



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 355



Saturday, September 19, 1998 PUBLIC INVITED TO DEPOT COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

The Depot's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team is hosting a Community Information Session on Saturday, September 19, 1998, at Corry Junior High School to update the community on the progress of the environmental activities taking place at the Depot.

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), the Depot's Environmental Division, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Memphis/Shelby County Public Health Department, and other community groups and agencies will host information displays highlighting various projects and aspects relative to restoring, reusing and revitalizing the Depot facility.

We invite you to drop by the Community Information Session in the Corry Junior High School cafeteria. You can look at the information displays at your leisure and discuss any of your questions or concerns directly with representatives from all of the participating groups and agencies.

**Community Information Session
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, September 19, 1998
Corry Junior High School cafeteria
2230 Corry Road, Memphis**

For more information, contact
Alma Black Moore,
Community Relations Specialist,
at (901) 544-0613.

UPCOMING RAB MEETINGS

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings are open to all community members. You are invited to attend and learn about the environmental cleanup program and to raise issues of interest or concern with members of the Board.

**RAB
meetings are
scheduled for
6 p.m. on the 3rd
Thursday of
each month**

Meetings are held in the Commander's Conference Room, Building 144 at the Depot, 2163 Airways Blvd., Memphis, TN. Park at Gate 1 and enter through the side doors. The next meetings are scheduled for:

**Sept 17, 1998
at 6:00 pm**

**and
Oct 15, 1998
at 6:00 pm**

Interview with

Mr. John Garrison, RAB Member



Mr. John Garrison has been a member of the Memphis Depot Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) since 1995. For 32 years he lived in the Oakhaven community and was active in community work as a Director and also as President of the Oakhaven Neighborhood Association. He was also involved in the Airport Land Use Study. Mr. Garrison regularly attends the monthly meetings of the Land Use Control Board and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. He's a strong supporter of historic preservation and regularly attends Memphis Landmarks Commission meetings as a member of Memphis Heritage. He enjoys golf and travel. Recently, Mr. Garrison shared his thoughts about restoration activities at the Depot.

Q: How did you become involved with the RAB?

A: I worked at the Depot for 27 years. I was a highly dedicated employee for the U.S. Department of Defense for a lengthy period of time before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 1970, and I sometimes worked under adverse conditions. I have vast knowledge of what has transpired at the Depot over the years and, naturally, I'm highly concerned about the environmental restoration of the property.

Q: What would you like to see the community doing towards the cleanup efforts at the Depot?

A: The Depot community has a very large number of neighborhood associations registered with the Center for Neighborhoods. I would like to see more citizens of the Depot community in attendance at the monthly RAB meetings and become educated in the environmental issues and the restoration process. Also, elected officials of local government should reach out in a positive way to the citizens of the Depot community and encourage them to attend these very important meetings and become involved.

Q: In your opinion, how will the community benefit from the restoration activities at the Depot?

A: The number one priority of the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Cleanup Team is to render the Memphis Depot property environmentally clean for the protection of public health and the environment. To address the closure and reuse of the Defense Depot property – considering the environmental and sociological consequences of implementing the preferred alternative – it will have the most positive effect of facilitating an early economic redevelopment and job re-creation resulting in a wide regional economic impact. In general, it would be expected to deliver social and economic benefits on all groups in the surrounding Depot community.

Q: What concerns you most about the environmental activities at the site?

A: At RAB meetings, I continue to hear citizens of the Depot community express their concerns about contamination at Dunn Field, the effect upon their drinking water, and concerns that their community has become a cancer cluster area. Some citizens of the Depot community have adamantly expressed a distrust of the U.S. Department of Defense. Citizens of the Depot community should remain amicable with members of the RAB and the BRAC Cleanup Team. □

Coming soon to a TV and radio station near you...

To learn more about cleanup and restoration activities at the Memphis Depot, tune in to local community radio and television stations WEVL-FM 90 and Channel 18, the Library Channel.

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Community Co-chair Mondell Williams, RAB Facility Co-chair Shawn Phillips and Community Relations Specialist Alma Black Moore will participate in a radio program to air on WEVL-FM 90, September 17, at 8:30 p.m. They will discuss the September 19 Community Information Session, as well as on-going cleanup and restoration activities at the Depot.

Mr. Williams, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Moore will also appear on the Center for Neighborhoods' program on Channel 18, the Library Channel, Mondays at 2:30 p.m. and Fridays at 4:30 p.m. throughout the month of October to discuss the Depot's cleanup and restoration program. Check your television guide for dates and times, and tune in for more information. □

FOSLs available for public review

Finding of Suitability to Lease (FOSL) documents 4, 5 and 6 have been signed by the Army Materiel Command and are available in our Information Repositories for public review. FOSL 7 has also been placed in the Information Repositories for a 30-day public review and comment period.

A FOSL documents the past uses of the property at the Depot and provides protections in the lease to ensure completion of the Depot's environmental restoration program during redevelopment of the property.

Upon completion of the FOSL process, the Depot environmental team will begin preparing Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) documents to transfer property ownership to the Depot Redevelopment Corporation (DRC). □

DUNN FIELD UPDATE

After many months of work on installation and preparation, the BRAC Cleanup Team expects the groundwater pump and containment system at Dunn Field will be operating in October.

- The environmental team is currently working on connecting the groundwater pump and containment system to the City of Memphis sewage system. Once the connection is completed, impacted water will be pumped from beneath Dunn Field by seven pumping wells. The water will then flow into a City of Memphis water treatment facility, where the facility's normal wastewater treatment procedure will clean it.

As part of the Depot's ongoing cleanup program, several new sampling programs are underway at Dunn Field.

- In August, monitoring wells were installed and soil samples taken around suspected chemical warfare material burial locations at Dunn Field.

Initial soil samples indicate that chemical warfare material, or breakdown products from chemical warfare material, has not moved away from the original burial location. Data from the monitoring wells, which is not yet available, will help determine if any chemical warfare material has moved into the groundwater.

This information will be used to develop alternatives for cleanup of the chemical warfare material burial locations. This information will be made available for review and comment by the public before any cleanup actions begin. We anticipate this information will be available in early 1999.

- New sampling technology is being used that will help the Depot cleanup team locate compounds in the soil beneath Dunn Field.

Almost 300 tubes – called Gore Sorbers™ – have been placed in the ground. Resembling a long, thin sock, these tubes are approximately the width of a shoelace and are about 24 inches long. The same material as Gortex™, Gore Sorbers™ are waterproof and allow air to flow through the tube and into a tiny filter pack at the tip.

Compounds in soil release a vapor that will be absorbed by the filter packs in the Gore Sorbers™. The tubes will remain in the ground for several weeks. Once removed, a laboratory will analyze the filter pack for evidence of compound vapors. This analysis will help the Depot environmental team pinpoint the location of any buried compounds.

"This new technology will provide us with a quick, safe and cost-efficient method for determining where further in-depth sampling should be conducted at Dunn Field," said Shawn Phillips, the Depot's acting BRAC

Environmental Coordinator. "Because this technology monitors the natural air flow, we won't have to disturb the soil and any compounds until we can determine more accurately where and what they are, and develop plans for removing them." □



Alma Black Moore, Community Relations Specialist at the Memphis Depot, talks with a resident of the Hays-Mason Neighborhood, Ms. Moore and Restoration Advisory Board member Kevin Clay went door to door in the neighborhood in August delivering information notices about the monitoring well installation at Dunn Field.

Cleanup ongoing at Depot's Family Housing Area

Surface soil at the Depot's Family Housing Area, which contained traces of a pesticide is being removed. The area will be re-landscaped throughout September in preparation for transfer of the property to the Memphis Inter-Faith Association (MIFA).

Tests on the soil at the housing area – conducted as part of the Depot's ongoing cleanup program – showed the presence of the pesticide Dieldrin that was applied more than 10 years ago to control insects. Based on the presence of this pesticide, the top six to 12 inches of soil is being removed. Approximately 1,200 cubic yards of soil has already been trucked to an approved off-site landfill for disposal.

After the soil is removed, further tests will be conducted to confirm that the project has been



Environmental field staff with OHM Remediation remove surface soil from around the housing area at the Depot as part of the on-going cleanup activities.

successful and further soil removal is not required. The next step in the cleanup of the housing area will be the removal of lead-based paint present on portions of the exterior of the housing units and two garages.

MIFA will convert the former Depot family housing units into housing for the homeless. □

History's helping hand

With the help of historical photo archives, the Memphis Depot environmental team can pinpoint possible locations of buried materials at the facility.

Aerial photos of the Depot dating back to 1946 are being analyzed and compared year by year for differences in the layout and landscape of the facility that could indicate a soil disturbance.

If, for example, a photograph shows a mound of soil in one photo, but not in a previous photo, it may indicate that material was buried in that location.

The information from the photo search will help the cleanup team narrow the scope of their site investigation by pinpointing possible locations of buried material. Once soil and water sampling confirms a burial site, the Depot environmental team will discuss appropriate cleanup options. □

The Memphis Depot
2163 Airways Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38114

355 4

Bulk Rate
US Postage
PAID
Memphis TN
Permit 1665

DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE DELIVER BY SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....

The Information Repositories are at the following locations:

The Depot, 2163 Airways Blvd.,
Memphis, TN (901) 544-0613
The Community Outreach Room is located in Building
144 within the Environmental Division offices. Park at
Gate 1 and enter through the front door. Hours are from
8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call ahead to ensure we are
available to help you.

Memphis/Shelby County Health
Department, Pollution Control Division
814 Jefferson Ave., Memphis, TN
(901) 576-7775

The Pollution Control Division is open Monday
to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Memphis/Shelby County Public Library,
Cherokee Branch, 3300 Sharpe Ave.,
Memphis, TN (901) 743-3655

The Cherokee Branch is open Monday to Wednesday
from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Thursday from noon to
6:30 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 6 p.m.

Memphis/Shelby County Public Library,
Main Branch, 1850 Peabody, Memphis,
TN (901) 725-8877

The Main Branch is open Monday to Thursday from
9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.
to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

HOW TO REACH US....

If you have any questions or comments about the Depot's Environmental Restoration Program,
please feel free to contact any one of the following representatives from the Department of Defense,
the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Tennessee Department of
Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB):

Shawn Phillips
BRAC Environmental
Coordinator
2163 Airways Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38114
(901) 544-0611

Turpin Ballard
United States
Environmental
Protection Agency (EPA)
61 Forsyth St.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-8553

Jordan English
Tennessee Department
of Environment and
Conservation (TDEC)
2510 Mt. Moriah,
Suite E-645
Memphis, TN 38115
(901) 368-7953

Mondell Williams
RAB Community
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Memphis, TN 38106
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EnviroNews is published by the Memphis Depot to
update the public on the Environmental Restoration
Program. If you have comments, questions, or
suggestions for future articles, please call
Ms. Alma Black Moore at (901) 544-0613.

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