

Contact: Kim Berns, Project Manager
651-290-4160 ext 244

JoAnn Kyril, Park Superintendent
651-290-4160

National Park Service makes scoping comments on Bureau of Mines Twin Cities Research Center available to the public

The National Park Service (NPS) has compiled public comments and suggestions received on the future of the former Bureau of Mines Twin Cities Research Center Main Campus (Center) in the Public Scoping Comment Summary available at <http://www.nps.gov/miss/bom/status.html>. A copy of the Public Scoping Comment Summary is also available by contacting Kim Berns at the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) at 651-290-3030 ext. 238. The report summarizes the results of the initial scoping period for the Center Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NPS is leading the EIS analysis process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The report includes comments received during the scoping period from January 28, 2005 until June 30, 2005.

The NPS is leading the NEPA process to consider alternatives for the disposition of the Center. Open public scoping meetings were held in March 2005 and the NPS contacted numerous organizations, groups, Indian Tribes, individuals and governments during the scoping period. Over 100 written comments were received according to JoAnn Kyril, MNRRA Superintendent. "People told us about issues they wanted to see addressed in the EIS. Comments included recommendations for comprehensive concepts of ownership, values to be protected, and ideas for management and uses for the Center."

The comments received during the scoping process will be used to develop a draft EIS. The EIS analysis process will evaluate alternatives for disposition of the property and the potential impacts regarding future uses of the Center on the natural, historic, and cultural resources. The Center occupies 27 acres of federal land including 11 vacated buildings and is within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park System.