

# Final Environmental Assessment

*Closure of the  
Avian Disease Oncology Laboratory  
USDA ARS  
4279 E. Mount Hope Rd  
EAST LANSING, MI 48823*

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Research Service**

April 2024

*Prepared By:*



**Table of Contents**

**1 PURPOSE AND NEED** \_\_\_\_\_ **1**

**1.1 Purpose of the Environmental Assessment** \_\_\_\_\_ **1**

**1.2 Background** \_\_\_\_\_ **1**

**1.3 Purpose and Need** \_\_\_\_\_ **2**

**1.4 Incomplete and Unavailable Information** \_\_\_\_\_ **2**

**1.5 Public Notice and Participation** \_\_\_\_\_ **2**

**1.6 Listing of Applicable Laws and Regulations** \_\_\_\_\_ **5**

**2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES** \_\_\_\_\_ **6**

**2.1 Introduction** \_\_\_\_\_ **6**

**2.2 Alternative 1: Proposed Action** \_\_\_\_\_ **7**

**2.3 Alternative 2: No Action** \_\_\_\_\_ **8**

**2.4 Alternatives not Carried Forward for Further Analysis.** \_\_\_\_\_ **10**

**3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS** \_\_\_\_\_ **10**

**3.1 Resources Considered but Eliminated** \_\_\_\_\_ **11**

**3.2 Cultural Resources** \_\_\_\_\_ **13**

**3.3 Hazardous Materials and Toxic Waste** \_\_\_\_\_ **16**

**3.4 Land Use, Zoning, Aesthetics** \_\_\_\_\_ **19**

**3.5 Environmental Justice** \_\_\_\_\_ **21**

**3.6 Socioeconomic Resources** \_\_\_\_\_ **23**

**3.7 Cumulative Effects** \_\_\_\_\_ **25**

**3.8 Impacts Summary and Conclusions** \_\_\_\_\_ **26**

**4 LIST OF PREPARERS** \_\_\_\_\_ **28**

**4.1 List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted** \_\_\_\_\_ **28**

**4.2 List of Preparers** \_\_\_\_\_ **29**

**5 REFERENCES** \_\_\_\_\_ **30**

**List of Figures**

**FIGURE 1. EAST LANSING PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**..... **3**

**FIGURE 2. ATHENS PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**..... **4**

**FIGURE 3. EXISTING FACILITIES**..... **9**

**List of Tables**

**TABLE 1: RESOURCES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED** ..... **11**

**TABLE 2: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION** ..... **24**

**TABLE 3: IMPACTS SUMMARY**..... **27**

## List of Appendices

**APPENDIX A: SECTION 106 CONSULTATION**

**APPENDIX B: TRIBAL CONSULTATION LETTERS**

**APPENDIX C: RESPONSES TO TRIBAL CONSULTATION LETTERS**

### Acronyms

ABSL-2E	Animal Biological Safety Level-2 Enhanced
AD	Area Director
ADOL	Avian Disease Oncology Laboratory
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ARPA	Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979
ARS	Agricultural Research Service
BSC	Biosafety cabinets
BSL-2E	Biological Safety Level-2 Enhanced
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Requirements
EA	Environmental Assessment
EGLE	Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GA	Georgia
HEPA	High efficiency particulate air
MI	Michigan
MDEQ	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
MSU	Michigan State University
NOA	Notice of Availability
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1979
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NFA	No Further Action
NOA	Notice of Availability
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NFEPA	Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act
NFRAP	No Further Remedial Action Planned
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
P.L.	Public Law
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RG2	Risk Group 2
ROI	Region of Influence
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SEPRL	Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory

TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
UGA	University of Georgia
U.S.C	United States Code
USDA	Underground storage tanks
UST	United States Department of Agriculture
USNPRC	U.S. National Poultry Research Center
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds

## 1 Purpose and Need

### 1.1 Purpose of the Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) published regulations (USDA 2012) to supplement the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines for NEPA implementation. The CEQ regulations appear in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 1500-1508, USDAs at 7 CFR 1b, and ARSs at 7 CFR 520. USDA-ARS established separate procedures for evaluating the environmental effects of research programs and construction projects.

USDA-ARS regulations require an environmental assessment (EA) to be prepared for a proposed action representing new construction. If the EA determines that human environmental impacts are significant, USDA-ARS may determine an EIS would be warranted. The EA provides the USDA-ARS Southeast Area (SEA) Area Director (AD) with the information necessary to determine whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) should be prepared or if a “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI) decision can be made. If the AD determines a FONSI decision can be made, then justification explaining why the proposed action does not have a significant impact on the human environment is documented. If the EA highlights several human or environmental impacts that are known or anticipated to be controversial, then review of the proposed action must continue to an EIS. The EA will evaluate and describe the environmental impacts of the closure of the Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory (ADOL) at the USDA ARS compound in East Lansing, Michigan (MI) and the lab decontamination and decommissioning (after the buildings are vacated) and transfer of the staff and research to the US National Poultry Research Center (USNPRC) in Athens, Georgia (GA).

### 1.2 Background

The ARS is the USDA’s chief scientific in-house research agency. The ARS delivers scientific solutions to national and global agricultural challenges. The ARS provides scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people, sustain the nation’s agroecosystems and natural resources, and ensures economic competitiveness and excellence of the nation’s agriculture. Approval of projects (e.g., research, construction, real property) requires the ARS to comply with the NEPA.

The ADOL at the USDA ARS compound in East Lansing, MI is part of the Endemic Poultry Viral Diseases Research Unit whose mission is to *“provide leadership and solutions for prevention and control of endemic poultry viruses using basic and applied approaches to benefit the poultry industry and consumers”* (ARS 2023).

### *Project Location*

The ADOL is currently located at 4279 Mount Hope Road on a 50 acre tract bordered by MSU in East Lansing, MI (Figure 1). The USDA-ARS USNPRC is located at 934 College Station Road, in Clarke County, Georgia (GA), approximately 1 mile southeast of the center of City of Athens, GA (Figure 2). Both facilities are located in urban areas that are surrounded by commercial, residential and recreational developments and are proximate to the campuses of major research universities, e.g., MSU and the University of Georgia (UGA).

## **1.3 Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to promote the sharing of information and ideas about on-going 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. 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.

## **1.4 Incomplete and Unavailable Information**

The CEQ regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1502.21) require that an agency preparing a NEPA analysis indicate when information is incomplete or unavailable and explain the relevance of the missing information to the analysis. Statements to that effect have been included in this EA, where appropriate.

## **1.5 Public Notice and Participation**

The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was consulted on potential effects to National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible properties (Appendix A). The SHPO

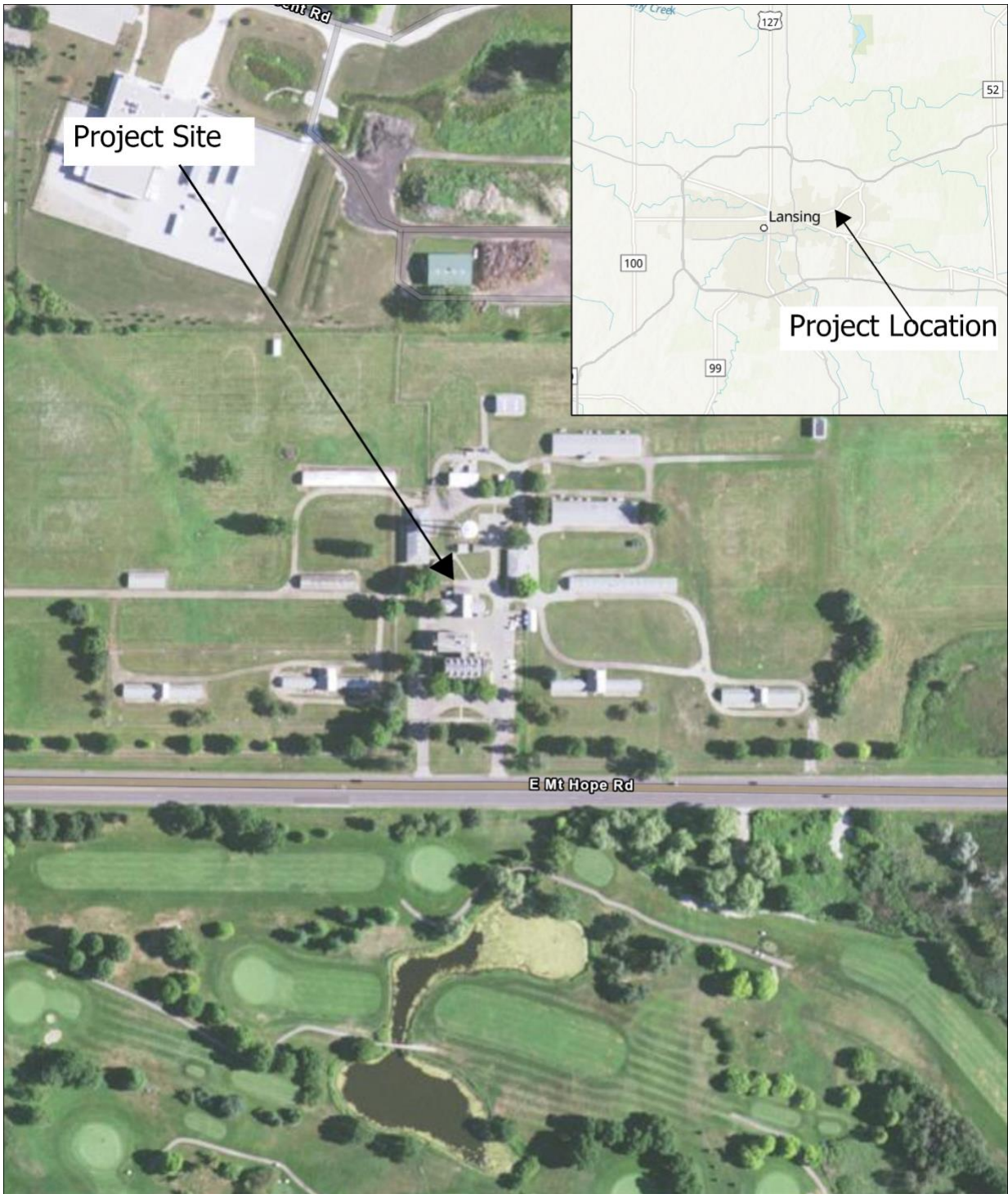


Figure 1: East Lansing Project Location

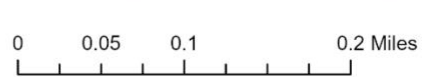
0 0.03 0.06 0.11 Miles



**Figure 1. East Lansing Proposed Activities**



Figure 2: Athens Project Location



**Figure 2. Athens Proposed Activities**



provided a letter on February 27, 2024 in which they concurred with the determination of USDA-ARS that the proposed undertaking would have an **adverse effect** on the USDA ADOL Complex, which appears to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) and Tribal cultural representatives from each federally recognized Tribe in the state of Michigan were contacted via email and letter about any concerns their Tribe may have regarding the Proposed Action (Appendix B). Responses were received from the following (Appendix C):

- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.
- Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe).
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EA was published in the Lansing State Journal on December 8th and 10th, 2023. The Draft EA was available upon request and comments were accepted for a period of thirty (30) days, from December 8, 2023, to January 7th, 2024. No comments were received.

## 1.6 Listing of Applicable Laws and Regulations

The following is a list of Federal laws and regulations and Executive Orders (EO) considered during preparation of this EA:

### **FEDERAL LAWS AND STATUTES:**

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (NEPA), Public Law (P.L.) 91-190; 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 4321, et seq.) as amended by P.L. 94-52, P.L. 94-83, and P.L. 97-258, 4(b).
- Clean Air Act, (As amended by P.L. 91-604 42 U.S.C. 7401, *et seq.*).
- Noise Control Act of 1972, (P.L. 92-574; 42 U.S.C. 4901).
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 Section 106, (P.L. 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470(f)).
- Archaeological and Historic Data Preservation Act of 1974, (P.L. 86-253, as amended by P.L. 93291, 16 U.S.C. 469).
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, (P.L. 85-624; 16 U.S.C. 661, 664, 1008 note).
- Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Section 404, (P.L. 92-500; 33 U.S.C. 1344), as amended by the Clean Water Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-217-1 33 U.S.C. 1251).
- Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act, (P.L. 91-528; 42 U.S.C. 4601).
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, (P.L. 94-580; 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq). as amended by the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1980, (P.L. 96-482); and the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, (P.L. 98-616).

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by Community Environmental Resource Facilitation Act, October 1992, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.

**EXECUTIVE ORDERS:**

- Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, EO 11593, (dated May 13, 1971).
- Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, EO 123772, (dated July 14, 1982) and 49 CFR Part 17, Intergovernmental Review of Department of Transportation Programs and Activities.
- Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality, EO 11514, (dated March 4, 1970).
- Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations, EO 12898.
- Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All, EO 14008.

**FEDERAL REGULATIONS:**

- 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, CEQ implementation of NEPA procedural provisions establishes uniform procedures, terminology, and standards for implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA's section 102(2).
- 40 CFR Part 51, Subpart W, (58 FR 63247, November 30, 1993), Determining Conformity of General Federal Action to State or Federal Implementation Plans.
- 36 CFR Part 800, (39 FR 3365, January 25, 1974, and 51 FR 31115, September 2, 1986), Protection of Historic Properties.
- 36 CFR Part 59, (July 1, 1996), Land and Water Conservation Fund Program of Assistance to States; Post-completion Compliance Responsibilities.
- 7 CFR Part 657, (43 FR 4030, January 31, 1978), Prime and Unique Farmlands.
- 50 CFR Part 17.11.12 (Subpart B), (May 31, 1997), Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Endangered and Threatened Plants.

**2 Description of Alternatives**

**2.1 Introduction**

USDA-ARS intends to improve efficiency of its overall poultry research program by merging the USNPRC and the ADOL into a single location. Such an action requires transferring the current research and staff being performed at the ADOL in East Lansing, MI to the Athens, GA campus of USNPRC. To accurately compare the various project alternatives, potential environmental impacts are discussed in more detail in Section 3 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences. It is important to note that for some environmental categories, the potential impacts provided are considered approximate and may be expressed as a range of the impact, because detailed plans were not available for each alternative. The following sections describe the alternatives considered in relation to the purpose and need of this project.

## 2.2 Alternative 1: Proposed Action

Under this alternative, 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 USNPRC compound in Athens, GA. The existing facilities (Figure 3) would be decontaminated and transferred after decontamination and transfer of research are complete.

### *Research Activities*

The mission at the Endemic Poultry Viral Disease Research Unit is to “conduct basic and applied research on avian metapneumovirus, enteric viruses of turkeys and Marek's disease herpesvirus. The goal of our research program is to produce new research knowledge and technology to: 1) provide science-based solutions to minimize productivity and economic losses from domestic poultry diseases; 2) determine through molecular epidemiology the source for disease outbreaks; 3) determine biological and molecular virulence characteristics of these viruses with the goal of minimizing their impact; 4) develop practical and improved diagnostic tools; 5) develop or improve vaccines and vaccine delivery methods; 6) determine the role of immunity during infections; 7) determine the effects of secondary infections on the development of disease; 8) develop engineering systems for reducing transmission and development of disease.” (ARS 2023).

These types of research activities are currently being conducted at the USNPRC and would continue after the consolidation with the staff and their poultry genetic lines from ADOL. Facilities for these staff are already constructed or under construction at the USNPRC and are the subject of separate NEPA analysis.

A total of 14 staff from ADOL would be consolidated from the East Lansing site to the Athens site of the SEPRL and would continue their research activities.

### ***Building Decontamination and Decommissioning***

Once research activities have ceased the buildings would undergo a surface decontamination of these spaces with an approved disinfectant. The buildings at ADOL have contained research with nothing greater than Risk Group 2 (RG2) biological agents and have been designated as Biological Safety Level-2 Enhanced (BSL-2E) or Animal Biological Safety Level-2 Enhanced (ABSL-2E) buildings. All animal holding facilities, e.g. brooder houses, chicken houses, would be washed down and cleaned with household cleaners. An acceptance document would be generated for these buildings listing the decontamination method, disinfectant used, the date performed, and a signature of the person performing the decontamination. The buildings would not be tested for lead paint, asbestos or mercury as part the decommissioning.

### ***Decontamination and Removal of Laboratory Equipment***

Laboratory equipment in BSL-2E spaces would be surfaced decontaminated with a 1% Virkon-S disinfectant solution, unless otherwise approved by Biosafety. Equipment in ABSL-2E buildings is routinely decontaminated between studies utilizing a surface decontamination of the areas for removal of organic material and utilization of disinfectant foggers.

- Lab equipment within all lab spaces would be cleaned and decontaminated with a 1% Virkon-S solution or appropriate disinfectant.
- Any biohazard signage on equipment would be removed from equipment that has been completely decontaminated.
- Once decontaminated, portable equipment would be removed from laboratory spaces and transferred or placed in surplus. Surplus equipment must be offered to ARS locations first and then offered for surplus elsewhere.
- Transfers of equipment to other ARS labs would be documented and an inventory of remaining equipment would be developed and would be reported for transfer. For removal of equipment from the ARS property inventory, documentation would be provided authorizing the disposal or transfer equipment. This would be handled by the USNPRC Operations staff.

**Waste Disposal:** All laboratory biological and chemical waste would be collected and disposed of through a licensed hazardous waste contractor and disposed of at an approved hazardous waste facility.

**Biosafety Cabinets:** All contents and equipment within biosafety cabinets (BSCs) would be removed. Accessible surfaces would be surfaced decontaminated with a 1% Virkon-S solution and allowed a 10-minute contact time. A contractor would then perform gaseous decontamination of the BSCs. The BSC high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters would then to be removed and disposed of after gaseous decontamination before being disposed of or transferred.

## **2.3 Alternative 2: No Action**

Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action to consolidate the ADOL from their current location in East Lansing, Michigan into the USNPRC in Athens, Georgia would not be implemented. The two locations would not be consolidated.

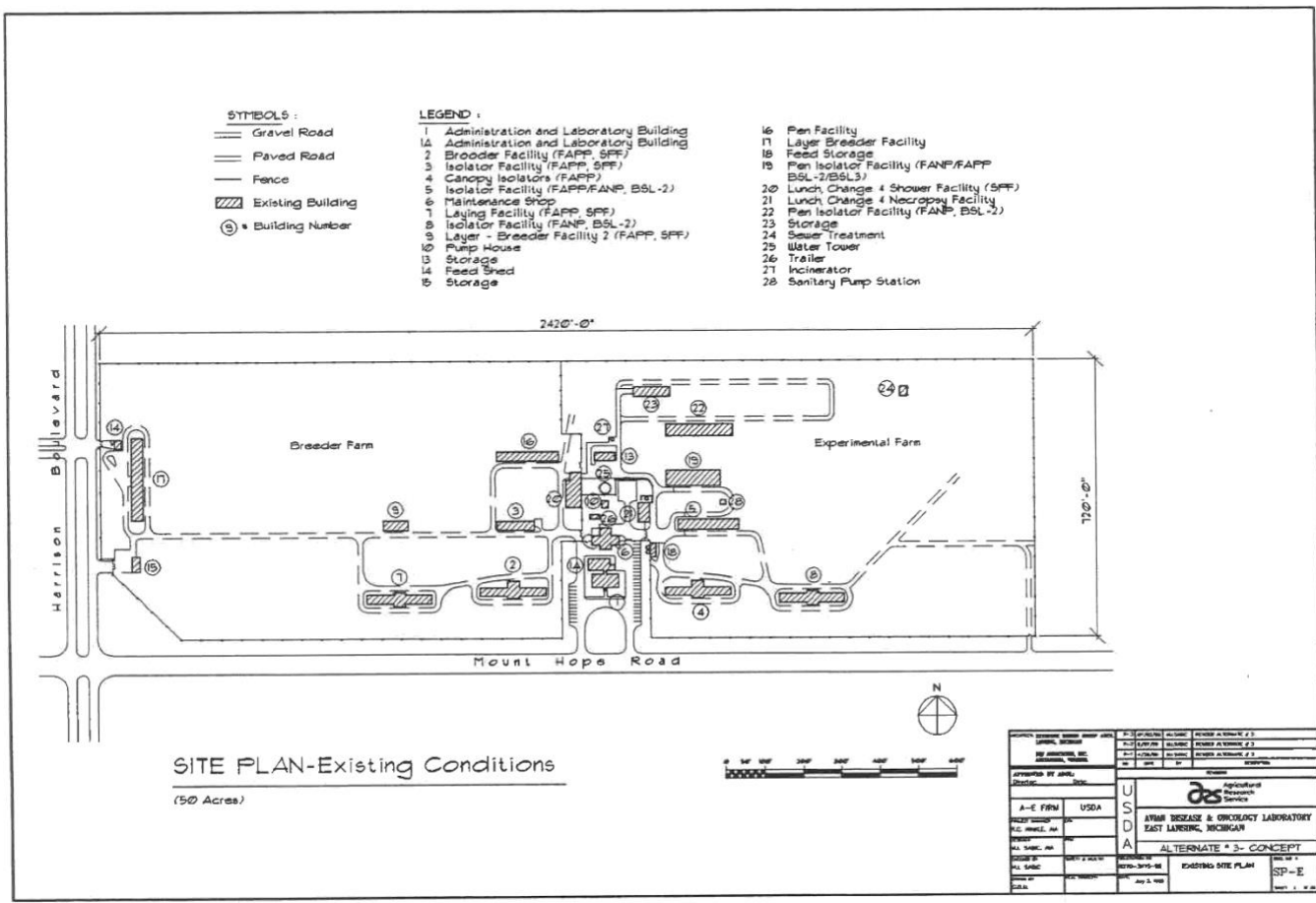


Figure 3. Existing Facilities

## 2.4 Alternatives not Carried Forward for Further Analysis.

The following alternatives were considered but not carried forward for further analysis.

- Consideration was given to not merging the labs and maintaining status quo, or to merging the programs together to create the US National Poultry Research Center and creating new modernized facilities at a different location. This alternative was not carried forward due to similarity in mission.
- Plans were made in the late 1990s for renovating/modernizing the existing site in East Lansing. Although plans were drawn up, this building modernization project was never funded, thus, this alternative was not carried forward for further analysis.
- Consideration was given to merging the programs together to create the US National Poultry Research Center (USNPRC) and creating new modernized facilities at a different location. Ultimately, Athens was chosen as the best location for the merged center and the other locations were dropped from consideration, thus, this alternative was not carried forward for further analysis.
- At various times during the last several decades, the research program in East Lansing, MI was proposed for closure in the President's Budget. In each case, Congress determined the location should remain open. Thus, this alternative was not carried forward for further analysis.

### 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Impacts

This section describes the existing conditions of the environmental resources that have the potential to be impacted by the proposed action. The Affected Environment includes the existing properties, land, and environmental resources in the area of the proposed action location. Boundaries of the Affected Environment are limited to the structures present at the locations where work under the Proposed Action would occur and the immediate surroundings. The boundaries of the affected environment are limited to the footprint of the USDA ARS facilities in East Lansing, MI and Athens, GA. The activities at each of those facilities are combined to the facilities within these footprints.

Impacts to the Affected Environment for each resource area are analyzed in this chapter. This chapter also describes the resource areas that have been dismissed from further analysis. The impacts analysis review addresses the duration and intensity of the impact on the resource. The duration of the impact will include both short and long-term impacts. Impact intensity is the degree to which the proposed action would beneficially or adversely affect a resource. Impact intensities are quantified as negligible, minor, moderate, or significant. As part of the impacts analysis, mitigation measures and best management practices are identified to lessen the intensity of impact on some resource areas.

### 3.1 Resources Considered but Eliminated

The following resource areas have been dismissed from further analysis because the Proposed Action was found not to have any potential to impact these resources (Table 1)

**Table 1: Resources Considered but Eliminated**

Resource	Present Yes/No	May be Affected Yes/No	Rationale
Air Quality	Yes	No	<p>Both the East Lansing and Athens sites are located within air basins that are in attainment for all criteria air pollutants (EGLE 2023, Georgia 2023).</p> <p>There are no sensitive receptors (schools, churches, or hospitals) within one mile of the East Lansing site. There is a residential area and a UGA facility within 0.25 miles of the Athens site.</p> <p>There would be no emissions related to constructions or demolitions from the Proposed Action. Thus, there would be no impact to National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Emissions related to the decontamination of laboratory equipment would be negligible. Vehicle emissions related to the transfer of the 14 employees that would be relocated from Michigan to Georgia would not have a substantial effect on air quality at either location. There would not be an increase in risk from cancer or respiratory hazards through the generation of hazardous air pollutants. Further analysis of this resource is not warranted.</p>
Topography, Geology and Soils Including Prime Farmland	Yes	No	<p>Both the East Lansing and Athens sites are located in urban areas that are predominantly flat with a mix of commercial, residential and open space use. There are no significant topographic or geographic features in either location.</p> <p>At the East Lansing site, approximately 61% of the soil is prime farmland or prime farmland if drained. Approximately 2.4% are farmland of local importance and the remaining 37% are not prime farmland. At the Athens site none of the soil is prime farmland (NRCS 2023a and b). However, due to the current land use at the East Lansing site these soils are not available for agricultural use. There would be no soil disturbance that would take place as a result of the Proposed Action. Therefore, further analysis of this resource is not warranted.</p>
Biological Resources	Yes	No	<p>Both the East Lansing and Athens sites are located in urban areas with areas of open space around them. There is no critical habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species proximate to either location.</p> <p>Land cover at the East Lansing site is a combination of medium and low density developed and open space developed. There are some areas identified as wetlands on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) at the eastern corner of the East Lansing site and across the street on the golf course. Land cover at the Athens site is a combination of medium and low density developed. There is a small pond and some NWI wetlands west of the project area associated with the North Oconee River. The Athens site has some wooded areas to the west. There would be no ground disturbing activities as part of the Proposed Action and the research activities at the Athens site would be the same as the</p>

			activities that are currently ongoing at the East Lansing site. Thus, there would be no impact on biological resources or any federally listed threatened and endangered species and further analysis of this resource is not warranted.
Surface Water and Hydrology	Yes	No	<p>There is a small pond at the eastern corner of the East Lansing site. Another pond is located on the golf course across the street south of the site. This site is not within or proximate to a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood management zone.</p> <p>The Athens, Georgia site has some wooded areas and a small pond and the North Oconee River a little over 0.25 miles to the northwest. According to FEMA, the North Oconee River is a regulatory floodway and the area immediately surrounding it is Flood Zone AE which has a 1% chance of annual flood hazard.</p> <p>There would be no ground disturbing activities as part of the Proposed Action and the research activities at the Athens site would be the same as what is currently ongoing. Thus, there would be no impacts to surface water and hydrology and further analysis of this resource is not warranted</p>
Transportation	Yes	No	Both the East Lansing and Athens sites are located in urban areas that are proximate to major research universities. There would be no ground disturbing activities. The relatively small number of people (14) being relocated from one site to the other would have no impact on the surrounding roads, parking or public transportation infrastructure at the Athens site. Therefore, further analysis of this resource is not warranted.
Utilities	No	No	The relatively small number of people (14) being relocated from one site to the other would not result in a significant increase in utility usage (energy, trash, wastewater or water) at the Athens site. Therefore, further analysis of this resource is not warranted.
Noise	Yes	No	<p>Both project sites are relatively densely developed with a variety of research buildings within a small footprint. There are areas of open space to buffer the sounds of the surrounding land uses, including the surrounding roads. There are no sensitive receptors (schools, churches, or hospitals) within one mile of the East Lansing site. There is a residential area and a UGA facility within 0.25 miles of the Athens site.</p> <p>There would be no emissions related to constructions or demolitions from the Proposed Action. Therefore, further analysis of this resource is not warranted.</p>
Public Health and Safety	No	No	There are currently no health and public safety concerns at either site. The relatively small number of people (14) being relocated from one site to the other would have no impact on public health and safety. Therefore, further analysis of this resource is not warranted.

The following resources are carried forward for analysis in this EA:

- Cultural Resources
- Hazardous Materials and Toxic Waste;
- Land Use, Zoning, Aesthetics;
- Environmental Justice; and
- Socioeconomics.



## 3.2 Cultural Resources

### 3.2.1 Definition of the Resource

Cultural resources include “historic properties” as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, “cultural items” as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1979 (NAGPRA), “archaeological resources” as defined by the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA), “sacred sites” as defined by EO 13007 to which access is afforded under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1987, and collections and associated records as defined in 36 CFR Part 79.

Archaeological resources consist of locations where prehistoric or historic activity measurably altered the earth or produced deposits of physical remains. Architectural resources include standing buildings, districts, bridges, dams, and other structures of historic significance. Traditional cultural properties include locations of historic occupations and events, historic and contemporary sacred and ceremonial areas, prominent topographical areas that have cultural significance, traditional hunting and gathering areas, and other resources that Native Americans or other groups consider essential for the persistence of their traditional culture.

### 3.2.2 Regulatory Landscape

Several Federal laws and regulations—including the NHPA of 1966, the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, the AIRFA of 1978, the ARPA of 1979, and the NAGPRA of 1990—have been established to manage cultural resources. In order for a cultural resource to be considered significant, it must meet one or more of the following criteria from 36 CFR Part 60.4 *Criteria for evaluation* for inclusion on the NRHP:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and 1) Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; 2) Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; 3) Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or 4) Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

An undertaking is any Federal action with the potential to affect historic properties. In order to identify historic properties with the potential to be affected by an undertaking, Federal agencies must define the area of potential effect (APE). The APE, defined by 36 CFR Part 800.16 is the geographic area in which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the use or character of a historic property. The APE consists of the approximately 50 acre parcel owned by the USDA.

### 3.2.3 Affected Environment

#### Architectural Resources

The facility consists of 31 buildings, 12 structures/utility systems, and 1 parcel of land (Appendix A). The approximately 50 acre parcel was acquired from the State Board of Agriculture, State of Michigan in 1938. The assets were constructed on the property from between 1938 through 2007.

The NRHP and Michigan historic inventory databases were reviewed and none of the assets listed in Appendix D are in either historic database. Given that several assets are over 50 years of age and based on previous consultation with the Michigan SHPO it would indicate that there are assets within the APE that are NRHP eligible. Other than age, USDA ARS does not believe that the assets meet any other criteria that would make them eligible for inclusion.

The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and federally recognized Native American Tribes listed in Appendix B were invited to consult under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Tribes were identified based on their geographic association with the area. All correspondence with these parties has been incorporated into this EA and included in Appendix A, B and C. Given the nature of the action, USDA ARS concluded that a transfer of the property by itself will have an adverse effect. USDA-ARS acknowledged that the Proposed Action requires more information to know the full extent of effects to historic properties.

#### Archaeological Resources

Both the East Lansing and Athens sites are located in urban areas with areas of open space around them. The open space at the East Lansing site is ornamental grass with some trees across the street at the golf course. There are no National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible properties within one mile of the East Lansing or the Athens site.

The Athen site has some wooded areas and the North Oconee River to the west that could have cultural resources. There would be no ground disturbing activities as part of the Proposed Action and the research activities at the Athens site would be the same as what is currently ongoing. Thus, there would be no impact to archaeological resources.

THPO consultation was conducted with following Tribes: Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan, Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, Hannahville Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community of the Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians (Gun Lake Tribe), Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Responses were received from Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians (Gun Lake Tribe), Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan,. No THPOs expressed an interest in additional consultation.

### 3.2.4 Environmental Impacts

In a letter dated February 27, 2024 (Appendix A), the Michigan SHPO concurred with the USDA ARS determination that the proposed undertaking would have an **adverse effect** on the USDA ADOL Complex, which appears to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The SHPO determined that this undertaking meets the criteria of adverse effect because: *the undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association*, 36 CFR § 800.5(a)(1). Specifically, the undertaking will result in the transfer, lease, or sale of property out of federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the property's historic significance.

The SHPO concurs with the opinion of USDA-ARS that this undertaking requires more information to know the full extent of effects to historic properties. The SHPO requested the following information:

- A Phase I archaeological survey must be conducted by a professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (36 CFR Part 61). 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 National Register of Historic Places. Please note that the SHPO does not accept the results of surveys conducted in snow-covered or frozen ground conditions. 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.
- 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. A District/Complex form must also be completed for the entire complex. The consultant should reference the SHPO's Above-Ground Survey Manual (2018). This survey will inform the agency and Consulting Parties on which aspects of the property may require mitigation if the property disposal occurs.

The SHPO indicated that a likely outcome of consultation will be a preservation covenant, which the SHPO recommends for most federal property disposals. Assuming the Phase I and reconnaissance-level survey determine historic properties are present and there would be adverse effects, the preservation covenant would minimize these adverse effects to below a level of significance.

## 3.3 Hazardous Materials and Toxic Waste

### 3.3.1 Definition of the Resource

Solid waste is any garbage or refuse, sludge from a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility and other discarded material, resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities.

Hazardous waste is defined by RCRA as any solid, liquid, contained gaseous, or semisolid waste, or any combination of wastes that poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment. In general, both hazardous materials and wastes include substances that, because of their quantity; concentration; or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, might present substantial danger to public health or welfare or the environment when released or otherwise improperly managed.

Hazardous substance is defined by the CERCLA as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), as any substance with physical properties of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity that might cause an increase in mortality, serious irreversible illness, incapacitating reversible illness, or pose a substantial threat to human health or the environment.

### 3.3.2 Regulatory Landscape

#### *Federal Requirements*

The RCRA regulates hazardous and non-hazardous waste at facilities that are currently in use (40 CFR 239-282). RCRA Subtitle D sets minimum criteria and standards for state and local government regulation of nonhazardous solid waste. Through this process of state authorization, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delegated primary authority for implementing RCRA solid waste programs to all 50 states, including Alaska. EPA requires the state program to be equivalent, no less stringent, and consistent with the federal RCRA program.

Hazardous waste, as a subset of solid waste, is regulated by RCRA Subtitle C. Subtitle C includes regulations for the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes enforced by the EPA.

The regulation of hazardous waste in RCRA Subtitle C includes the regulation of “corrective action,” or cleanup activities required as a result of the mismanagement of waste. The RCRA Correction Action Program does not have comprehensive cleanup regulations; the program is implemented by EPA through guidance and enforced through statutory authorities established by the Hazardous Remediation Waste Management Requirements (61 FR 18780). RCRA Subtitle I addresses the problems of leaking underground storage tanks (USTs), the UST program is primarily implemented by states and territories.

### State Requirements

Control of hazardous waste in Michigan is accomplished through a set of interrelated actions. These include managing the generation, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes, licensing and regulating hazardous and liquid industrial by-products (formerly liquid industrial waste) transportation and informing individuals of the opportunities for proper disposal of hazardous and harmful wastes generated in the home.

### 3.3.3 Affected Environment

The buildings at ADOL have contained research with nothing greater than Risk Group 2 (RG2) biological agents and have been designated as Biological Safety Level-2 Enhanced (BSL-2E) or Animal Biological Safety Level-2 Enhanced (ABSL-2E) buildings. The EPA and the UGA Poultry Disease and Research Center that are proximate to the Athens site are both RCRA small quantity generators (EPA 2023c and d).

Several environmental investigations and remedial actions have been completed at the ADOL site since 1989. The USDA site and surrounding land are zoned as “university” property. As of 2011, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) had not developed generic cleanup criteria for these types of land uses. As a result of that, the MDEQ recommended that Generic Residential Cleanup Criteria be used for evaluation of exposure risks. Comparison to Generic Residential Cleanup Criteria biases the risk evaluation to conservative exposure assumptions since neither the USDA nor MSU properties are characterized by long-term, human residence (EPA 2021).

Several areas of concern were identified at the facility (EPA 2021):

- A nonregulated leaking underground storage tank site is present at the West Farm. The tank formerly stored fuel oil for onsite consumptive use and was removed in January 1991.
- An unlined burial vault was formerly located at the East Farm. In 1993 the waste materials contained in the vault and the surrounding soil were excavated. Analytical data from sampling indicate the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the soil.
- Prior to the site connecting to the East Lansing Sewer System a dry well located near the main laboratory building may have received chemical discharges from the nearby laboratory buildings.
- Lead above background levels has been detected in sediment samples from a wetland area located near the site.
- Dissolved lead has been determined to be present in the groundwater beneath the site at concentrations above state and federal drinking water standards. The lead is considered to be naturally occurring.
- Manganese detected in upgradient and downgradient groundwater samples at concentrations above the aesthetic drinking water criterion. The MDEQ considers the manganese source an unremediated release from the upgradient property owned by MSU.
- Two former water supply wells are present at the site. Both of the wells have been abandoned and are no longer in use. Groundwater flows from north to south.

The EPA oversaw remediation and removal activities for these areas of concern in the 1990s. The EPA determined that further reductions or abatement of contaminant sources was not required. An *in situ* demonstration has been made that the residual hydrocarbon concentrations at the Building No. 2 fuel oil tank site are not leaching to groundwater and the residual concentrations do not exceed any other exposure pathway criteria. The remaining hydrocarbons in soil at the Building No. 2 fuel oil tank site are expected to naturally degrade further as time proceeds. (EPA 2021).

The MDEQ issued a No Further Action (NFA) Report in 2013. MDEQ found that the remedial actions described in the NFA report satisfied the requirements of Part 201 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) for the unrestricted residential cleanup category provided for in Section 20120a(1) of the NREPA. MDEQ approved the NFA report. MDEQ did make it clear that some contamination did remain on site and was not remediated and the potential for exposure still existed. The EPA recommends a No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP) designation with the understanding that if additional information on the site is made available, further investigations can be conducted.

### 3.3.4 Environmental Impacts

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

Solid and hazardous waste impacts would be considered significant if the proposed action would result in an increase in the generation of waste that would exceed the capacity of the available waste management operations and facilities available to safely handle and dispose of the waste, or if the proposed action resulted in waste management that was noncompliant with applicable federal, state, local, and/or tribal regulations. Additionally, impacts would be considered significant if the proposed action would create contaminated sites or would disturb existing contaminated sites to a degree that would result in adverse effects on human health or the environment.

Impacts would also be considered significant if the project area contained hazardous material, contamination, toxic chemicals, gasses, or radioactive substances where a hazard could affect the health and safety of future occupants or conflict with the intended use of the proposed action.

#### **Alternative 1: Proposed Action**

##### **Decontamination and Decommissioning Impacts**

Under Alternative 1 the ADOL facilities at East Lansing the lab equipment and all lab spaces would be cleaned and decontaminated with a 1% Virkon-S solution or appropriate disinfectant. Once decontaminated, portable equipment would be removed from laboratory spaces and transferred or placed in surplus. All laboratory biological and chemical waste would be collected and disposed of through a licensed hazardous waste contractor and disposed of at an approved hazardous waste facility. The BSC HEPA filters would then to be removed and disposed of after gaseous decontamination before being disposed of or transferred.

Once all the facilities have been decontaminated the buildings would be transferred back to MSU for uses that are to be determined.

The amount of hazardous waste generated would be minor. There would be no impacts to hazardous materials and waste.

#### Research Activity Impacts

A total of 14 staff from ADOL would be consolidated from the East Lansing site to the Athens site of the USNPRC and would continue their research which is similar to research that is already ongoing at the East Lansing site. Hazardous materials and waste at the USNPRC location would be handled consistent with current policies at that site. There would be no impacts to hazardous materials and waste.

#### Alternative 2: Proposed No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action to consolidate the ADOL from their current location in East Lansing, Michigan into the USNPRC in Athens, Georgia would not be implemented. The two locations would not be consolidated. The buildings at ADOL would continue their current research using Risk Group 2 (RG2) biological agents and they would continue to be designated as Biological Safety Level-2 Enhanced (BSL-2E) or Animal Biological Safety Level-2 Enhanced (ABSL-2E) buildings. The buildings would not be transferred.

## **3.4 Land Use, Zoning, Aesthetics**

### **3.4.1 Definition of the Resource**

Land use is defined as the way that people adapt the land to suit their needs. The top seven types of land use are: residential, transportation, commercial, agricultural, industrial, public use, and recreational (TA 2020).

Zoning is defined as the division of a city or county by legislative regulations into areas, or zones, which specify allowable uses for real property and size restrictions for buildings within these areas (APA 2022).

Aesthetics are defined as the visual environment of an area, including natural and artificial landscape features that make up a view. A landscape's visual environment considers its visual character and visual quality (TRB 2004).

### **3.4.2 Regulatory Landscape:**

#### **Local**

Development in East Lansing is guided by the East Lansing Master Plan and the East Lansing Municipal Code. (East Lansing 2018). Development in Athens is guided by the 2023 Comprehensive Plan and the Athens Clarke County Code of Ordinances (Athens 2023a).

### 3.4.3 Affected Environment

The East Lansing site is located next to the campus of MSU. It is a collection of several buildings that are somewhat segregated from other structures with large, grassy areas to the east and west, other research facilities to the north and a golf course across the road to the south. Surrounding land uses are research oriented or recreational in nature. Currently the East Lansing site is designated as “University” and in future land use it is designated as “Academic District” in the City’s Master Plan (East Lansing 2018).

The Athens site is located adjacent to the UGA campus in a commercial development with other government agencies. A residential subdivision is located across the road to the east and wooded areas and the North Oconee River are located to the west. Zoning at the Athens, Georgia site is G (Government). The G district is composed of “*certain lands in Athens-Clarke County owned by Athens-Clarke County (including mixed use developments wherein Athens-Clarke County owns the underlying fee simple interest in a parcel and other entities own related air rights or condominium interests), the State of Georgia, the United States, and their instrumentalities, and as such shall be used in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed or established by contract by the government or instrumentality thereof using the same*” (Athens 2023b).

### 3.4.4 Environmental Impacts

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

Impacts to land use and zoning would be considered significant if the alternative conflicts with any federal, state, local or tribal land use plans, if land-use patterns change due to the alternative, or if the alternative is noncompliant with local or tribal zoning. Impacts on aesthetics would be considered significant if the existing visual character and/or quality is significantly degraded.

#### **Alternative 1: Proposed Action**

##### **Decontamination and Decommissioning Impacts**

Under the Proposed Action, once all the facilities have been decontaminated the buildings would be transferred for uses that are to be determined. There would be no ground disturbing activities. There would be no impacts to land use, zoning and aesthetics from construction.

##### **Research Activity Impacts**

A total of 14 staff and their research from ADOL would be consolidated from the East Lansing site to the Athens site of the SEPRL and would continue their research which is similar to research that is already ongoing at this location. This use would be consistent with the existing zoning and there would be no impact on land use, zoning or aesthetics.

#### **Alternative 2: No Action**

Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action to consolidate the ADOL from their current location in East Lansing, Michigan into the USNPRC in Athens, Georgia would not be



implemented. There would be no changes to the area's land use patterns, zoning, or aesthetics. Therefore, there would be no impacts on land use, zoning, or aesthetics under the No Action alternative.

## 3.5 Environmental Justice

### 3.5.1 Definition of the Resource

Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, and income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, programs, and policies. "Fair treatment" is the principle that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic or socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. This includes Tribes and indigenous peoples, low-income and minority populations, and overburdened communities (EPA 2022).

A minority is an individual or group of individuals who are members of the following groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black; not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic (CEQ 1997).

A minority population occurs when either:

- The minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent; or
- The minority population of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (CEQ 1997).

Low-income populations are identified by considering the annual statistical poverty threshold from the United States Census Bureau (CEQ 1997).

### 3.5.2 Regulatory Landscape

#### **Federal**

Environmental justice addresses the race, ethnicity, and poverty status of populations within the Region of Influence (ROI). The ROI for socioeconomic characteristics encompasses Ingham County, Michigan and Clarke County, Georgia. This ROI includes both sites and the immediately surrounding communities that have direct and indirect socioeconomic relationships with ADOL.

On 11 February 1994, President Clinton issued *Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, to focus the attention of Federal agencies on the human health and environmental conditions in minority and low-income communities. Environmental justice analyses are performed to identify potential disproportionate adverse effects from proposed actions and to identify alternatives that might mitigate these effects.

The term minority refers to people who classified themselves as American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; African Americans or Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic. Minority populations are defined as areas where racial minorities comprise 50 percent or more of the total population (CEQ, 2016). Because CEQ guidance does not establish a threshold for low-income communities, a low-income population is one with at least 25 percent or greater of its population living in poverty for the purposes of this EA.

On 21 April 1997, President Clinton issued *EO 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*, directing each Federal agency to ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate environmental health or safety risks to children that may result from the agency's actions. EO 13045 recognizes that a growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health and safety risks due to still developing neurological, immunological, physiological, and behavioral systems. Examples of risks to children include increased traffic volumes and industrial- or production-oriented activities that would generate substances or pollutants that children could come into contact with and ingest. Historically, children have not been present as students, residents, or frequent visitors at ADOL.

In April 2023, President Biden issued *EO 14096 Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All* which advances environmental justice for all by implementing and enforcing the Nation's environmental and civil rights laws, preventing pollution, addressing climate change and its effects, and working to clean up legacy pollution that is harming human health and the environment.

### **State**

Legislators in Georgia have proposed a number of environmental justice bills although none have been passed. In February 2019, Governor Whitmer of Michigan signed EO 2019-06 which created the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate, as well as the consolidation of the Michigan state agencies responsible for protecting Michigan's air, land, and water, and public health under the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). In addition, the Office of Climate and Energy and the Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate were created.

### **3.5.3 Affected Environment**

The East Lansing site is located within Census block group 260659800001. In this block group the low income population is 0% and the minority population is 24% (EPA 2023a). By comparison, Ingham County, Michigan, where this block group is located, has a low income population of 34% and a minority population of 31% (EPA 2023b). The State of Michigan has a low income population of 31% and a minority population of 26% (EPA 2023b). Since neither the low income or minority populations for this block group are greater than 50% or greater than the next closest reference population by 10%, an environmental justice population is not present at this site.

The Athens site is located within Census block group 130591505002. In this block group the low income population is 28% and the minority population is 43% (EPA 2023c). By comparison, Clarke County, Georgia, where this block group is located, has a low income

population of 47% and a minority population of 41% (EPA 2023d). The State of Georgia has a low income population of 34% and a minority population of 48% (EPA 2023d). Since neither the low income or minority populations of this block group are greater than 50% or greater than the next closest reference population by 10%, an environmental justice population is not present at this site.

### 3.5.4 Environmental Impacts

#### Evaluation Criteria

Impacts to environmental justice would be considered significant if the proposed action would result in disproportional adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations.

#### Alternative 1: Proposed Action

##### Decontamination and Decommissioning Impacts

Under the Proposed Action, once all the facilities have been decontaminated the buildings would be transferred for uses that are to be determined. There would be no ground disturbing activities as the only action is the relocation of 14 staff and their research from the East Lansing site to the Athens site. There are no environmental justice populations present, thus, there would be no impacts to environmental justice populations from decontamination and decommissioning.

##### Research Activity Impacts

A total of 14 staff and their research from ADOL would be consolidated from the East Lansing site to the Athens site of the SEPRL and would continue their research which is similar to research that is already ongoing at this location. There are no environmental justice populations present. There would be no disproportional adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations.

#### Alternative 2: No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action to consolidate the ADOL from their current location in East Lansing, Michigan into the USNPRC in Athens, Georgia would not be implemented. There are no environmental justice populations present. Therefore, the No Action alternative would not result in any significant adverse impacts that would disproportionately impact the environmental justice community located within the Affected Environment area.

## 3.6 Socioeconomic Resources

### 3.6.1 Definition of the Resource

Demographics are the statistical characteristics of human populations (e.g., age, race, ethnicity, income, education, and employment [i.e., occupational employment, employment rate]). Occupational employment refers to the types of jobs that people are employed at (e.g., retail, education, farming). The Employment Rate is defined as a measure of the extent to which available labor resources (people available to work) are being used. Housing Supply is defined as the flow of properties available at a given price in a given time period. Housing Demand refers to the willingness and ability to purchase a house.

### 3.6.2 Affected Environment

The East Lansing site is located within Census block group 260659800001. In this block group the population is 832. By comparison, Ingham County, Michigan, where this block group is located, has a population of 285,660 and the State of Michigan has a population of 10,034,118. The Athens site is located within Census block group 130591505002 which has a population of 1,332. By comparison, Clarke County, Georgia, where this block group is located, has a population of 128,195 and the State of Georgia has a population of 10,912,876. Minority and Low Income status for both sites are discussed in Section 3.4, Environmental Justice. Additional demographic information at the County and State level is available in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Demographic Information**

	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>Ingham County</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>Clarke County</b>
<b>Population</b>	10,034,118	285660	10,912,876	128,195
<b>Median Age</b>	40.3	32.9	37.6	29.3
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$66,986	\$45,808	\$72,837	\$34,253
<b>Education (% bachelor's degree or higher)</b>	32.1	39.9	34.7	45.5
<b>Employment Rate(%)</b>	58.7	58.6	60.6	54.7
<b>Leading Occupation(%)</b>	Management, business, science and arts (40.6)	38.9	Management, business, science and arts (41.4)	40.4
<b>Housing Supply (August 2023)</b>	34,282	923	44,540	535
<b>Housing Demand (Median Sale Price Change from August 2022 to August 2023)</b>	+5.1	+17.4	+4.4	+16.7

Source: EPA 2023e-I, Redfin 2023.

### 3.6.3 Environmental Impacts

#### Evaluation Criteria

Impacts to socioeconomics would be considered significant if the proposed action would result in significant adverse impacts to an environmental resource that would have a related adverse impact on business and employment opportunities, the sustainability of the population, or services and infrastructure (e.g., housing).

#### Alternative 1: Proposed Action

##### Decontamination and Decommissioning Impacts

Under the Proposed Action, once all the facilities have been decontaminated the buildings would be transferred for uses that are to be determined.. There would be no ground disturbing activities. There would be no impacts to socioeconomics from decontamination and decommissioning.

##### Research Activity Impacts

As part of the Proposed Action, 14 people and their research would be relocated from the East Lansing site to the Athens site of the SEPRL. Due to the small number of people being transferred there would not be a significant impact to housing demand and availability at either location. Due to the fact they would be doing the same research that is already ongoing at the Athens site, there would be no impact to any socioeconomics at either location.

#### Alternative 2: No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action to consolidate the ADOL from their current location in East Lansing, Michigan into the SEPRL in Athens, Georgia would not be implemented. The existing research at ADOL would continue as it is currently. The No Action alternative would not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts. Thus, there would be no impact to any socioeconomics at either location.

## 3.7 Cumulative Effects

### 3.7.1 Definition of the Resource

Cumulative effects are “the effects on the environment that result from the incremental effects of the action when added to the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time” (40 CFR 1508.1 (g)(3)).

To determine whether there is the potential for cumulatively significant impacts resulting from the proposed action and no action alternatives, a review of past, present, and planned projects in the affected area was conducted. The spatial scope for the Proposed Action is the Affected Environment for both project locations for the resources analyzed. The temporal scope is past,

present, and future planned projects within a 1 year period, consisting of 1 year in the past and 2 years in the future. That is consistent with the timing of the planned consolidation of the two facilities.

This section addresses the cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action. Cumulative impacts are defined by the CEQ in 40 CFR Part 1508.7 as “impacts on the environment which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or Non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.”

Evaluations of cumulative impacts include consideration of the Proposed Action with past and present actions, as well as reasonably foreseeable future actions.

**Past Actions** – actions that may contribute to cumulative impacts in one or more of the analyzed resource topic areas include the new office and BSL-2 laboratories completed in November 2021 and ABSL-3 animal facilities which opened in 2022. Development of these were analyzed in a separate NEPA action completed in 2016.

**Present Actions** – actions that may contribute to cumulative impacts in one or more of the analyzed resource topic areas include ABSL-2 animal facilities expected to open in 2024.

**Future Actions** – Reasonably foreseeable future actions external to the East Lansing site facility include the reuse of the ADOL facilities. Future actions at the MSU campus include the replacement of the Farm Lane Bridge, the construction of the Multicultural Center, the new Student Recreation and Wellness Center, and the renovation of the Packaging Center.

Reasonably foreseeable future actions external to the Athens site facility include continuation of all present actions and any future actions proposed by any of the other federal facilities surrounding the Athens site. Future actions at the MSU campus include the Conner Hall Steam Project.

The Proposed Action would take place over a period of two years. Once the transfer of personnel and research are complete there would be no impacts. The foreseeable future may bring changes to land use that may affect these resources primarily associated with development or re-development near the ADOL facilities along Mount Hope Road. However, the East Lansing Master Plan (East Lansing 2018) shows no significant changes to zoning in the area. No significant impacts were identified for any of the resource areas analyzed. Thus, there would be no cumulative impacts from these other projects.

## 3.8 Impacts Summary and Conclusions

This impacts summary table and conclusions are meant to provide a summary of those impacts, mitigation measures, and best management practices that have already been identified in the Environmental Impacts analysis section. The table below provides some examples for different resource areas.

This EA supports a Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed action. See Table 4 for a summary of impacts, best practices, and mitigation measures identified in this EA.

**Table 3: Impacts Summary**

Resource Area	Alternatives	Mitigation Measures / Best Practices for Proposed Action
<p><b>Cultural Resources</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> 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 Places (NRHP). Implementation of the Mitigation Measures would reduce adverse effects to below a level of significance.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b></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 site occurs.</p> <p>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 period of significance, and identify contributing and non-contributing resources on individual architectural properties forms.</p>

Resource Area	Alternatives	Mitigation Measures / Best Practices for Proposed Action
	<b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.	
<b>Hazardous Materials and Toxic Wastes</b>	<b>Proposed Action:</b> No impacts identified.	<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None. <b>Best Practices:</b> None.
	<b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.	
<b>Land Use, Zoning, and Aesthetics</b>	<b>Proposed Action:</b> No impacts identified.	<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None. <b>Best Practices:</b> None.
	<b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.	
<b>Socioeconomics</b>	<b>Proposed Action:</b> No impacts identified.	<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None. <b>Best Practices:</b> None.
	<b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.	
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	<b>Proposed Action:</b> No impacts identified.	<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None. <b>Best Practices:</b> None.
	<b>No Action Alternative:</b> No impacts identified.	

## 4 List of Preparers

### 4.1 List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted

As discussed in the agency scoping summary in Chapter 1, the Michigan SHPO and all Federally recognized Tribes in Michigan were contacted during Project development. The contacted parties are listed below.

#### State

- Michigan SHPO

#### Tribal

- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
- Hannahville Indian Community
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community of the Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe)



- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

## 4.2 List of Preparers

### USDA ARS SEA

- Nick Chaplinski, USDA ARS USNPRC
- David Daniels, USDA ARS SEA
- Kevin Magee, USDA ARS SEA
- Greg Porter, USDA ARS SEA
- Alexandra Gau, USDA ARS SEA

### Consultants

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## 5 References

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