

Safetygram

NCI-Frederick

ISM-187

General Distribution

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NCI-Frederick Drinking Water Fact Sheet

Drinking water on Fort Detrick is provided through the Army Garrison and NCI-Frederick employees express concern with the quality and safety of their drinking water. EHS has prepared the following information to address these concerns.

1. The drinking water supply at Fort Detrick comes from a water treatment plant located on the Monocacy River. The water treatment plant is not affected by groundwater contamination at Area B. No groundwater is used as a source of drinking water at Fort Detrick.
2. Area B is located to the west and on the other side of Rosemont Avenue from the main area of Fort Detrick (Area A). Area B currently contains an animal farm, sanitary landfill and skeet range. It also contains several known disposal sites for hazardous chemical materials, which were used during the biological warfare program era. These sites are being cleaned up by the Ft. Detrick Army Garrison. See: <http://www.detrick.army.mil/rab/map.cfm>
3. Soil gas and groundwater samples revealed contamination levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) above the levels which are considered safe for human consumption.
4. Extensive testing of NCI-F drinking water fountains and filtered coolers were undertaken from 2000 through 2005, in response to concerns over lead or copper leaching from older pipes. No samples taken from fountains or coolers showed consistent lead or copper levels above the EPA's drinking water action levels. Regardless, filtered water coolers have been installed throughout NCI-Frederick.
5. The Fort Detrick Environmental Office samples drinking water from a number of locations, several of which are NCI-Frederick buildings. The samples are analyzed by a certified private water-testing laboratory and results are provided to the NCI-Frederick.
6. Any questions concerning the drinking water at the NCI-Frederick should be directed to Mr. Bruce Tobias at (301) 846-1905.