



# FACT SHEET

## Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

### Architect of the Capitol Site

July 2014



#### Overview

The U.S. Army at Fort George G. Meade has released a Proposed Plan for public comment on the final environmental response plan for the Architect of the Capitol Site. This fact sheet summarizes the investigations performed by the Army, alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan, and the preferred alternatives for soil and groundwater. This fact sheet also provides information on how you can submit your comments.

#### SITE BACKGROUND

The Architect of the Capitol Site (Site) is a 93-acre parcel on the southeastern portion of Fort Meade. Rock Avenue is to the north, Route 32 to the south, Pepper Road to the east, and Remount Road to the west. The Army used the Site for a variety of purposes, including warehouses and storage for the Former Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, a transportation motor pool facility, an electrical substation, and tractor trailer storage. Other areas identified on the property include a suspected fill area, a compost area, a gravel fill area, a former railroad bed, and commissary warehouse area. There are underground storage tanks associated with a motor pool currently managed by the Army on the extreme western portion of the property.

The Army transferred the parcel to the Architect of the Capitol in 1994. The Architect of the Capitol uses the Site to accommodate long-term storage and service needs of the Library of Congress and other legislative branch agencies. No redevelopment or future land use for other purposes is presently planned.

#### COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED

The Army conducted environmental investigations of the Site dating back to the late 1980s, including sampling of the soil, surface water, sediment, groundwater and soil vapor. Historical actions also include tank removals and remediation.

The Army completed a Remedial Investigation of the Site to determine if any residual contamination was present, and if so, whether the contamination presented a risk to human health or the environment. It also developed a Feasibility Study to look at alternatives for addressing any identified risks.

Two areas where elevated levels of lead were detected in the soil were identified as needing action. The investigations also found some detections of metals in the shallow groundwater which could present a risk if the water is ever used for drinking water in the future.

#### RESPONSE ALTERNATIVES EXAMINED

The Army conducted a detailed analysis of various response alternatives and associated costs for the Site. The selected alternatives will include a five-year review as required by law to ensure they continue to be effective.

**Alternative 1 for Soil: No Action.** The law requires the Army evaluate taking no action to establish a baseline for comparison with other alternatives.  
**Cost: \$0.**

**Alternative 2 for Soil: Land Use Controls.** Existing land use controls and institutional controls already in place at Fort Meade would be maintained and enhanced to restrict the site to non-residential use only.  
**Cost: \$82,186.**

**Alternative 3 for Soil: Excavation with Off-Site Disposal.** Soil from two areas with elevated levels of lead would be excavated and the areas backfilled, graded, and seeded. The excavated soil would be disposed of at an appropriate off-site location.  
**Cost: \$69,387**

**Alternative 1 for Groundwater: No Action.** The law requires the Army evaluate taking no action to establish a baseline for comparison with other alternatives.  
**Cost: \$0.**

**Alternative 2 for Groundwater: Land Use Controls and Long-Term Monitoring.** Existing land use controls and institutional controls already in place at Fort Meade would be maintained and enhanced to restrict the use of the shallow groundwater. Groundwater would be monitored for metals. **Cost: \$148,646.**

#### ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED AGAINST CRITERIA

As required by law, the Army evaluated the above alternatives against nine criteria:

- (1) Overall protection of human health and the environment;
- (2) Compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements;
- (3) Long-term effectiveness and permanence;
- (4) Reduction of toxicity, mobility, and volume;
- (5) Short-term effectiveness;
- (6) Implementability;
- (7) Cost;
- (8) State acceptance;
- (9) Community acceptance.

## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE SELECTED

The Army's preferred alternative for soil is **Alternative No. 3, Excavation and Off-Site Disposal**. The Army's preferred alternative for groundwater is **Alternative No. 2, Land Use Controls and Long-Term Monitoring**. These alternatives will provide protection of human health and the environment.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

The Army, in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment, can change the preferred alternative based on public comments. The Army encourages interested citizens to review and comment on the proposed action.

The Proposed Plan, can be viewed online, at [www.ftmeade.army.mil/environment](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/environment); click on "Clean-up Program," "Program Sites," and "Architect of the Capitol." The Proposed Plan, as well as the full Administrative Record, also can be viewed at:

### Fort Meade Environmental Division

4215 Roberts Avenue, Suite 320  
Fort Meade, MD 20755  
(301) 677-9648  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Monday—Friday)  
(photo I.D. required to gain access onto Fort Meade)

### Anne Arundel County Library, West County Branch

1325 Annapolis Road  
Odenton, MD 21113  
(410) 222-6277  
Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
(Monday-Thursday)  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(Friday and Saturday)

## SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

The 30-day public comment period on the proposed action extends from July 24 to August 22, 2014. Written comments, postmarked by August 22, can be mailed to the addresses below or sent by email to:

Ms. Mary Doyle  
U.S. Army Garrison Fort George G Meade  
Public Affairs Office  
4409 Llewellyn Avenue  
Fort Meade, MD 20755-7058  
301-677-1361  
[mary.i.doyle14.civ@mail.mil](mailto:mary.i.doyle14.civ@mail.mil); or

Mr. John Burchette  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. EPA  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029  
[burchette.john@epa.gov](mailto:burchette.john@epa.gov); or

Ms. Elisabeth Green, Ph.D.  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 625  
Baltimore, MD 21230-1719  
[elisabeth.green@maryland.gov](mailto:elisabeth.green@maryland.gov)

The Army will summarize comments submitted and provide responses in a document called the Record of Decision. The Record of Decision is the legal document which outlines the final plan the Army will be implementing at the Site. The Record of Decision will be made available to the public as part of the Administrative Record.

## ATTEND THE PUBLIC MEETING

The Army will hold a public meeting to discuss the Proposed Plan on August 7 at 7 pm, Courtyard Hotel, 2700 Hercules Road, Annapolis Junction, MD, 20701.



FGGM 74 - Architect of the Capitol

0 500 1,000 2,000  
Feet