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Langdon, ND (AP) - Real estate experts from the Omaha district US Army Corps of Engineers are contacting landowners in Walsh, Cavalier, and Pembina counties to begin appraising land for the Safeguard ballistic missile defense system. The announcement was made late Monday by Col. Roy P. Beatty, area engineer for the system being deployed in North Dakota.

The Omaha District expects to begin negotiations to aquire the land in fee or permanent easement late in January. The appraisals, Beatty said, will form the basis for negotiations with landowners.

He said approximately 300 acres will be purchased for the missile site radar near Nekoma, 200 acres for the perimeter acquisition radar near Concrete, and 50 acres each for the two remote Sprint launch sites. One of the remote sites is located about seven miles northwest of Langdon and the other about 11 miles south of Walhalla.

About 5 acres will be purchased for the water supply well and pumping stations, mostly in Walsh county. In addition, easements will be required on about 230 acres for the radar sites, 300 acres for each Sprint site and 545 acres for the water pipeline.