

in order to “\* \* \* preserve for the education, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations significant examples of natural and historical resources of the Mississippi Delta region \* \* \*” When the park was established, all subsurface mineral interests were retained by private owners, thus the federal government does not own any of the subsurface oil and gas rights within the park boundary.

Seitel Data Incorporated is proposing to conduct a three dimensional seismic survey encompassing approximately 105 square miles in Jefferson and St. Charles Parishes, Louisiana. A portion of the proposed survey area includes the northernmost 1,500 acres of the Barataria Preserve unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

In accordance with the National Park Service Organic Act and section 902(a) of the park’s enabling legislation, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations to control nonfederal oil and gas development in the park. These regulations are published as the NPS Nonfederal Oil and Gas Rights Regulations, in the Code of Federal Regulations, part 9, subpart B (36 CFR 9B), and include the following:

These regulations control all activities within any unit of the National Park System in the exercise of rights to oil and gas not owned by the United States where access is on, across, or through federally owned or controlled lands or waters \* \* \* These regulations are designed to insure that activities undertaken pursuant to these rights are conducted in a manner consistent with the purposes for which the National Park System and each unit thereof were created, to prevent or minimize damage to the environment and other resource values, and to insure to the extent feasible that all units of the National Park System are left unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. These regulations are not intended to result in the taking of a property interest, but rather to impose reasonable regulations on activities which involve and affect federally-owned lands (36 CFR 9.30(a)).

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve has a lawful obligation to provide for the exercise of nonfederal oil and gas rights within its boundary. The NPS Nonfederal Oil and Gas Rights Regulations require that a Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment be submitted and approved by the park Superintendent and Regional Director prior to the initiation of oil and gas exploration activities. A Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment has been prepared by Seitel Data, which documents the procedures required by the National Park Service to accomplish the three dimensional survey while avoiding and minimizing

adverse environmental impacts to park resources.

Dated: June 12, 2001.

**W. Thomas Brown,**

*Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **Draft General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, Washington, DC; Notice of Availability**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Pub. L. 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service has prepared a Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) that evaluates four alternatives for Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site (Council House). The document describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a preferred action, two action alternatives and a no-action alternative. When approved, the plan will guide management actions during the next 15–20 years.

#### **Alternatives**

Alternative 1, the no-action alternative, would maintain current management direction. The Council House would continue to operate as a visitor center and administrative office area; archival collections and archive staff offices would remain in the carriage house. Conflicts would continue to occur between visitor and administrative functions in the limited space of the Council House resulting in a less than desirable visitor experience and operational inefficiency. Storage space for archival collections would remain inadequate. Alternative 2, the preferred action, would place dual emphasis on the Council House, which would be used as a museum, and on the archives. Under this alternative new space would be acquired to accommodate some visitor services and most administrative offices. The visitor experience would be enhanced with adequate space to provide broad and comprehensive interpretive opportunities and exhibits in the Council House. The primary storage for archival collections would be in an offsite state-of-the-art facility that would provide enhanced preservation and protection of stored items. The carriage house would be renovated and would

house a research room, offices for archival staff, an area for some processing of collections, and space for frequently accessed collections. Alternative 3 would commemorate the site through the establishment of the Bethune Center for Human Rights. The Council House would be used for interpretation and also would provide a place for groups to meet and engage in activities, workshops and programs. Materials related to social justice and human rights would be emphasized in the archival collections. Additional property would be leased or acquired for administrative offices and would be the primary space for meetings and workshops. This space would be the main contact point for visitors, and access and programmatic interpretation would be provided for visitors with mobility disabilities at this site. Offsite interpretation would be expanded with traveling exhibits. The carriage house would be renovated and expanded to include the archival collections, archival staff offices, and research space. Under Alternative 4, the Council House would be used as a traditional National Park Service museum commemorating the life and times of Mary McLeod Bethune. The Council House would have expanded exhibit space and an orientation area for visitors. Period furnishings would be in the Council House and archival collections would illustrate the highlights of Mary McLeod Bethune’s life and activities. Educational materials would focus on the life contributions and legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune. Space would be leased offsite to accommodate current archival collections that would be managed through a contract with others. The carriage house would be torn down and replaced with a new building that would house a bookstore, visitor restrooms and administrative offices.

#### **Public Review**

A 60-day public review period for comment on the draft document will begin after publication of this notice. In order to facilitate the review process, public reading copies of the GMP/EIS will be available for review at the following locations:

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House  
National Historic Site, 1318 Vermont  
Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005  
National Capital Parks—East, 1900  
Anacostia Drive, SE., Washington, DC  
20020  
National Capital Region Office of Lands,  
Resources and Planning Attention:  
Gail Cain 1100 Ohio Drive, NW.,  
Washington, DC 20242

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site Visitor Center, 1411 W Street, SE., Washington, DC 20020

In addition, the document will be posted on the National Park Service Planning site under Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, <http://www.nps.gov/mamc/pphtml/facts.html>. A limited number of printed copies will be available on request.

Comments on the draft GMP/EIS should be received (or transmitted by e-mail) no later than 60 days after publication of this **Federal Register** notice. Written comments may be submitted to: Terri Urbanowski, PDS, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287 or eMailed to: [MAMC\\_GMP@nps.gov](mailto:MAMC_GMP@nps.gov).

All comments received will be available for public review at Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site. If individuals submitting comments request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the National Park Service will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always, the National Park Service will make available for public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Anonymous comments may not be considered.

#### Decision Process

Notice of the availability of the final document will be published in the **Federal Register**. Subsequently, notice of an approved Record of Decision will be published in the **Federal Register** not sooner than 30 days after the final document is distributed. The official responsible for the decision is the Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service; the official responsible for implementation is Superintendent John Hale, National Capital Parks-East at (202) 690-5185.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Site Manager Diann Jacox, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005, (202) 673-2402, fax (202) 673-2414, eMail [Diann\\_Jacox@nps.gov](mailto:Diann_Jacox@nps.gov).

**Terry R. Carlstrom,**  
Regional Director, National Capital Region.  
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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Notice of Availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway (Section 3P13), Ridgeland, MS

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a final supplemental environmental impact statement for construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway (Section 3P13), Ridgeland, Mississippi.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, as amended), this notice announces the availability of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the construction of the segment of the Natchez Trace Parkway (Section 3P13) through Ridgeland, Mississippi. The FSEIS evaluates the environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and the other alternatives on local traffic and transportation routes, cultural resources, wetlands, visual quality, visitor experience, economics and land use, and impact on nearby residents, among other topics.

**DATES:** The Final SEIS will be on public review for 30 days following the date of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of their notice of receipt of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in the **Federal Register**. Upon completion of the 30-day review period, a Record of Decision will be prepared and signed by the Regional Director of the Southeast Region of the National Park Service and will be published at a later date.

**ADDRESSES:** Public reading copies of the Natchez Trace Parkway's (Section 3P13) Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public review at the following locations:

1. Natchez Trace Parkway Headquarters, 2680 Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, Mississippi 38804, (662) 680-4004.
2. Jackson/Hinds Library System, Eudora Welty Library, 300 North State Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, (601) 968-5809

(This is the headquarters or main library in Jackson)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For copies of the FSEIS or additional information, please contact: Superintendent Wendell A. Simpson, Natchez Trace Parkway, 2680 Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, Mississippi 38804, Telephone: (662) 680-4004.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Natchez Trace Parkway was established in 1938 to commemorate the Old Natchez Trace, a primitive network of trails that stretched from Natchez, Mississippi, to Nashville, Tennessee. Designed to follow the alignment of the historic trace as closely as the requirements of modern road construction allows, upon completion the Natchez Trace Parkway will extend diagonally from Natchez to Nashville, a distance of approximately 444 miles.

The completion of a continuous parkway motor road between Natchez and Nashville by the National Park Service has been underway for more than 60 years. A decision on and construction of this short segment of the parkway motor road, combined with other completed, in-progress, and planned NPS construction projects between I-20 and I-55 would permit the opening of the parkway motor road to through visitor vehicular use without the need for a detour through the greater metropolitan area of Jackson, Mississippi. The parkway's 1987 General Management Plan ranks the completion of the parkway motor road as one of its prominent management objectives.

Those listed on the Natchez Trace Parkway's database who have commented on the Draft SEIS or shown interest in the proposed project will receive notification of the 30-day review period along with a copy of the FSEIS personally by letter from the Parkway Superintendent.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during business hours. If you wish for us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials or organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: February 13, 2001.

**Patricia A. Hooks,**

Acting Regional Director, Southeast Region.  
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