

Fort Detrick to begin Chemical cleanup

A \$4.9 million cleanup of a chemical waste dump at Fort Detrick will begin in late January or early February, a contractor said yesterday.

IT Corp., a contractor for the Army Corps of Engineers, will improve roads and erect a nearly half-acre tent over the contaminated area this winter in preparation for cleanup work that will continue through early fall.

The company plans to remove and incinerate nearly 800 tons of soil, drums and laboratory waste from a trench used for disposal in the 1950s and '60s.

The project will resolve the most pressing environmental problem at the installation, where industrial solvents buried decades ago are believed to be the source of ground-water contamination that tainted three private wells and a spring with suspected carcinogens.

Fort Detrick is home to the Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases, which studies some of the world's deadliest diseases.