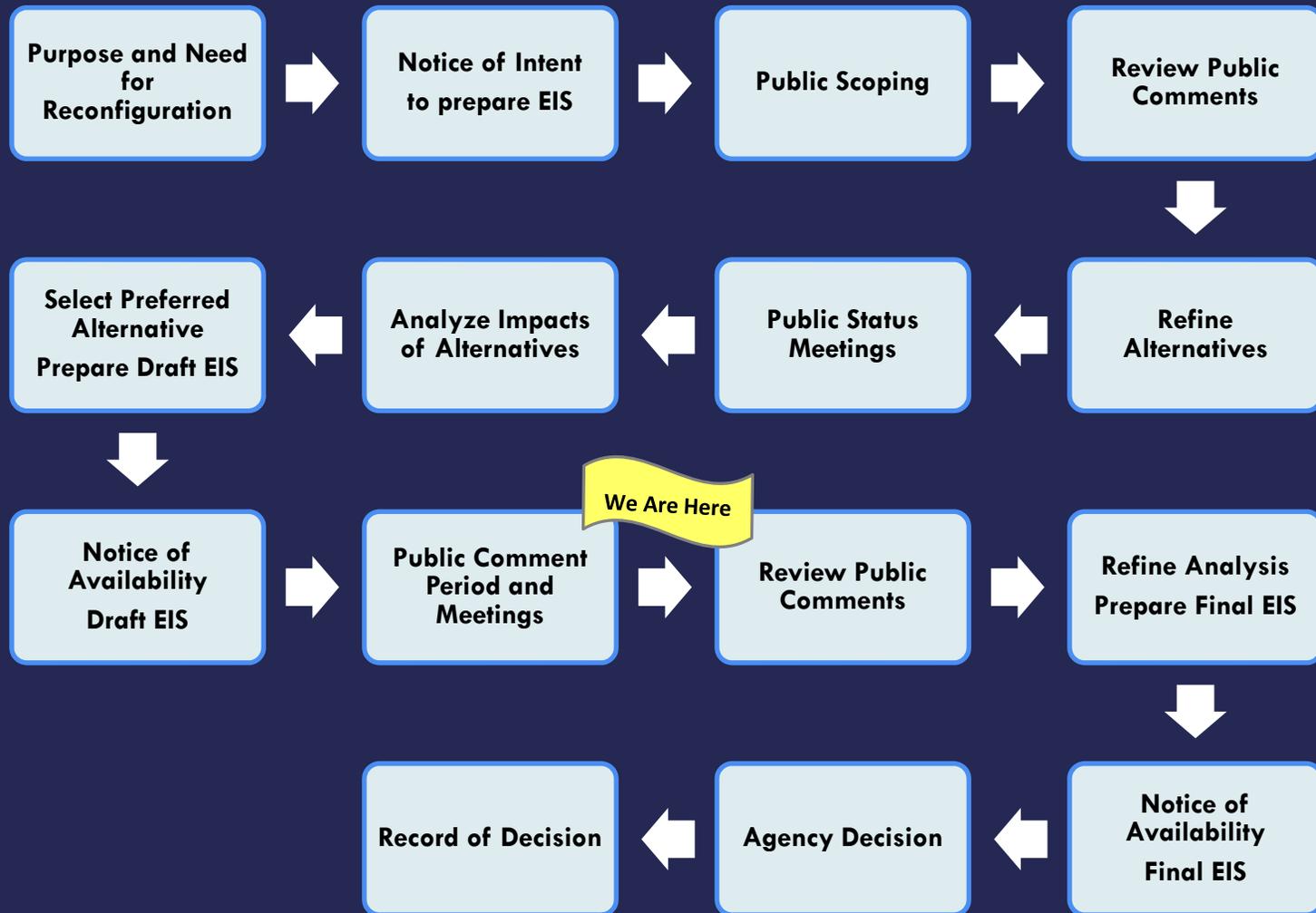


Section 106 Consultation

- **National Historic Preservation Act**
 - **Continue consultation with Consulting Parties on measures to resolve adverse effects to historic properties**
 - **Measures will be detailed in Final EIS and Record of Decision**



EIS Process



How to Provide Comments



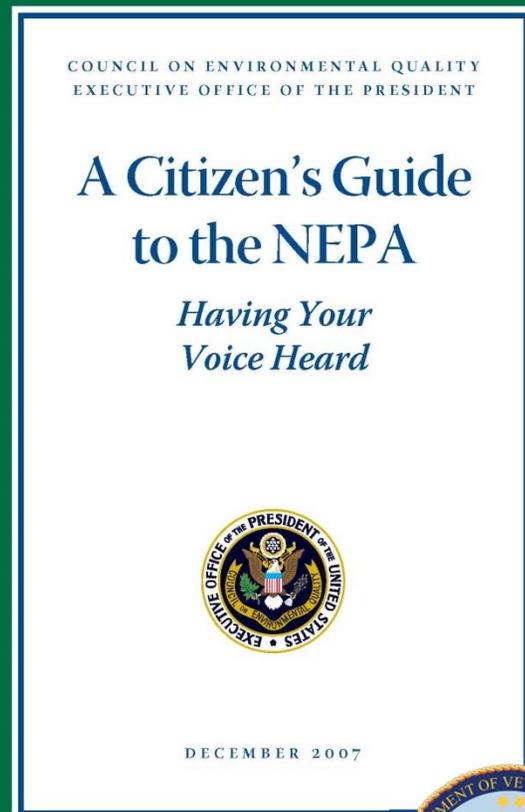
How to Comment

- **Citizen's Guide to NEPA**

https://ceq.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf

- **References available on VA Black Hills Future web page**

www.blackhills.va.gov/vablackhillsfuture



Written Comments

- **Complete comment form today**
 - Available at entrance table
 - Deposit in basket before leaving
- **Mail comment form or letter to:**

Staff Assistant to Director
VA BHHCS
113 Comanche Road
Fort Meade, SD 57741



Written Comments

- **E-mail:**
vablackhillsfuture@va.gov
- **Internet:**
www.blackhillseis.com

Submit comments by
February 5, 2016



Verbal Comments

- **Speaker list or speaker card**
- **Names will be called from list and cards to speak**
 - **Open floor to others not on list**
- **5-minute limit**
 - **Additional time as schedule allows after everyone has an opportunity to speak**



Verbal Comments

- **Use microphone**
- **State name and organization if speaking as a representative**
 - **Individuals may remain anonymous**
- **Direct comments to court reporter**
- **Provide speaker your full attention (refrain from side conversations, cell phone use)**



Thank you for participating!

Stay informed:

www.blackhills.va.gov/vablackhillsfuture

