

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

### PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PEA) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NET ZERO ENERGY INITIATIVE FOR ARMY-CONTROLLED LAND AT FORT DETRICK IN FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The Proposed Action (Alternative I) and subject of this PEA is the implementation of the Net Zero Energy Initiative for Army-Controlled Land at Fort Detrick in Frederick County, Maryland. The Proposed Action is comprised of multiple, related, and interconnected potential projects that may be necessary to comply with Federal energy mandates and Army energy initiatives. Each of the potential projects will enhance energy security and efficiency at Fort Detrick with a broad focus on reaching Net Zero energy status.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** During the preparation of this PEA, one alternative to the Proposed Action was identified. This alternative is Do Not Implement the Net Zero Energy Initiative for Army-Controlled Land at Fort Detrick in Frederick County, Maryland (Alternative II, No Action). This PEA characterizes and analyzes the probable and possible environmental impacts associated with implementation of Alternative I (the Proposed Action) and Alternative II (the No Action Alternative) at Fort Detrick, Maryland.

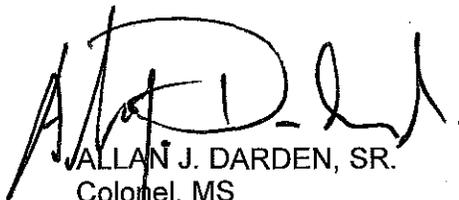
**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES:** As discussed in the PEA, the environmental impacts of Alternative I (the Proposed Action, Implementation of the Net Zero Energy Initiative for Army-Controlled Land at Fort Detrick in Frederick County, Maryland) were evaluated in detail, and the potential adverse environmental, health, and socioeconomic impacts were found to be negligible to minor, and mitigable. During the preparation of this PEA several potential environmental issues associated with implementation of the Proposed Action were identified, including impacts on soil, geology, water resources, air quality, and energy resources. Implementing the No Action Alternative would eliminate the negligible to minor environmental impacts associated with the implementation of Alternative I, but would also eliminate the beneficial impacts of the Proposed Action.

**FACTORS CONSIDERED IN THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:** The PEA 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 City of Frederick Engineering Department, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), and Mr. Robert Robey of Frederick County. The City of Frederick Engineering Department commented on the exclusion of the proposed roadway through Area B. USAG has signed a memorandum of agreement with the City for an easement. However the proposed roadway is not a part of the Proposed Action and will be subject to future NEPA review therefore no changes to the PEA were required. The USEPA commented on the protection of wetlands. The Fort Detrick USAG is committed to the management and protection of wetlands and potential project siting will follow all Federal and state laws and regulations for

protecting wetlands. Since there will be no impact to wetlands, no changes to the PEA were required. The MHT requested that additional information be provided to the MHT when it becomes available during the project planning process. The Fort Detrick USAG will provide the information requested when it is available, no changes to the PEA were required. Mr. Robey requested additional details on projects; cost/benefit analysis; quantifying capacity, usage, and efficiency of various projects/utilities/buildings on the Installation; and detail plans on the required Federal energy legislation. The comments from Mr. Robey will be considered as the project planning continues but in the context of a programmatic NEPA document, such information does not need to be included in the PEA. The PEA was completed in accordance with 32 CFR 651.27 Programmatic NEPA analyses which states, "These analyses, in the form of an EA or EIS, are useful to examine impacts of actions that are similar in nature or broad in scope. These documents allow the 'tiering' of future NEPA documentation in cases where future decisions or unknown future conditions preclude complete NEPA analyses in one step."

**CONCLUSIONS:** The principal conclusions of this PEA are: (1) implementing Alternative I (the preferred alternative) would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts, provided that best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate these potential environmental impacts are adhered to during construction and operation of the potential projects; (2) implementing the Proposed Action would allow USAG and its Mission Partners to address key Federal energy mandates and Army energy initiatives; (3) implementing the potential projects of the Proposed Action will enhance energy security and efficiency at Fort Detrick with a broad focus on reaching Net Zero energy status; (4) implementing Alternative II (No Action) would not allow USAG and its Mission Partners to be as effective at addressing key Federal energy mandates and Army energy initiatives; (5) implementing Alternative II (No Action) would not enhance energy security and efficiency at Fort Detrick, and USAG and its Mission Partners would not be as effective at achieving Net Zero energy goals; and (6) implementing the No Action Alternative would eliminate the negligible to minor environmental impacts associated with the implementation of Alternative I, but would also eliminate the beneficial impacts of the Proposed Action.



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