



News Release

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Pre-Design Investigation of Disposal Sites Begins at Dunn Field

September 2003—As part of the Memphis Depot's ongoing environmental cleanup program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractors will conduct an investigation of 16 disposal sites at Dunn Field to help scientists determine the most effective cleanup methods at these sites.

This investigation, expected to end in late November 2003, is to confirm the location and contents, as well as the characteristics and conditions of the materials in each underground site. In addition, this investigation will seek to confirm information gathered from historical records and employee interviews.

Disposal activities at Dunn Field date back to July 1946. Based on the Remedial Investigation completed in 2002, it is expected that substances buried at these sites may be the source of solvents and other substances detected in the soil and groundwater at Dunn Field.

Every effort will be taken to protect the health and safety of the community and field staff. The project is being conducted in accordance with the standards used by the Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Site workers will be using personal protective equipment and are trained to recognize and minimize any potential exposure to themselves, the community, and the environment.

A work plan for the pre-design investigation has been reviewed and approved by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The information collected during the investigation will be used to determine an appropriate cleanup remedy that will be recommended in the Dunn Field Feasibility Study and Record of Decision.

Throughout the pre-design investigation, contractors will follow the best environmental practices outlined in a site-specific Health and Safety Plan. Wetting dry areas and covering excavated soil will minimize dust. Fencing, already in place at Dunn Field, will restrict entrance to the site.

The Dunn Field Proposed Plan and other documents relevant to ongoing environmental cleanup activities at the former Memphis Depot are available for reference in the Depot's three Information Repositories located at the Depot, the Memphis/Shelby County Health Department and the Cherokee Branch Library.

For more information on the Memphis Depot's environmental cleanup program, please call the Community Relations Office at (901) 544-0613.

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