



OFFICES OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

July 16, 2014

Timothy L. Firestine  
Chief Administrative Officer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
P.O. Box 1715  
ATTN: CENAB-EN-HM (Russell Marsh)  
Baltimore, MD 21203  
*Via email: [Russell.E.Marsh@usace.army.mil](mailto:Russell.E.Marsh@usace.army.mil)*

Dear Mr. Marsh:

I am writing to request an extension to September 11, 2014, of the Public Comment Period for the Forest Glen Annex Installation Restoration Program. The current period began on June 27, 2014 and is scheduled to end on August 11, 2014. I have been contacted by residents who have been active in matters regarding the Ireland Trail, which would be greatly impacted by the Army's environmental findings and recommendations in the recently published report. They are concerned that the community at large has not been given sufficient time to study and respond to the complex report.

While the Army has complied with regulations providing for public comment, I do not believe the general public has been given adequate opportunity to study the report or, in particular, to ask questions and receive direct answers on matters that affect them greatly. The publication of the report and a planned July 23 Public Meeting were announced at a June 26 meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), where RAB members had no advance knowledge of these announcements and key RAB members were absent. In addition, the July 23 Public Meeting – at which the public can ask questions that will not be answered -- will take place 27 days after the start of the Public Comment Period and only 19 days before its conclusion.

I believe the interest of transparency would be better served if the public had more time to study the complicated report and seek answers to their questions and concerns. Extending the comment period to September 11 is a reasonable request. I urge you to consider this request so the Army and the community can engage in an informed conversation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,  
  
Phil Alpers  
Military Installations/BRAC Coordinator