



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Closure of the
Avian Disease Oncology Laboratory
USDA ARS
4279 E. Mount Hope Rd
EAST LANSING, MI 48823

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing procedures, an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared to analyze the potential impacts of the closure of the Avian Disease & Oncology Laboratory (ADOL) at the USDA ARS compound in East Lansing, Michigan (MI), to include vacating the property and the transfer of staff and research to the US National Poultry Research Center in Athens, Georgia (GA). As part of this Action the ARS would relocate a total of 14 permanent positions, their poultry genetic lines, and their research from their current location at ADOL at the USDA ARS compound in East Lansing, MI into the US National Poultry Research Center (USNPRC) in Athens, GA. The existing facilities would be decontaminated and transferred back to different ownership after decontamination and transfer of research are complete.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to promote the sharing of information and ideas about ongoing research by creating a single center for avian disease expertise to enhance the services already offered by these two laboratories.

The USNPRC is a vital national resource whose research is essential to the health of the U.S. poultry industry as well as for insuring consumers of a plentiful and safe supply of poultry meat and eggs. USNPRC scientific expertise brings together an integrated research approach that includes Agricultural Engineering, Molecular Biology, Pathology, Virology and Immunology responsible for the research that is key to developing prevention, management and eradication strategies that protects the \$44 billion per year US poultry industry. The laboratory serves as a major international resource on research to control the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle diseases that threaten to enter the US and devastate not only the poultry industries but pose a severe risk to public health. The USNPRC provides the poultry industry and government agencies with improved intervention strategies against poultry viral diseases. USNPRC currently supports several Current Research Information System projects involving Exotic and Emerging Avian and Endemic Poultry Viral Diseases. The Proposed Action is needed to:

- Improve efficiency of its overall poultry research program,
- maintain state-of-the-art facilities,
- minimize overall lifecycle costs within the Endemic Poultry Viral Diseases Research Unit, and
- Continue to provide rapid response to emerging and exotic disease issues.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) considered two alternatives in this EA:

- Under the Proposed Action alternative, the USDA ARS would close the ADOL at the USDA ARS compound in East Lansing, MI. This would include vacating the property and the transfer of staff and research to the US National Poultry Research Center in Athens, GA. The ARS would relocate a total of 14 permanent positions, their poultry genetic lines, and their research from their current location at ADOL into the US National Poultry Research Center.
- Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action to close the ADOL at the USDA ARS and transferring the staff and research to the US National Poultry Research Center in Athens, GA would not be engaged.

Public Engagement

ARS will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Final EA and FONSI on the USDA website. The final EA and FONSI will be available upon request.

Potential Impacts

The EA considered the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action including cumulative impacts. The analysis completed in the EA found that no significant impacts on environmental resources would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action once consultation with the Michigan SHPO under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is complete. The Proposed Action will be implemented in compliance with the following best management practices and mitigation measures:

Impacts Summary		
Resource Area	Alternatives	Mitigation Measures / Best Practices for Proposed Action
Cultural Resources	<p>Proposed Action: Adverse effects on the USDA Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory Complex, which appears to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Place (NRHP)s. Implementation of the Mitigation Measures would reduce adverse effects to below a level of significance.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measures:</p> <p>Phase I archaeological survey. An archaeological report must be submitted to SHPO following the completion of the survey and prior to project-related activities. Any archaeological resources identified during survey must be evaluated for eligibility for listing on the NRHP. The archaeological survey will determine if there are significant archaeological resources present and determine how to appropriately address those sites if disposal of the stie occurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reconnaissance-level survey of the above-ground resources must be conducted by a Historian or Architectural Historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards (36 CFR Part 61). An above-ground survey report must be submitted to SHPO following the completion of the survey and prior to project-related activities. The survey shall include a historic narrative and thoroughly developed historic context, evaluation against the National Register Criteria for Eligibility, define a of period of significance, and identify contributing and non-contributing resources on individual architectural properties forms.
	<p>No Action Alternative: No impacts identified.</p>	

Finding of No Significant Impact

After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action will not generate significant controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. Therefore, as evidenced by my signature below, I determine that the Proposed Action will have no significant impact and the action will be implemented. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA and the CEQ regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the USDA ARS is issuing this FONSI.

Signed:

Archie Tucker
Southeast Area Director
Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

05/02/2024

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