



DEC 2 2005

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory at the Boston University Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts. The National Laboratory Research Facility would include a Biosafety Level -4 (BSL-4) laboratory, in addition to new BSL-3 and BSL-2 laboratories. The facility is needed to improve the nation's ability to study and combat emerging infectious disease and to protect public health in keeping with the NIH's mission.

Two alternatives are considered in detail in the FEIS: the Proposed Action (to partially fund the construction of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory at the Boston University Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts) and the No Action (to not construct the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory at the Boston University Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts). The agency's preferred alternative is the Proposed Action.

The FEIS addresses concerns identified by the NIH and issues raised and comments received during the comment period of the Supplemental Draft EIS. Following a 30-day waiting period, the NIH will prepare and issue a Record of Decision on the project.

Public comment on the FEIS will be accepted during a 30-day waiting period ending Friday, **January 13, 2006**. Comments should be sent to Valerie Nottingham, NIH, B13/2W64, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892 or emailed to nihnepa@mail.nih.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Juanita M. Mildenberg".

Juanita M. Mildenberg, FAIA
Acting Director, Office of Research Facilities
Development and Operations
National Institutes of Health