



News Release

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For Immediate Release: May 1, 2003

DDC 5-03

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Dunn Field cleanup plans announced:

Public invited to comment on proposed cleanup alternative in May

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – May 1, 2003. For a 30-day period beginning May 8, 2003, the Memphis Depot Caretaker Office invites the public to comment on a Proposed Plan outlining the preferred cleanup alternative for soil and groundwater at Dunn Field at the former Memphis Depot. The public can submit comments in writing, by phone, or in person at a public comment meeting on May 15, 2003.

“The Dunn Field Proposed Plan is an important milestone in our environmental program,” said John DeBack, Base Transition Coordinator for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and a member of the Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team (BCT). “It contains recommendations for the remediation of soil and groundwater on Dunn Field that will allow us to return this site to productive community reuse.”

The Proposed Plan presents a preferred cleanup alternative for soil at Dunn Field and for groundwater in the shallow aquifer under the site. The alternative recommended in the plan will ensure that the environmental conditions meet or exceed health-protective standards for future light industrial use. According to the *Memphis Depot Redevelopment Plan*, most of the property will be restored for industrial re-use. One exception is the majority of the Northeast Open Area, which will be zoned for recreational use.

The preferred cleanup alternative for Dunn Field includes a combination of cleanup remedies:

- Excavation and offsite disposal of affected soil and debris from the Dunn Field disposal sites. Excavation areas will be filled with clean soil, and the area will be landscaped.
- Soil vapor extraction (SVE) to treat subsurface soils containing solvents. Using SVE, air is pulled through the soil, which speeds up the vaporization process. An extraction system then collects and filters the vapor to safely remove the solvents. SVE was pilot tested on Dunn Field during the fall and winter of 2002 and is being recommended to protect the indoor air quality of future structures on the site.
- Zero-Valent Iron (ZVI) injection, Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB), and Monitored Natural Attenuation with Institutional Controls will be used to clean up groundwater.

- ZVI involves injecting natural iron particles into the groundwater to reduce chemicals of concern.
- PRB involves placing a wall or barrier underground in areas where groundwater contains VOCs, to break them down into safe, natural compounds.
- Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) involves monitoring the natural breakdown of compounds over time.

Institutional Controls will be used to prohibit the installation of drinking-water wells in the shallow aquifer and prevent future residential land use on Dunn Field. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will review the effectiveness of these controls at five-year intervals.

The Dunn Field Proposed Plan summarizes information that can be found in greater detail in the Dunn Field Remedial Investigation (RI), the Soils and Groundwater Feasibility Study (FS), and other documents related to this environmental restoration project. All documents are available for public review at the Depot's three Information Repositories, located at the Memphis Depot, Cherokee Branch Library, and the Memphis/Shelby County Health Department.

During the 30-day public comment period beginning May 8, 2003 and ending June 6, 2003, citizens are invited to respond in writing by mail to the BRAC Environmental Coordinator, Memphis Depot, 2163 Airways Blvd., Bldg. 144, Memphis, TN 38114, by fax at (901) 544-0639 or by email at comrel@dla.mil. Verbal comments can also be recorded on the Depot's Environmental Information Line at (901) 544-0617.

Comments can also be made in person at the public comment meeting May 15, 2003 at the South Memphis Senior Citizens Center located at 1620 Marjorie. A technical presentation summarizing the Proposed Plan will be held at 6 p.m. followed by the public comment period from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation issue the Dunn Field Proposed Plan. Based on new information or public comments, the EPA may modify the Preferred Alternative in consultation with TDEC, or select another response action presented in the Proposed Plan. Written responses to public comments made at the meeting will be included in a Responsiveness Summary, which will be made available to the public at the Information Repositories following the public comment period.

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