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**(Neb.)-Residents Have More Opportunity To Weigh-In On VA Closure**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 06/12/2014 11:28 AM

*Photo: The VA "Dom" in Hot Springs*

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(PANHANDLE)-Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE) is encouraging Nebraskans to speak out about the proposed closure of the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in Hot Springs, S.D. After receiving [a letter from Smith and other members of Congress from the region](#), the VA has announced an extension of the public comment period through August 16, 2014. The VA also plans to hold a series of public meetings, including three in Nebraska's Third District.

The first meeting will be held in Chadron on Tuesday, June 24th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Chadron State College Student Center Ballroom. The second meeting will be held in Alliance on Wednesday, June 25th, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Alliance High School Performing Arts Center, and the third meeting in the Panhandle will be held in Gering also on Wednesday, June 25th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Gering Civic Center.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit their comments and opinions before August 16th by e-mailing [vablackhillsfuture@va.gov](mailto:vablackhillsfuture@va.gov). Comments can also be submitted anonymously online at <http://www.blackhillseis.com> or mailed to:

Staff Assistant to the Director  
VA Black Hills Health Care System  
113 Comanche Road  
Fort Meade, SD 57741

The letter was signed and sent by South Dakota senators Tim Johnson and John Thune and congresswoman Kristi Noem, Wyoming senators Mike Enzi and John Barrasso and congresswoman Cynthia Lummis, and Nebraska senators Mike Johanns and Deb Fischer and congressman Adrian Smith. Smith says, "I am pleased the Veterans Administration has agreed to our request to extend the comment period regarding the Hot Springs VA facility, and will hold public meetings in the Third District. Many veterans in Nebraska want to continue to

receive care at the Hot Springs facility, and I hope Nebraskans will take advantage of this opportunity to have their voices heard.”

Again, public meetings in Nebraska’s Third District are being hosted by the VA at the following dates and locations:

Chadron

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. MDT

Chadron State College, Student Center Ballroom

1000 Main Street, Chadron, NE

Alliance

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. MDT

Alliance High School, Performing Arts Center

1450 Box Butte Avenue, Alliance, NE

Gering

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. MDT

Gering Civic Center

1050 M Street, Gering, NE

--Office of Congressman Adrian Smith