

Public Participation and Submitting Comments



Public review is a vital step in the NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Public input during the 30-day review period is important. Fort Detrick has not made any decisions about the Proposed Action and is working through the EA process.

Is this meeting my only chance to participate?

This virtual meeting is a vital step in the process. The 30-day public review period began when Fort Detrick published the Draft EA on 19 May 2020.

The public has an opportunity to participate in the NEPA process during the 30-day public review period (19 May 2020 to 18 June 2020) following the publication of the Draft EA. The release of the Draft EA was announced in the Frederick News Post and on Fort Detrick social media.

During this 30-day public review period on the Draft EA, Fort Detrick is holding virtual public meetings to present the findings of the Draft EA and collect comments. All substantive public comments on the Draft EA will be addressed in the Final EA. If the Army determines that the Proposed Action will not have significant environmental impacts, the agency will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Army will then publish the FONSI that announces the decision made based, in part, on received public input.

What is the purpose of the public review and virtual meetings?

The purpose of the public review and virtual public meetings is to:

- Inform the public about the Army's efforts to resume on-site medical waste incineration and disposal at Fort Detrick.
- Explain the NEPA process and the draft EA.
- Solicit the public's input regarding the resumption of on-site medical waste incineration and disposal.

In accordance with NEPA, Fort Detrick has prepared an EA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of resuming the incineration and disposal of medical waste generated at the installation. On-site treatment and disposal of medical waste will allow the Department of Defense (DoD) and other Federal agencies to meet mission requirements and operational security responsibilities by retaining full control of the medical waste stream from generation through proper treatment and disposal. Fort Detrick's sterilized medical waste is currently transported by a licensed contractor to a privately-owned incineration facility that complies with regulatory requirements.

Please take the opportunity during today's meeting provide your comments related to waste treatment and disposal, and/or the potential environmental effects.

The public can submit comments in the following ways:

1. Provide verbal comments during the virtual public meetings, who will record your comments
2. Email comments to: FortDetrick_NEPA@usace.army.mil
3. Mail written comments to:
Public Affairs Office
810 Schreider St, Suite 100
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702

Comments as a result of the public review and virtual meetings must be either e-mailed or mailed, and postmarked, by 18 June 2020.

