



# Public Advisory

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **F.E. Warren AFB reaches out to landowners**

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. – As a precursor to the planned modernization of the nation’s Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile system, the Air Force is conducting field surveys of the F.E. Warren missile field to identify and document potential threatened and endangered species and habitat suitable to support them, wetlands, or archaeological areas of concern that may impact project planning and implementation. Right-of-entry request letters were sent in March to landowners who may have a portion property that may need to be accessed to conduct these surveys. This is preliminary fact-finding work that will inform the development of an Environmental Impact Statement.

## **Background**

In the fall of 2020, the Air Force began preparing an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process to analyze the potential effects on the human and natural environments from the deployment of the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent intercontinental ballistic missile system, and the decommissioning and disposal of the Minuteman III ICBM. The GBSB weapon system represents the continued modernization of the United States' land-based nuclear arsenal with the replacement of the aging Minuteman III. Deployment-related actions would primarily occur both on base and in the

missile fields at F.E. Warren Air Force Base (AFB), Wyo.; Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; and Minot AFB, N.D.

### **Right of Entry Requests**

In the spring of 2021, right-of-entry request correspondence from Lt. Col. Michelle L.E. Sterling, commander of the 341st Civil Engineer Squadron was sent to local landowners who may have a portion of their property that may need to be accessed by the government to conduct biological and cultural resource field surveys. The request is to allow the Air Force and its contractors to access private property to conduct the surveys.

The request is being made because all launch facilities, communication systems, infrastructure, and technologies would be modernized and replaced as necessary to support the GBSD system.

Approximately 1,780 miles of new utility corridors are proposed across the three missile fields at F.E. Warren AFB, Malmstrom AFB, and Minot AFB. Preliminary analysis indicates more than 90 percent of new corridors would be on private land.

### **Utility Corridors**

Utility corridors would generally be aligned along established roads (50 feet on either side of the road).

The government would acquire associated property easements from F.E. Warren AFB to and throughout the missile field. These utility corridors would be in addition to the existing utilities connection to the Launch Facilities and Missile Alert Facilities. Activities along the utility corridors would require clearing and grubbing sufficient to provide access to the area and enable installation of the utility lines.

The utilities would be installed in a 25-foot-wide temporary easement and maintained in a 16.5-foot permanent easement. Temporary easements would be sized to accommodate access and required equipment, and to provide temporary spoils storage. The utility trench would have a typical depth of 4–

8 feet with a finished footprint approximately 2-feet wide. Directional drilling would be used as needed to install utility lines beneath roadways and stream crossings, and near sensitive environmental resources. In cases in which directional drilling is required, the width of the easement and depth of the trench would depend upon the obstacle being avoided; additional temporary easements or workspace might be acquired. Upon completion of the new corridors and easements, disturbed areas would be reseeded and restored, as necessary.

Beginning in spring of 2021, the government will begin field surveys of these areas for both biological and cultural resources to assist in planning. These surveys would occur at proposed project areas both on base and in the missile fields, as well as on private property and parcels administered by federal and state agencies. In general, all survey work will be done by a field survey team consisting of two to four biologists or archaeologists who will walk through the survey area to identify and document potential threatened and endangered species and habitat suitable to support them, wetlands, or archaeological areas of concern.

### **Further Information**

The Air Force has collaborated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to obtain access to support the described survey work effort. If landowners have questions about the letter requesting right of entry or the right of entry agreement that they received, they may visit [www.gbsdeis.com](http://www.gbsdeis.com), speak with someone at the USACE office by calling 1-800-265-9309 or they can make contact via email at [ROEhelpdesk@usace.army.mil](mailto:ROEhelpdesk@usace.army.mil).

Attached is an example of the correspondence sent to landowners and a copy of the Right of Entry Agreement.