

Future of the National Wildlife Health Center



The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is proposing to develop an updated facility for the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) to meet the agency's current and future needs.

Established in 1975, the NWHC is the only national center devoted to wildlife disease detection, control, and prevention in the U.S.

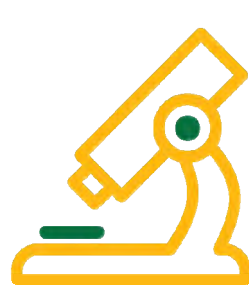
Operating as a "mission essential" facility, the NWHC faces challenges due to aging facilities, equipment and infrastructure, space limitations, and increasing costs associated with operation and maintenance. The renovations of existing infrastructure that would be necessary to meet contemporary standards and practices while continuing operations are cost prohibitive.



NWHC 6006 Schroeder Rd, Madison, WI 53711

Following multiple studies beginning in 2008, the USGS's preferred alternative is to replace the outdated facility with a new facility on federal property at the current location. Doing so would ensure that the NWHC can effectively carry out its vital mission for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment.

The new NWHC will:



Streamline
delivery of research



Enhance efficiency
for workers and public safety
with modern equipment



Manage costs
through more efficient
operations

Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Coming Soon

To thoroughly understand the potential impacts of developing and operating the proposed new facility, the USGS is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Draft EIS will discuss:

- Range of alternatives considered, including the *No Action* alternative
- Potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, whether beneficial or adverse, of the proposed action
- Measures that would mitigate, or reduce, potential impacts

Public Review of the Draft EIS (Coming Soon)

Notices of availability will be published in the Federal Register and in local newspapers, in advance the release of the Draft EIS in Spring 2024. Feedback is encouraged during the 45-day comment period.

Public Review of the Final EIS

Public feedback will be considered during development of the Final EIS, which will be available for public review for 30 days before a decision is made.



In the Community

Our team participated in the *Soul Food Community Supper*, hosted by Meadowood Health Partnership, on February 21, 2024. We shared information with community members about the proposed project and the upcoming release of the Draft EIS.



The project team will continue to attend community events throughout the NEPA process. **Is there an event you'd like us to attend? Let us know through our [comment form](#).**

Upcoming Events:

Capital Science and Engineering Fair

Saturday, March 16, 2024
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Engineering Centers Building
[1550 Engineering Drive, Madison, WI 53706](#)

Public Meetings

Spring 2024

More Information Coming Soon

Meetings will be held during the Draft EIS 45-day review period.

A Culture of Safety

The NWHC has a strong safety culture, with biosafety and biosecurity achieved through engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment. The center operates under criteria established by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) and Animal Biosafety Level 3 (ABSL3) facility, with engineering controls that prevent the release of contaminants into the workplace and the environment.

"Our laboratories and animal spaces undergo annual inspections to ensure operational integrity and adherence to safety protocols. NWHC leadership actively monitors researchers' compliance with approved biosafety practices, fostering accountability and continuous improvement. A new NWHC will allow us to continue to meet current best practices for biosafety and security, as well as improve efficiency, mitigate environmental impacts, and enhance safety for staff and the public."

– **LeAnn White**
Acting Director, National Wildlife Health Center

The center's commitment to safety is evident through its operating procedures, personal protective equipment usage, and regular inspections.

[Learn More](#)

Stay Connected

Public engagement is vital to understand community concerns and questions.



Website

stay informed, view project status and updates

[Visit Us Online](#)



Factsheet

Looking for some fast facts? Check out the factsheet

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You are receiving this email because you are an important part of the National Wildlife Health Center community.

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