

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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EROS DATA CENTER MASTER PLAN APPROVED

Acceptance of a master plan concept of the EROS (Earth Resources Observation Systems) program Data Center site to be located 12 miles north of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was announced today by the U. S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

The plan for the 300-acre site was prepared by the joint venture architectural firms of The Spitznagel Partners, Inc., and Fritzel, Kroeger, Griffin and Berg, of Sioux Falls.

Acceptance of the plan concept represents another step forward for the Interior Department's EROS program. The Data Center at Sioux Falls will be a key installation in the use of remote sensor data obtained from aircraft and spacecraft for purposes of resources and environmental surveys. Under the management of the Geological Survey, it will be a central repository for data processing, interpretation, and dissemination.

In preparing the master plan, several land use studies were developed by the design firms. The studies related the site to the regional area, and took into consideration population centers, major highways, and utility distribution.

Some of the features related to the master plan concept:

- * In consultation with the County Governing and Planning Commissions, two highways leading to the southwest corner of the site were finally selected as the major access.

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- * The west half of the site was considered most suitable for the data-handling building, water storage, water treatment, maintenance building, and parking. The eastern half was considered most suitable for siting a possible future antenna and its control facilities.
- * Its location is sufficiently remote from vehicular traffic and buildings to minimize radio frequency and electromagnetic interference problems.
- * There is ample room in the eastern half for treatment facilities to handle all chemical and sanitary waste. The existing topography in the eastern half of the site readily enables the construction of an on-site dam to impound at least 130 acre feet of water for long-term storage. All effluent will be treated in compliance with the National and State Pollution Control requirements.
- * Master planning of all on-site future roads, parking and buildings has been done in such a way as to take advantage of the topography of the site and to avoid removal of existing trees. Site grading will be minimal. The Master Plan will include the planting of additional trees and native vegetation to enhance the landscape.

The principal source of data to be processed at the Center will be NASA's ERTS (Earth Resources Technology Satellite) satellites. Launching of the first experimental ERTS satellite is planned in the spring of 1972.

ERTS satellites, carrying television and other remote sensing equipment, will eventually return thousands of images per year of a wide variety of land and water features of the United States. Repetitive images of such features will be used to improve knowledge of our natural resources and related environmental features. Fundamental to the EROS program is the Data Center, which will ensure optimum use of the information obtained from the satellites.

Total cost of the Center is estimated at \$4.8 million.

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(Note to Editors: See site diagram attached)

Master Plan EROS DATA CENTER Sioux Falls, South Dakota

