

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SPACE BASED INFRARED SYSTEM (SBIRS)
MISSION CONTROL STATION FOR
DEFENSE SUPPORT PROGRAM CONSOLIDATION

Agency: United States Air Force (USAF), Air Force Materiel Command, Headquarters Space and Missile Systems Center (HQ SMC).

Cooperating Agencies: Air Force Space Command; Colorado Air National Guard, 140th Wing, Buckley Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Colorado.

Background: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the Act (40 CFR 1500-1508), Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, which implements these regulations in the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP), and other applicable federal and local regulations, the U.S. Air Force has conducted an environmental assessment of the potential environmental consequences of the construction of the Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) Mission Control Station (MCS) at Buckley ANGB, Colorado.

Proposed Action: Construction of the 53,500 square foot SBIRS MCS on the western side of Buckley ANGB, Colorado. A temporary increase of 150 personnel will occur in fiscal year 1999 at Buckley ANGB during the transition from existing operations to the new facility.

Alternatives: Interior reconfiguration of 44,000 square feet of the existing National Test Facility (NTF) at Falcon Air Force Base (AFB), Colorado, for use as the SBIRS MCS. An increase of 150 permanent personnel will occur at Falcon AFB.

No Action Alternative: Continued reliance on an existing control center in Building 430 at Buckley ANGB, Colorado.

Summary of Findings: The environmental assessment evaluated the environmental effects for the following resources: air quality, water resources, transportation, socioeconomics, water quality, solid waste, hazardous materials/waste management, pollution prevention, utilities, land use, noise, cultural resources, biological resources, geological resources, and health and safety. No significant impacts will occur to any of these resources. A summary of findings is presented below.

Air Quality: Air pollutant emissions are estimated to not exceed 19.4 tons for any criteria pollutant. As assessed in an appendix to the attached environmental assessment, these emissions are considered de minimis and are *not* regionally significant as defined by the Clean Air Act Final Conformity Rule.

Water Resources: Drainage will flow into an existing retention pond with adequate capacity. The regional water supply system has adequate capacity to accommodate the temporary increases associated with the proposed action.

Transportation: The existing transportation system has adequate capacity to accommodate the temporary increases in traffic associated with the proposed action.

Socioeconomics: The proposed action will cause a change of no more than 0.05 percent in business volume (using non-farm income), personal income, employment, population, or housing in the Denver metropolitan statistical area.

Water Quality: Designated uses of receiving streams will not be affected by the proposed action.

Solid Waste: Construction waste associated with the proposed action will be less than 0.001 percent of the area landfill capacity. The temporary one-year increase in operational solid waste generation will be approximately 0.05 percent of current daily landfill disposal.

Hazardous Materials/Waste Management: The process of handling hazardous materials and waste will not change. There will be a temporary one-year increase of less than one percent of current hazardous waste generation. The facility will be located within the 2,000-foot evacuation zone for a hydrazine storage facility. No significant impacts will occur.

Pollution Prevention: The proposed action will comply with applicable pollution prevention initiatives.

Utilities: For the proposed action, a temporary 3.5 percent increase in water usage will occur. A temporary increase of wastewater that is equivalent to 0.013 percent of the existing wastewater treatment plant's capacity will occur. Energy usage will increase by 1.4 percent. Existing utility systems have sufficient capacity to accommodate these increases.

Land Use: The proposed action is consistent with existing and future land uses.

Noise: Construction noise will be temporary and localized. At the nearest sensitive receptors, noise levels will not adversely affect exposed individuals.

Cultural Resources: No impacts on cultural resources will occur.

Biological Resources: No significant native vegetation, sensitive plant communities, wetlands, or threatened or endangered plant and animal species will be affected.

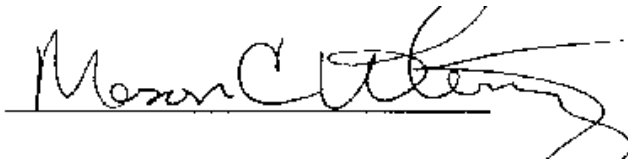
Geological Resources: Construction techniques and erosion control measures will minimize the potential for erosion.

Health and Safety: All activities will be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, local, and installation regulations and guidelines.

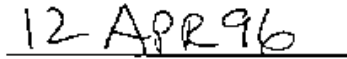
Cumulative Effects: Cumulative impacts of the proposed and other reasonably foreseeable construction projects and actions will not be significant.

Conclusion: Following a review of the attached environmental assessment, which is hereby incorporated by reference, I find that construction of the Space Based Infrared System Mission Control Station for the Defense Support Program consolidation will not produce significant environmental impacts, and an environmental impact statement is not required. This document, and the supporting environmental assessment, fulfill the requirements of NEPA, the CEQ regulations, and AFI 32-7061.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mason C. Whitney", written over a horizontal line.

MASON C. WHITNEY, BG, COANG
Chairperson, Environmental Protection Committee
Buckley ANGB

A handwritten date "12 APR 96" written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Date