

The Army and Air Force will conduct joint test activities this month to determine the effect of direct radar beams from the antiballistic missile site near Nekoma, ND, upon a Minuteman Missile.

The Army Safeguard System notified Sen. Milton R. Young that the tests will be conducted between 7 am and 2 pm on November 12, 15, 16, and 17. Unarmed missiles will be used in the test, Young was told.

The announcement said the test is required to assure the electromagnetic compatibility between the Missile Site Radar (MSR) and Minuteman launch facilities and missile transporters in the vicinity of the radar.

In conducting the test, the MSR radiation beam will be intentionally depressed below the minimum elevation at which it normally operates. Built-in radar safety features, which prevent the beam from being depressed in day-to-day operations, will be deliberately by-passed.

The test area will extend from the northwest and southeast radar faces outward for a distance of approximately two miles, the Army said. During the tests, entry into the test area will be limited to test personnel. Roadblocks, as well as ground and airborne patrols will be employed to prevent unauthorized or inadvertent entry into the area.

The Army said there should be no significant electromagnetic interference to civilian or commercial power systems or television. It said outside the test area power broadcast from the MSR will be similar to that produced by appliances in the average household and would be less than a person would receive standing under an electric power line.