



FACT SHEET

Fort Detrick Area Residential Well Water Testing



Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office
810 Schreider Street
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5000

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Policy: To test residential water wells of concerned citizens who live in the Area B well testing area as defined by scientific analysis.

Purpose: To confirm residential wells are not being impacted by contamination related to historical landfills at Fort Detrick.

Why is Fort Detrick testing private residential water wells?

One aspect of the ongoing Area B groundwater remedial investigation is to sample residential water wells located near Area B or near the path in which groundwater is believed to flow from the area of contamination. The sampling results help with the investigation and confirm that drinking water supplies aren't impacted by the contamination.

What is the area where wells will be tested?

Currently, residential water wells located within an area two miles north, east and south of Area B, and one mile west, are eligible. The area was chosen based on current knowledge of the geology and groundwater hydrology derived from years of investigation and groundwater sampling for the site. The map in Fig. 1 shows the included area outlined in blue.

What are the residential water wells being tested for?

Well water samples are being tested for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which includes trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE), the primary substances of concern found in the Area B groundwater. TCE and PCE are both common industrial solvents found in things like dry cleaning solutions or degreasers. The well testing will help to further refine our understanding of the area that needs to be monitored.

How are the wells sampled?

A representative from Fort Detrick will make contact to arrange for a convenient time to collect a well water sample. The procedure is simple and non-intrusive. Samples can be collected from an outside or inside water tap. Water needs to be flushed through the tap for about 10-15 minutes to ensure it is fresh. The representative will fill several sample bottles and seal them. The bottles are logged on a chain of custody form and sent to a certified third party laboratory for analysis. A copy of the written test results is provided to the resident when the report is available; typically about 3 to 5 weeks following sampling.

If I live outside of the testing area, should I be concerned?

The area that is included in the well testing offer was established using knowledge derived from years of investigation and sampling. The distances were established to confirm that contamination is not affecting nearby wells.

Will Fort Detrick ever test outside of the designated testing site?

The well testing area will be reviewed and updated as information from the remedial investigation or from well sampling results becomes available.

How do I request my well water to be sampled?

Residents with wells in the well testing area may contact the Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office at 301-619-2018 or e-mail usagpao@us.army.mil.

Area B Groundwater Remediation History

Fort Detrick's Area B was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL), also known as the Superfund List, in 2008. Before the enactment of environmental regulations, historical waste disposal practices led to the contamination of groundwater with chlorinated solvents, most notably TCE and PCE. Since 1992, more than \$50 million has been expended toward cleanup and restoration, and more work lies ahead.

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In 2004, a \$26.8 million removal action was performed in order to remove the primary contamination. In 2010, an additional \$6 million was expended to install impermeable caps at all of Area B's historical disposal sites to prevent further contamination.

The Army is currently implementing a groundwater remediation work plan developed in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment. The plan is intended to add to current knowledge of the geology and groundwater flow for the site that will allow Fort Detrick to complete a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI/FS study will be provided to the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board and the community for review and comment.

I have other questions about the Fort Detrick Restoration Program. Who do I contact?

Please contact the Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office at 301-619-2018 or e-mail usagpao@us.army.mil.

**Fig. 1 - Fort Detrick
Residential Well Water Testing Area**

