



April 16, 2020

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the National Institutes of Health Bethesda Campus proposed Surgery, Radiology, and Lab Medicine Building in Bethesda, Maryland.

Two alternatives were considered in detail and are presented in the DEIS: the Proposed Action, Alternatives, and the No Action (continue current NIH operations). The NIH's preferred alternative is the Proposed Action Alternative. The DEIS addresses concerns identified by NIH or raised during public scoping. Following the 45-day comment period, the DEIS was prepared.

The NIH will hold a virtual public meeting on May 6, 2020 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm to solicit comments on the DEIS. Due to the emerging health and safety issues involving COVID-19 and the State of Maryland guidelines, NIH officials have decided to replace all in person meetings with electronic videocast meetings. The teleconference will be run in the same format as previous NIH NEPA public meetings and participants will be allowed to comment electronically at the end of the presentation. The meeting can be accessed by at <https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=37412>, 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday May 6, 2020.

Public comment on the DEIS will also be accepted during a 45-day comment period ending **June 8, 2020**. Comments should be sent to Valerie Nottingham at, NIH, B13/2S11, MSC 5746, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892, or nihnepa@mail.nih.gov.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Wheeland
Director, Office of Research Facilities Development and Operations
National Institutes of Health