

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2015

Mr. Robert Cardillo
Director
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
7500 GEOINT Drive
Springfield, VA 22150

Dear Director Cardillo:

Prior to our submission of formal comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Next NGA West Campus in the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area, we would like to share with you some of our initial thoughts on benefits to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) of the St. Clair County, IL site.

We believe the St. Clair County site adjacent to Scott Air Force Base (AFB) represents the best option for NGA to achieve its stated mission to “deliver world-class geospatial intelligence that provides a decisive advantage to policymakers, warfighters, intelligence professionals and first responders.” Below is a quick summation of these benefits.

Mission Synergy

The St. Clair County site is adjacent to Scott Air Force Base. The collocation of these facilities will help NGA achieve synergies that are not possible at the Missouri Sites.

The Defense Information Systems Agency and the United States Transportation Command are two of NGA’s largest clients and are headquartered at Scott AFB. Having agency clients in such close proximity to one another can only be of mutual benefit to intelligence suppliers and recipients.

Additionally, the Midwest Cyber Center of Excellence is being constructed adjacent to Scott AFB. This center, in addition to cyber programs at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana will help train and provide access to a qualified, local workforce for NGA West.

Personnel and Infrastructure Security

Scott AFB has a long history of providing a high-level, secure environment for the nearly 7,500 Department of Defense personnel and 5,000 civilian workers who work at the base. In short, Scott AFB provides ready-made mission security, force protection, anti-terrorism and workforce safety to NGA West.

Onsite, secure communications infrastructure exists at Scott AFB. The costs associated with extending this infrastructure to an adjacent NGA West Campus is minimal compared to the multi-mile links that would have to be established and maintained at the St. Louis sites.

Additionally, shorter links improves security. Recent attacks on fiber optic communications cables in California demonstrate the potential vulnerability of such equipment to sabotage and potentially espionage.

Workforce Benefits

The St. Clair County site includes significant access to public transit and a multi-modal interstate highway system. Construction of a new exit on Interstate 64, to further improve secure access to the base, has already begun.

NGA active duty personnel would have access to the Scott AFB commissary and certain employees may have access to on-base Military Family Housing units as such units become available. Many of these housing units are recently constructed, of high quality and contain modern conveniences.

Locating the NGA West Campus to St. Clair County would also provide financial benefits to NGA West workers at no cost to the agency through the elimination of the St. Louis earnings tax. Employees may also benefit from lower cost off-base housing stock in the Metro-East region.

Project Costs

St. Clair County has offered to provide the entire 182-acre site adjacent to Scott AFB at zero cost to NGA. In addition, the county has offered to pay all costs associated with potential archeological, demolition and remediation at no cost to the agency.

Also, the St. Clair County site consists of undeveloped and non-polluted lands owned by one owner, St. Clair County. This provides important construction and operational efficiencies to NGA West that are not present at the Missouri sites.

A Long-Term Local Partner

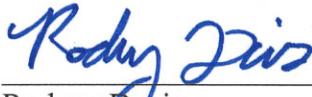
As federally-elected officials representing this region in the United States House of Representatives, we can assure senior NGA management that the Metro-East region's work to recruit NGA West is not episodic, but part of their long-term commitment to the federal agencies and personnel responsible for protecting and defending our national security. This was most recently evidenced by the region receiving the Air Mobility Command Community Support Award in recognition of the support it provides Scott AFB, the second time in three years it has been so recognized.

Once again, we appreciate your consideration of these comments. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us anytime.

Sincerely,



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress