



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE
 6633 Aviation Way
 Missoula, MT 59808-9381
 Phone: 406-329-4715

Subject: Termination of Lease 01-ABF-713: Closure of Hamilton NO.2
 Handar weather station, located at the Ravalli County Fair Grounds.

Date: 3/18/2014

To: The County of Ravalli
 PO BOX 725
 Hamilton, MT 59840
 Attn: Gary Wiley: Ravalli County fair General Manager

*rec'd
4/7/14
addressed w/*

From: Michael Zenner
 National Weather Service Office
 6633 Aviation Way
 NWS Missoula, MT 59808
 Ph. [406-329-4840](tel:406-329-4840)

Upon a review of the weather observing program across western Montana National Weather Service (NWS) service area, it has been determined that the continuation of the Handar observing system located at the Ravalli County fairgrounds is no longer feasible or needed.

The Handar equipment located at this site has become antiquated over the years. This is primarily due to the age of the equipment and unavailability of replacement and upgrade components.

In addition, the AWOS equipment, (Automated Weather Observing System), now located at the Hamilton airport is more advanced technology. The AWOS system also provides detailed and more accurate data that is unavailable through the old Handar.

With this information in mind, along with the fact that few if any individuals or agencies utilized the data from the Handar station, it has been determined this site should be terminated due to the cost of maintaining the equipment, redundancy to the Hamilton Airport AWOS, and limited use of the collected data.

In keeping with the lease agreement, please consider this the 120 day written notice for termination. We propose that the equipment be removed and site restorations take place during the month of August 2014.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the removal of the equipment or restoration of the site, please feel free to contact either Michael Zenner or the Meteorologist in Charge for the office, Bruce Bauck. We both can be contacted at Phone number 406-329-4840. In addition, I can be contacted by E-mail at "michael.zenner@noaa.com".

The National Weather Service office in Missoula appreciates the relationship with the officials of Ravalli county and look forward to continue this relationship for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Michael Zenner
 Observation Program Leader
 NWS Missoula, MT 59808

**NOAA's
 National Weather Service**



MIKE ZENNER
 Observation Program Leader

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