



# THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

---

## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 28

## Depot, landfill added to waste cleanup list

By Tom Charlier  
The Commercial Appeal

The former Defense Depot Memphis and a nearly 40-year-old landfill in West Memphis have been added to the national priority list of hazardous waste sites awaiting cleanup under the federal Superfund program, officials announced Wednesday.

The depot, which has been renamed Defense Distribution Region Central, was added to the list after studies detected a wide range of groundwater contaminants that could threaten the source of Memphis's drinking water. The South 8th Street Landfill in West Memphis was cited because pits there are laced with toxic metals and cancer-causing petrochemicals — contaminants that could be spread by floodwaters of the Mississippi River.

The formal addition of the two local sites and 31 others across the nation brings to 1,208 the number of waste dumps on the list and represents another bureaucratic step in the cleanup process. However, the actual removal of containment of wastes at the sites won't begin for several months.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program has drawn intense criticism in recent months because of the costs and delays associated with cleanups. Of the sites on the priority list, fewer than 100

have been cleaned up, one of them being the Gallaway Pits dump in nearby Fayette County, Tenn.

At the defense depot, where a variety of toxic wastes were buried during the 1950s and '60s, technicians plan to conduct further testing to determine how far groundwater contaminants have migrated off the facility. Officials say the pollutants appear to be flowing toward a well field operated by the Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division.

The landfill in West Memphis received wastes from an oil-recycling operation as well as numerous other industries and households. Just last month, EPA added the city of Memphis, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Memphis State University and scores of other businesses and agencies on the list of "potentially responsible parties" that may have to help fund the cleanup of the site.

No cost figures are available for either cleanup, although more than \$600,000 has been spent on legal and investigative work at the West Memphis dump.

Meanwhile, two other Memphis-area waste sites, the North Hollywood Dump and the Arlington Packaging and Blending facility, are nearly ready for final cleanup work to begin.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

**FINAL PAGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

**FINAL PAGE**

**FINAL PAGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

**FINAL PAGE**