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Command Affairs Officer

SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION PILOT TEST: Cleanup Alternative to be Tested on Dunn Field

Memphis, Tenn. — As part of the former Memphis Depot's commitment to use the safest and most effective methods of environmental cleanup at Dunn Field, a pilot test known as soil vapor extraction will begin on October 14, 2001 and continue through mid-November 2001.

Soil vapor extraction (SVE) refers to a treatment method that is used at many Superfund sites across the U.S. to remove contaminants that evaporate easily from soil. These include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), such as the solvents that have been detected at Dunn Field.

SVE uses an underground vacuum system to pull air through the soil, turning the solvents to vapor. The air containing the vapors is fully contained within the system until it passes through a series of filters that remove the solvents.

The project will test the effectiveness of SVE in removing solvents from the affected soil at Dunn Field to a depth of 75 feet below the ground surface. This is being conducted as part of the Dunn Field Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. If SVE is successful at restoring the soil to meet or surpass the health-protective standards set by state and federal regulators, SVE may be included as a preferred cleanup alternative in the Proposed Plan for Dunn Field.

"Vapor and air samples will be collected within the system throughout the test to ensure the safety of the community and evaluate the effectiveness of SVE as a potential treatment method," said Clyde Hunt, the Depot's Remedial Project Manager.

The test will be conducted in the center area on Dunn Field, away from neighboring homes and public roadways. While there will be trucks and equipment on Dunn Field during this project, the Depot and its contractors will make every effort to minimize any inconvenience to the community.

For more information, contact Clyde Hunt, Remedial Project Manager, at the Depot. Phone (901) 544-0617.

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