



October 1, 2012

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the National Institutes of Health Animal Center (NIHAC) proposed Master Plan in Poolesville, Maryland. The Master Plan outlines a strategy for accommodating potential campus development subject to NIH and Health and Human Services (HHS) priorities and the availability of resources.

Two alternatives were considered in detail and are presented in the DEIS: the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action (continue current NIHAC 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 30-day comment period, the DEIS was prepared.

The NIH will hold a public meeting on October 24, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm to solicit comments on the DEIS. This meeting will take place at Poolesville Town Hall at 19721 Beall Street in Poolesville, Maryland.

Public comment on the DEIS will be accepted during a 60-day comment period ending **December 4, 2012**. Comments should be sent to Valerie Nottingham at, NIH, B13/2S11, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892, or [nihnepa@mail.nih.gov](mailto:nihnepa@mail.nih.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Daniel G. Wheeland". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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