Alternatives for Reconfiguration of VA Black Hills Health Care System

- All reasonable alternatives are evaluated in the EIS (40 CFR 1502.14).
- Reasonable alternatives are technically and economically practicable or feasible, and meet the purpose and need for the proposed action.
- The No Action alternative must be considered, and also provides a baseline for comparing impacts among alternatives.

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

*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

Black Hills Health Care System
Department of Veteran Affairs

Summary of Environmental Impacts, Part 1

Black Hills Health Care System
Department of Veteran Affairs

Resource / Issue	A – Hot Springs CBOC, Rapid City MSOC and RRTP	B – Hot Springs CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC	C – Hot Springs Existing Campus CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC	D – Hot Springs CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC and RRTP	E – Save the VA Proposal	F – No Action	Supplemental G – Re-use of Hot Springs Campus
Meets purpose of and need for action	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Not applicable
Estimated 30-year cost	$148,622,461	$168,234,767	$229,838,861	$176,040,980	$247,036,697	$215,082,431	Would vary based on use
Aesthetics	Temporary effects from construction equipment. VA facilities could change site appearance; create contrast to surrounding views; and cause nighttime illumination, glare, or light trespass.	Similar to Alternative A, with impacts slightly less for Rapid City.	No construction impacts in Hot Springs. Impacts for Rapid City similar to Alternative B.	Similar to Alternative A, with impacts slightly more for Hot Springs and slightly less for Rapid City.	Similar impacts to Alternative A, but would occur on VA Hot Springs campus.	Similar to Alternative C for VA Hot Springs campus; no impacts for Rapid City CBOC.	Similar to Alternative E.
Air Quality	Compliance with permits and regulations would ensure negligible impacts. Particulate emissions during construction would be below the de minimis threshold level. Decreased mobile source emissions due to improved geographic access to care.	Similar to Alternative A.	Impacts similar to but less than those from Alternative B. Less short-term emissions from construction than Alternative A or B.	Increased emissions compared to Alternatives A and B, but impacts would otherwise be similar.	Short-term minor impacts during construction. Operations impact similar to or slightly greater than Alternative F. Compliance with all permit requirements and regulations would ensure negligible impacts.	No or minimal construction impacts. Continued regulatory and permit compliance would ensure negligible impacts.	Construction and operation impacts similar to Alternatives C, E, or F.
Cultural Resources and Historic Properties	On-campus: Change in use would diminish historic character of National Historic Landmark and affect setting of Historic District, traditional use area. Actions to maintain or mothball campus buildings could alter historic features. Off-campus: Ground disturbance could encounter and remove archaeological and cultural materials. Construction introduces audible and visual elements to historic setting.		On-campus: Similar to Alternative A, except less change in use. Renovations could alter features. Off-campus: Similar to Alternative A, in Rapid City only.	On-campus: Similar to Alternative A. Off-campus: Similar to Alternative A.	On-campus: Renovations, construction could alter historic features. Ground disturbance could affect archaeological and cultural materials. Construction introduces audible, visual elements to historic setting. Off-campus: None.	On-campus: Actions to maintain or upgrade campus buildings could alter historic features. Off campus: None.	On-campus: Similar to Alternative E. Changed use would diminish historic character of National Historic Landmark. Off-campus: None/Not applicable.

Summary of Environmental Impacts, Part 2

Black Hills Health Care System
Department of Veteran Affairs

Resource / Issue	A – Hot Springs CBOC, Rapid City MSOC and RRTP	B – Hot Springs CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC	C – Hot Springs Existing Campus CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC	D – Hot Springs CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC and RRTP	E – Save the VA Proposal	F – No Action	Supplemental G – Re-use of Hot Springs Campus
Geology and Soils	Minor short-term erosion and sedimentation potential during construction; minimized with best management practices and permit compliance. Possible impact to prime or unique farmland. No operation impacts.	Construction impacts slightly higher than Alternative A (increased total ground area).	Construction impacts less than Alternative A (decreased total ground area).	Construction impacts slightly higher than Alternative A (increased total ground area).	Construction impacts similar to but much less than Alternatives A, B, or C due to likely smaller total ground area disturbed.	Construction impacts similar to or less than Alternative C.	Construction impacts similar to or less than Alternative E, depending on the extent of renovation or construction.
Hydrology and Water Quality	Minor short-term spill, erosion, and sedimentation potential during construction; would be minimized with best management practices and permit compliance. Water supply and wastewater generation within capacity of existing sources / systems.	Construction impacts slightly higher than Alternative A (increased footprint). Adequate water supply and wastewater treatment capacity.	Construction impacts similar to but less than Alternative A (decreased footprint). Water supply and wastewater generation within capacity of existing sources / systems.	Construction impacts similar to but higher than Alternative A (increased construction footprint). Water supply and wastewater generation within capacity of existing sources / systems.	Construction impacts similar to but much less than Alternatives A, B, or C (small construction footprint). Water use and wastewater generation would be greater than Alternative F, but would be met with existing capacity.	Construction impacts similar to or less than Alternative E if any ground disturbance. Current rates of water use and wastewater generation would continue, within capacity of existing sources / systems.	Impacts similar to or less than Alternatives C or E, depending on re-use. Water use and wastewater generation maintained within capacity of existing sources / systems.
Wildlife and Habitat	Minimal habitat disturbance depending on locations. Site surveys, consultation, and mitigation would minimize construction impacts. Negligible operation-related impacts.	Minimal habitat disturbance possible. Construction impacts slightly higher than Alternative A (increased footprint). Negligible operation-related impacts.	Minimal habitat disturbance possible. Construction impacts similar to but less than Alternative A due to decreased construction footprint. Negligible operation-related impacts.	Minimal habitat disturbance possible. Construction impacts similar to but higher than Alternative A (increased footprint). Negligible operation-related impacts.	No construction or renovation in undeveloped areas; thus, no construction impacts. Negligible operation-related impacts.	No construction or renovation in undeveloped areas; thus, no construction impacts. Negligible operation-related impacts.	No construction impacts. Negligible operation-related impacts.
Noise	Construction-related noise and vibration impacts would be short-term and potentially moderate in magnitude, depending on the locations; daytime scheduling of construction activities and shielding would reduce impacts. Operation-related noise would be minor.	Similar to Alternative A, also depending on locations.	Construction noise and vibration impacts would be short-term and potentially moderate in magnitude for receptors on or near the Hot Springs campus, and depending on location of Rapid City MSOC; daytime scheduling of construction activities and shielding would reduce impacts. Minor operational noise.	Similar to Alternative A, also depending on locations.	Construction noise and vibration would be short-term and potentially moderate in magnitude for receptors on or near the Hot Springs campus; daytime scheduling of construction activities and shielding would reduce impacts. Operation-related noise would be minor.	Renovation-related noise and vibration impacts would be short-term and potentially moderate in magnitude for receptors on or near the Hot Springs campus; daytime scheduling of construction activities and shielding would reduce impacts. Operation-related noise would be minor.	Similar to Alternative E.

Summary of Environmental Impacts, Part 3

Black Hills Health Care System
Department of Veteran Affairs

Resource / Issue	A – Hot Springs CBOC, Rapid City MSOC and RRTP	B – Hot Springs CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC	C – Hot Springs Existing Campus CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC	D – Hot Springs CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC and RRTP	E – Save the VA Proposal	F – No Action	Supplemental G – Re-use of Hot Springs Campus
Land Use	Temporary disturbances to adjacent land uses and users during construction. Sites selected for VA facilities would be generally compatible with and not substantially conflict with current or planned future land uses and zoning designations.		No impact to land use on VA Hot Springs campus or in City of Hot Springs. Impact to land use in Rapid City similar to Alternative B.	Similar to Alternative B.	Similar to Alternative C, except no impact in Rapid City.	Similar to Alternative C, except no impact in Rapid City.	Similar to Alternative C, except transfer to and re-use by non-federal proponent would be subject to Hot Springs land use planning and zoning. No impact in Rapid City.
Floodplains and Wetlands	No construction would occur within 100-year floodplains. If not feasible to avoid wetlands in site selection, VA would comply with federal and state coordination and permit requirements and, as needed, compensate for lost function and value.		Similar to Alternative A for location of Rapid City MSOC. No impacts in Hot Springs.	Similar to Alternative A.	No impacts.	No impacts.	No impacts.
Socio-economics	Hot Springs: Beneficial negligible impact to employment, housing during construction. Adverse minor/ moderate impact to housing, employment, adverse moderate/ major impact to wages from operation. Rapid City: Beneficial negligible impact to employment and housing during construction using local contractor. Beneficial but negligible impact to housing, employment, and wages from operation. Other Counties: Adverse negligible impact.	Hot Springs: Similar to Alternative A, except minor/ moderate beneficial impact to employment, housing during construction, and slightly less adverse minor/ moderate impact to employment, housing, wages from operation. Rapid City: Similar to Alternative A during construction but less. No measurable impact from operation. Other Counties: Similar to Alternative A.	Hot Springs: Similar to Alternative B during construction; same as Alternative B from operation. Rapid City: Similar to Alternative B during construction; same as Alternative B from operation. Other Counties: Same as Alternative B.	Hot Springs: Similar to Alternative B but slightly less during construction; similar to Alternative A from operation but slightly less. Rapid City: Similar to Alternative A but slightly less during construction and from operation. Other Counties: Similar to Alternative A but slightly less.	Hot Springs: Minor to major beneficial impact to employment and housing during construction. Major beneficial impact to wages and major increase in employment with potential adverse effects from operation if not enough employable persons to fill available jobs. Rapid City: Negligible to minor beneficial impact to housing, wages. Other Counties: Negligible beneficial impact.	Hot Springs: Moderate beneficial impact to housing during construction; negligible impact from operation. Rapid City: None. Other Counties: None.	Hot Springs: Similar to Alternative C or E. Rapid City: None. Other Counties: None.
Community Services	Negligible construction impact. No increase in demand for fire, police, and emergency response from operation. Minor decrease in school enrollment; minor/moderate decrease in revenue support in Hot Springs; negligible change in Rapid City.	Similar to Alternative A but slightly less for Hot Springs.	Construction-related impact similar to Alternative A but slightly less for Rapid City. Same as Alternative B from operation.	Similar to Alternative A but slightly less for Hot Springs and Rapid City.	Constructed-related impact similar to Alternative C, except impact to schools similar to Alternative A. Moderate additional demand on fire, police, emergency services; moderate/major increase in school enrollment, beneficial impact to funding for community services in Hot Springs from operation. Negligible change in Rapid City.	Negligible construction-related impact to Hot Springs community services; no impact to Rapid City. No operation impact.	Similar to Alternatives C or E.

Summary of Environmental Impacts, Part 4

Black Hills Health Care System
Department of Veteran Affairs

Resource / Issue	A – Hot Springs CBOC, Rapid City MSOC and RRTP	B – Hot Springs CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC	C – Hot Springs Existing Campus CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC	D – Hot Springs CBOC and RRTP, Rapid City MSOC and RRTP	E – Save the VA Proposal	F – No Action	Supplemental G – Re-use of Hot Springs Campus
Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials	Construction-related solid waste generation would have a negligible effect on remaining landfill capacities. Solid, medical, and hazardous waste generation rates (increased in Rapid City, decreased in Hot Springs) would have a negligible impact on treatment and disposal facilities.	Similar to Alternative A, except that operational rates of solid, medical, and hazardous waste generation would increase less in Rapid City, and decrease less in Hot Springs.	Similar to Alternative B, except that special wastes (asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint) could also be generated.	Similar to Alternative A, except that operational rates of solid, medical, and hazardous waste generation would increase slightly less in Rapid City, and only slightly decrease in Hot Springs.	Construction- and renovation -related waste generation could include asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint; negligible effect on landfill capacities. Solid, medical, and hazardous waste generation rates (increased in Hot Springs, unchanged in Rapid City) would have a negligible impact on treatment/disposal facilities.	Renovation-related waste generation could include asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint; negligible effect on landfill capacities. Solid, medical, and hazardous waste generation rates would not change, would have negligible impact on treatment/disposal facilities.	Similar to Alternatives E and F.
Transpor-tation and Traffic	Temporary disruption to road networks and traffic circulation during construction. Vehicle trips decrease in Hot Springs; potential adverse impact on traffic congestion in Rapid City with operation. Potential increase in demand for public transportation.	Similar to Alternative A except impact more extensive for Hot Springs.	Similar to Alternative A but less extensive.	Similar to Alternative A but more extensive for Hot Springs and less extensive for Rapid City.	Similar to Alternative A but more extensive for Hot Springs. No impact for Rapid City.	Similar to Alternative C but less extensive. No impact for Rapid City.	Similar to Alternatives C or E. No impact for Rapid City.
Utilities	Projected utility requirements are within the capacity of existing systems. Energy efficiency and water conservation improvements compared to existing facilities could be incorporated. If the Hot Springs VA campus is not in use, there could be a concern for proper functioning of the Hot Springs wastewater treatment plant, but the threshold for this issue is not known.		Projected utility requirements are within the capacity of existing systems. Renovations could include modifications to improve energy efficiency and water conservation at Hot Springs VA campus. Decreased wastewater flow to the Hot Springs wastewater treatment plant could occur, but the threshold for effects to the plant's function is not known.	Similar to Alternative A.	Utility requirements in Rapid City remain same. Hot Springs requirements would increase but remain within capacity of existing systems. Renovations could include modifications to improve energy efficiency and water conservation at Hot Springs VA campus.	Utility requirements would remain same, and continue to be within capacity of existing systems. Renovations could include modifications to improve energy efficiency and water conservation at Hot Springs VA campus.	Similar to Alternatives C, E, or F, depending on the type of re-use.
Environ-mental Justice	No disproportionate health or environmental effects to environmental justice communities. Improved geographic access to care except for proximity to RRTP services for Veterans closer to Hot Springs than Rapid City.	No disproportionate health or environmental effects to environmental justice communities. Improved geographic access to care except for proximity to RRTP services for Veterans closer to Rapid City than Hot Springs.	No disproportionate health or environmental effects to environmental justice communities. Improved geographic access to care except for proximity to RRTP services for Veterans closer to Rapid City than Hot Springs.	No disproportionate health or environmental effects to environmental justice communities. Improved geographic access to care.	No disproportionate health or environmental effects to environmental justice communities. Similar impacts related to geographic access to care as Alternative F.	No disproportionate health or environmental effects to environmental justice communities. Would continue to not meet VA guideline for acceptable geographic access to care (driving time to obtain care) in service area.	No health or environmental effects to environmental justice communities expected.