



**Black Hills  
Health Care System**  
Department of Veteran Affairs

# INFORMATION SHEET PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

## Environmental Impact Statement for VA Black Hills Health Care System Reconfiguration

### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

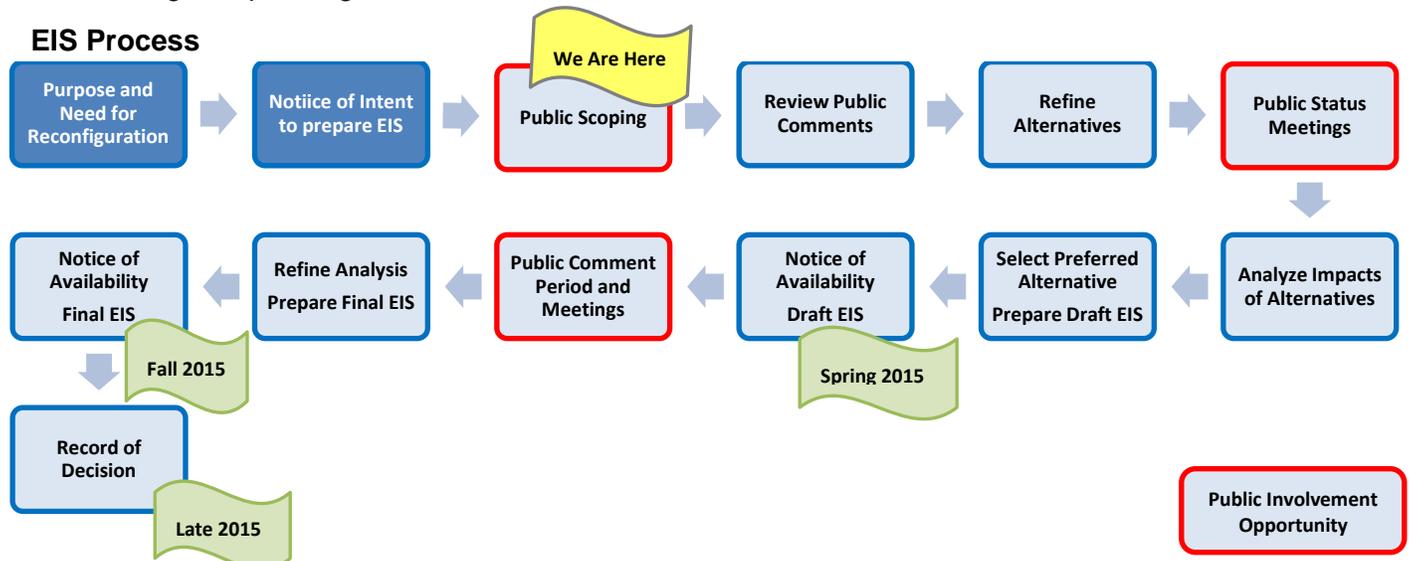
- Federal agency must consider environmental impacts of their proposal in deciding what action to take
- Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine if the proposed action or alternatives have potential to significantly impact the natural and human (social, economic) environment
- Identify reasonable measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm

### Scoping Process

- Involve public with identifying the issues and resources to evaluate in the EIS
- Receive public and agency input on alternatives, impacts, and mitigation options
- Use comments in preparing EIS

### Purpose of and Need for Health Care System Reconfiguration

- **Purpose:** Provide quality, safe, accessible health care for Veterans well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by:
  - Enhancing and maintaining quality and safety of care in the 100,000-square-mile service area
  - Replacing aging and ADA-noncompliant buildings for Veterans in Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs and Community-Based Outpatient Clinics
  - Increasing access to care closer to Veterans' homes
  - Reducing out-of-pocket expenses for Veterans' travel
- **Need:**
  - Veteran population centers are not in the same location as current VA facilities
  - Difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified staff at Hot Springs facility
  - Difficulty maintaining high-quality, safe, and accessible care
  - Long distances and travel times to receive specialty care
  - Current residential treatment facilities and locations limit care available to single parent Veterans and handicapped Veterans, and limit enhancements of the recovery model of care
  - Higher operating costs than financial allocations



## Alternatives

Hot Springs		Rapid City
A	CBOC – build/lease; vacate VA campus	MSOC, RRTP (100 beds) – build/lease
B	CBOC, RRTP (100 beds) – build/lease; vacate VA campus	MSOC – build/lease
C	CBOC – renovate Bldg 12; RRTP (100 beds) – renovate Domiciliary	MSOC – build/lease
D	CBOC, RRTP (24 beds) – build/lease; vacate VA campus	MSOC, RRTP (76 beds) – build/lease
E*	RRTP (200 beds) – renovate Domiciliary; Bldg 12 (inpatient) – renovate; other upgrades/renovations – new programs & services	no change
F	to be determined	to be determined
G**	future re-use of all or part of VA campus	no change
H	no action – status quo	no action – status quo

\* “Save the VA”      \*\* Supplement to Alternatives A–D  
MSOC – Multi Specialty Outpatient Clinic      CBOC – Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
RRTP – Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

### “Save the VA” Alternative

- Renovate existing hospital and domiciliary instead of construction or lease of a new facility.
- Expand and restore hospital healthcare services at Hot Springs VA for a length of time (recommended 10 years) to get baseline data regarding Veteran need for and access to healthcare, on which to support future alignment plans.
- Engage Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) Veterans and teach historic building preservation standards and methods to support VA maintenance program of the National Historic Landmark and other recognized historic structures in the Black Hills.
- Expand on educational opportunities for Veterans and staff in the catchment area, including the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.
- Undertake expanded study of effectiveness of PTSD/TBI/ Substance Abuse Treatment in a therapeutic rural setting.
- Utilize expanded work-therapy programs, educational opportunities, and physical and mental programs to treat homeless Veterans, and assist unemployed and underemployed Veterans.

### National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

- Requires a federal agency to determine the effects of their action on historic properties
- Regulations permit “substitution” of NEPA review for the Section 106 compliance process
- Identify consulting parties during scoping process
- Identify and evaluate historic properties concurrently with other resources
- Consult with tribal governments
- Assess potential effects to Battle Mountain Sanitarium National Historic Landmark and other cultural resources
- Opportunities for input from consulting parties and public before releasing Draft EIS (see EIS process graph)
- Commit to mitigation strategy in Record of Decision if preferred alternative affects a historic property

## Analysis of Environmental Resources

Human Environment	
Aesthetics	Community Services
Cultural Resources	Solid / Hazardous Materials
Noise	Transportation / Parking
Land Use	Utilities
Socioeconomics	Environmental Justice
Physical Environment	
Air Quality	Geology / Soils
Floodplains / Wetlands	Hydrology / Water Quality
Biological Environment	
Wildlife / Habitat	



Photos: Battle Mountain Sanitarium Building 1 – Rotunda (top); vintage aerial view (bottom)