

Alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS will be refined through continued public input. Preliminary alternatives include the following:

- Continued NSF investment for science-focused operations (No-Action Alternative)
- Collaboration with interested parties for continued science-focused operations
- Collaboration with interested parties for transition to education-focused operations

 Mothballing of facilities (suspension of operations in a manner such that operations could resume efficiently at some future date)

> Deconstruction and site restoration

Environmental Impact Statement and Section 106 Consultation for Proposed Changes to Arecibo Observatory Operations

Potential Resources to be considered:

An impact is a change or consequence that results from a proposed activity; it can be positive, negative or both. It may be mitigated to lessen or remove the impact. At present, NSF has preliminarily identified the following resource areas for analysis of potential impacts:

air quality

biological resources

solid waste generation

Socioeconomics

traffic

cultura resources

Arecibo, Puerto Rico

geological resources

health and safety

groundwater resources

Section 106 Process for the Arecibo Observatory:

In coordination with the EIS, NSF will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties on potential effects to historic properties located within the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

• NSF proposes that the APE encompass the full Arecibo Observatory property.

• Arecibo Observatory (as the "National Astronomy and lonosphere Center") is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district that is significant in the areas of science, engineering, and education.

• Consultation would be focused on identifying potential effects and any measures to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate adverse effects; in the case of adverse effects, a Memorandum of Agreement may be used to formalize such measures.