



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
4 Penn Center
1600 JFK Blvd.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2852**

Mr. Ian M. Thomas
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff: G-9
Army Environmental Division
BRAC Operations Branch
Taylor Building Suite 1400
2530 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

RE: Fort George G. Meade Five-Year Review Reports for Base Realignment and Closure Sites at Fort Meade, Maryland, dated July 1, 2021, and September 3, 2021.

Dear Mr. Thomas,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III has reviewed the *Five-Year Review Reports for Fort George G. Meade, Base Realignment and Closure Sites (BRAC) dated July 1, 2021 and September 3, 2021*. This FYR addresses the Protectiveness Statements for the following Operable Units:

- Tipton Airfield Area (OU-1)
- Tipton Airfield Parcel (OU-2)
- Little Patuxent River (OU-35)
- Clean Fill Dump (OU-7)
- Ordnance Demolition Area (OU-8)
- Trap and Skeet Range (OU-18)

On September 29, 2021, EPA issued an independent finding of protectiveness deferred because there was insufficient time for EPA to conduct a meaningful review of the Army's reports prior to the September 30, 2021, statutory due date. In the Fiscal Year 2021 Report to Congress, EPA reported an independent finding of protectiveness deferred for the BRAC FYR. Since EPA made a deferred determination, these reports serve as a Five-Year Review Addendum.

According to EPA's Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance (OSWER No. 9355,7-03B-P, June 2001), EPA's role as the final remedy selection authority at an NPL site under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency or department requires that EPA retain final authority to make protectiveness determinations in connection with the site.

In this case, EPA concurs with the Army's determination of protective for OU-7, OU-8, and OU-18. The remedies are protective of human health and the environment because all exposure pathways have been addressed; remedies are in place and functioning as designed; no new information was identified that would question protectiveness of the remedies; and there are institutional controls in place to prevent human exposure to contamination. However, EPA does not agree with the Army's determination of protective for OU1, OU-2, and OU-35, and is making an independent determination of short-term protectiveness. In order for these remedies to be protective in the long-term, PFAS contamination needs to be evaluated, and the Army needs to submit a PFAS Remedial Investigation workplan by March 31, 2023.

The next Five-Year Review report will be due on September 30, 2026, five years from the planned completion date of this Five-Year Review. If you have any questions, please feel to contact me at (215) 814-3350 or have your staff contact Robert W. Stroud of my staff at, (410) 305-2748.

Sincerely,

Paul Leonard, Director
Superfund and Emergency Management Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III

cc: Deborah Goldblum, EPA
Steve Cardon, BRAC Restoration Program
Elisabeth Green Ph. D., MDE