

ARMY OKAYS SPRINT SITES IN STATE - GFH

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Langdon, ND - The Secretary of the Army has approved the selection of tentative locations in northeast North Dakota for Safeguard Ballistic Missile Defense System Remote Sprint Launch Sites, it was announced by Col. Edsel F. Hart, Safeguard Site Activation Commander in Langdon. The deployment of additional Sprint Missiles will increase the number of interceptors capable of defending Minuteman Missiles in this area.

US Senator Milton R. Young, R-ND, told the Herald that the additional two sites were not included in the original proposals or in the \$137 million contract for North Dakota ABM construction.

The addition of the two Sprint sites will cost as additional \$18 million, he said, pushing the total "round number" cost to \$155 million.

There will be from 25 to 30 personnel - both military and civilian - at each of the remote Sprint sites. Mostly they will be used as security personnel, Sen. Young said.

One of the locations is approximately nine miles east of Starkweather in Ramsey County. Approximately 50 acres will be required for each remote launch site. Additional easements of about 300 acres will also be required on land surrounding each remote launch site.

No acquisition of land will take place until the fiscal year 1971 Department of Defense Appropriation Bill has become law.

Among factors considered in selection of the added remote sites are their tactical effectiveness, they must be near the Missile Site Radar at Nekoma and also near the objectives being defended, compatibility with the local environment, size of available location, and construction feasibility.

After rights-of-way are requested from affected land owners, investigations will be extended to include such activities as core drillings to verify that the geology of the location is suitable. The Army also will consult with state and local officials on a continuing basis to inform them about the new facilities and to obtain their advice and assistance regarding matters which must be considered to assure compatibility between the proposed Safeguard sites and community planning.