

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE DIAMOND ORDNANCE RADIATION FACILITY AT THE FOREST GLEN ANNEX (FGA) OF FORT DETRICK IN SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Garrison, Forest Glen Annex, Fort Detrick, Silver Spring, MD

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The Proposed Action and subject of this EA is the Decommissioning of the Diamond Ordnance Radiation Facility (DORF) at the FGA of Fort Detrick in Silver Spring, Maryland. The DORF site is no longer required to sustain either current or future operations, and the 1) removal of the DORF site from U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission License No. 08-01738-2, and 2) the termination of Army Reactor Office Permit No. DORF-1-97, is the purpose of this Proposed Action. The Proposed Action includes five alternatives, ranging from No Action to Complete Demolition, with three intermediate alternatives. Implementation of any of the Action Alternatives would allow for unrestricted release of the DORF in its entirety.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** During the preparation of this EA, five reasonable alternatives have been identified and were evaluated. These include: No Action (Alternative I), Release Using Site-Specific Derived Concentration Guidelines (DCGLs) (Alternative II), Focused Remediation by Encasement of Activated Material and Subsequent Release (Alternative III), Focused Remediation by Removal of Activated Material and Subsequent Release (Alternative IV), and Total Remediation, Complete Demolition, and Subsequent Release (Alternative V). This EA characterizes the probable environmental impacts, including impacts to human health, which might result from all five alternatives to the Decommissioning of the DORF at the FGA of Fort Detrick in Silver Spring, Maryland. Selection of an alternative is planned for the end of 2011, in full consultation with both the NRC and the ARO. Any work that is in addition to work described herein will be subject to additional NEPA analysis.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES:** As discussed in the EA, the environmental impacts of all five alternatives to the Decommissioning of the DORF at the FGA of Fort Detrick in Silver Spring, Maryland were evaluated in detail, and the potential adverse environmental, health, and socioeconomic impacts were found to be negligible to minor, and mitigable. During the preparation of this EA, several potential environmental issues associated with implementation of the No Action or the Action Alternatives were identified, including impacts to historical and cultural resources, traffic, and water resources, waste management, and human health and safety.

**FACTORS CONSIDERED IN THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:** The EA systematically reviews the nature of the Proposed Action and associated risks and issues. Particular attention is given to protection of the workforce and surrounding community. Alternatives with regard to needs of the United States and the U.S. Army and potential adverse effects on the environment are evaluated.

**COMMENTS RECEIVED:** Comments received during the public review period were evaluated and all relevant issues were addressed. Comments were received on the EA from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The Montgomery County Department of Health and

Human Services commented on expertise of contractors, human health and safety and would like for the Army to institute a comprehensive monitoring/sampling program on some of the environmental attributes studied in the EA. The comments from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services were fully addressed in the original text of the EA and no changes to the EA were required. The SHPO – Maryland Historical Trust stated that if alternative III, IV, or V is selected a draft Memorandum of Agreement will need to be submitted. The comments from the SHPO were fully addressed in the original text of the EA and no changes to the EA were required.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The principal conclusions of this EA are (1) Implementation of the Proposed Action, No Action (Alternative I), Release Using Site-Specific DCGLs (Alternative II), Focused Remediation by Encasement of Activated Material and Subsequent Release (Alternative III), Focused Remediation by Removal of Activated Material and Subsequent Release (Alternative IV), and Total Remediation, Complete Demolition, and Subsequent Release (Alternative V) would result in no significant, non-mitigable, adverse environmental, human health, or socioeconomic impacts. (2) Alternatives II, III, IV, and V would enable the release of the DORF for unrestricted use. (3) Alternative V would have positive impacts on land use from the removal of residual radioactivity and leaving the land unrestricted and available for future mission-enhancing projects. (4) Implementing the No Action Alternative would eliminate the negligible to minor environmental impacts of the four Action Alternatives, and would allow radiological decay to continue simply with the passage of time. However, the No Action Alternative would also eliminate the potential beneficial impacts of decommissioning, which is to make a presently-encumbered parcel of land available for beneficial reuse.



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