



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

10 Organ Pipe Drive  
Ajo, Arizona 85321



June 18, 2009

L7617 (ORPI-S)

Dear Interested Party:

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is proposing to permit geotechnical drilling in support of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) installation of the Secure Borders Initiative Network (SBInet) Tower #303 in Senita Basin, and is seeking your input. There are other towers proposed by DHS within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and DHS is in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment for the construction of all of the towers. This proposal is limited to assessing only the impacts of geotechnical drilling at one tower site in Senita Basin.

The purpose of this test drilling is to determine soil compaction properties, in order to design the proper foundation for proposed tower #303. Some of the issues we anticipate addressing in this project are:

1. Drilling of three geotechnical test boring holes, 6" in diameter and 45-60' deep, at one location in Senita Basin.
2. Primary access is along park roads. There will be off-road travel up to 100 feet to access the drilling site.
3. Bore holes will be refilled immediately after drilling is completed.
4. Ensure that no actions will be undertaken in designated or proposed wilderness areas.

An Environmental Assessment will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measure to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

The park encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project; once during initial project scoping and again following release of the Environmental Assessment. The park is currently in the scoping phase of this proposed project, and invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the proposed project online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/orpi>.

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, you may submit written comments to the address on this letterhead to the attention of the Superintendent. Please provide comments by July 6, 2009. These comments will be considered during preparation of the Environmental Assessment. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lee Baiza  
Superintendent

