



**THE MEMPHIS DEPOT
TENNESSEE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD
COVER SHEET**

AR File Number 135

The Restoration Newsletter

Defense Depot

Memphis, Tennessee

HELLO

We hope that you will take the time to read this newsletter. It is distributed by the Defense Distribution Depot Memphis to inform the public of the ongoing restoration efforts that are underway at the Depot.

This newsletter will inform the community of the past activities as well as the future plans for restoration at the facility. We would like to wish you a happy holidays and a prosperous new year.

TOWN HALL MEETING

The Depot has agreed to participate in a Town Hall Meeting that is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., January 25, 1995, at Corey Junior High.

Ms. Janet Hooks of the city council will be moderating the meeting and the Depot will present information on the Background Sampling results and Agency for Toxic Disease Registry (ATSDR) will be presenting their results of a health assessment that was done recently.

We are looking forward to answering your questions about the Depot and our restoration program.

BASE REUSE AND REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Defense Depot Memphis was approved for closure by President Clinton in June and Congress in September of 1995. As part of the closure process a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) is being established by the city and county to lead the reuse effort. Cynthia Buchanan has been named as Executive Director of the LRA. Ms. Buchanan is the former Director of Planning for the city and county, and has experience in working with neighborhoods and redevelopment projects.

An 18 member board has been appointed jointly by the City of Memphis and Shelby County to include: Mayor W.W. Herenton, Mayor Jim Rout, Janet Hooks, Olivia Dobbins, Joe Emison, Albert Crawford, Azzie Harris, Christine Munson, Steven Yukel, Col. Michael Kennedy, Cleo Kirk, Chris Clifton, Herman Ewing, Larry Cox, Michael Ritz, George Jones, Ulysses Truitt, and Ernest Gunn. Also nominated as an advisory committee members are: Representative Harold Ford, U.S. Senator Bill Frist, Governor Don Sundquist, and U.S. Senator Fred Thompson

The LRA's goals for September of 1995 through June of 1996 will focus on establishing the organization, initiating the base reuse process and beginning to develop the vision for future base reuse. As part of initiating the reuse process the LRA will begin a dialogue with Base leadership, working closely with the Department of Defense on the environmental issues at the

Depot. Additional activities will include identifying available resources, methods for community involvement and strategies for redevelopment from other base reuse projects. While the Depot closure may be viewed as a negative for the Memphis area and transition difficult for employees and their families, the potential for redevelopment of the Depot is a positive for the community in terms of employment, tax base and a boost to the local economy.

The closure/redevelopment process is one in which the military and community will be working together during the two years until closure in September of 1997. Both parties have specific goals to accomplish during this transition period. For the military this will include environmental cleanup of the Depot as established by environmental laws and meeting cleanup standards prior to the transfer of title. Surplus property screening will allow federal agencies and then state and local agencies a chance to request space. Additionally, inventory of personal property will be completed. They must also identify uncontaminated parcels which will aid in allowing a fast track of interim leasing.

The community goals will include the development of the LRA, setting goals for redevelopment which will include new jobs, expanding or diversifying local economy, redeveloping and hiring central city residents, improving environmental quality and overall community improvement. The community will also provide input on federal, state and local interests to establish if they are consistent with the goals established by the community. A review of personal property inventory will be completed. A redevelopment plan will be created by using market studies and facility surveys to determine the best land use and business plan for reusing property. Finally, once closure is complete and the property environmentally cleaned within established standards the community will take title and implement the reuse plan.

THE CLEANUP PROCESS

The cleanup process will continue throughout the redevelopment of the Depot. To understand the CERCLA process, it is necessary to understand the cleanup program. Under this program, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) takes long-term actions to stop or greatly reduce releases of hazardous substances that are serious but not immediately life threatening.

The cleanup process began with a preliminary assessment/site investigation. When the Depot was added to the EPA's National Priorities List, a remedial investigation was conducted to assess the extent and nature of the contamination and the potential risks.

A Feasibility Study is being prepared to evaluate various cleanup alternatives. Following a public comment period on the preferred alternative and the draft Feasibility Study, the facility, with concurrence from the EPA and the state, chooses a specific cleanup plan and outlines its selection in a Record of Decision.

Once the Remedial Design is completed, the cleanup work, or remedial action, will begin.

BACKGROUND SAMPLING

During the week of October 9, 1995 the Depot began collecting soil, sediment and water samples to determine normal soil conditions around the Depot. Testing will enable us to compare the Depot's conditions to normal conditions within the Memphis/Shelby County area.

The results of these tests should be available for the January 18th RAB meeting and the Town Hall meeting on the January 25, 1996 at Corey Junior High.

MONITORING WELLS INSTALLATION

Beginning the week of January 8, 1996, the Depot will begin installing monitoring wells on the facility and within the surrounding community. We will also be sampling all existing monitoring wells at the Depot and surrounding community.

These wells will help us to establish boundaries of the groundwater contamination that has occurred because of the past burial practices at Dunn Field. These wells will also help us determine normal conditions within the community.

THE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meets on the third Thursday of each month to act as an advisory board during the environmental assessment process.

The group has reviewed technical data and work plans for proposed environmental activities at the Depot to ensure public involvement in this process.

The RAB is made up of the following members:

Technical Representatives

Dann Spariosu	Environmental Protection Agency
Jordan English	Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation
Carter Gray	Memphis/Shelby County Health Dept.
Janet Hooks	Memphis City Council
Christine Kartman	Defense Depot
Dr. Cleo Kirk	Shelby County Commission

Cheryl Sessions	Memphis City Mayor's Office
Larry Smith	Mid-South Peace and Justice Center
James Webb	Memphis Light, Gas and Water Company

Citizen Representatives

Karen Blanks McGlown	Eugene Brayon
John Garrison	James Goines
Johnnie Mae Peters	Veronica Smith
Ulysses Truitt	Willie Mae Willett
Mondell Williams	

There have been some changes in the board members because of BRAC. The next RAB meeting is scheduled for January 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Commander's Conference Room at the Depot. RAB meetings are open to the public.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information call the Depot's Environmental hotline at (901) 775-4569.

To review copies of documents related to the restoration at the Depot, information has been placed in the following repositories for public review.

Memphis/Shelby County Library
Main Branch, Gov't and Law Section
1850 Peabody
Memphis TN 38104-4025

Cherokee Branch Public Library
3300 Sharp Avenue
Memphis, TN 38111-3758

Memphis/Shelby County Health Dept.
Pollution Control Division
814 Jefferson Avenue
Memphis, TN 38106

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