



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

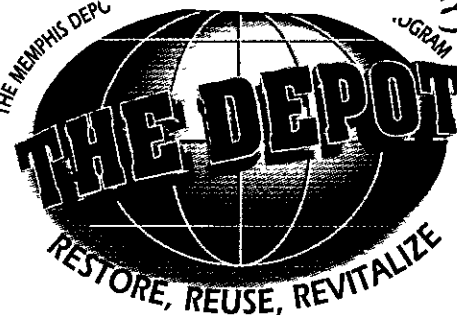
AR File Number 373

DEPOT

EnviroNews

March/April 1999

THE MEMPHIS DEPT



Dunn Field Update

Recent media coverage regarding Dunn Field posed several questions throughout the Depot community. Here are answers to some of the questions.

Q: What buried material was the media talking about?

A: The remnants of 29 captured German bomb casings containing the chemical warfare agent. In 1946, a train moving the captured bomb casings from Mobile, Alabama to Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas stopped in Memphis because some casings had started to leak. Soldiers from the Chemical Quartermaster Corps stationed at the Memphis Depot assisted chemical agent specialists from Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland to drain the mustard from the casing into a neutralizing agent (bleach) and bury the casings. Recent studies to locate the exact disposal locations indicated the mustard has not moved away from the original location into groundwater or the surrounding soil.

Q: What is mustard?

A: Mustard, a blister agent, is a colorless to light yellow to dark brown oily liquid. Although mustard does not evaporate readily, it may pose both a liquid contact hazard and a vapor hazard to the eyes, skin or respiratory tract. Mustard has the odor of garlic or horseradish.

Q: Are you removing the mustard now?

A: No. The Army Corps of Engineers is currently in the project planning and document preparation stage. This summer the public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the documentation. Also, a safety plan must be prepared then reviewed and approved by the Department of Army and the Department of Health and Human Services. Safety plan approval should come this fall, then the necessary precautions to protect the community will be put in place and work will begin.

Q: Why didn't you tell us about this mustard before?

A: Depot documents and reports include lists of chemicals that are impacting the soil and groundwater. These reports are discussed at our RAB meetings, at our Community Information Sessions, and block club meetings. Depot Information Repositories have documents and information about the cleanup of the Depot available for public review.

Q: Do those mounds contain mustard?

A: No. Those mounds contain fluorspar, which is a mineral ore that has been stockpiled at Dunn Field. This ore is being sold to various businesses and is being removed by trucks. The mounds are covered with a transparent

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.

The
next RAB
meetings are
scheduled for
March 18/99
April 15/99

Meetings are held at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room, Building 144 at the Depot, 2163 Airways Blvd., Memphis, TN.

Park at Gate 1 and enter through the side door. ☐

plastic after truck loads have been removed to minimize the dust.

Be sure to look for the Dunn Field Update in your next issue of EnviroNews, or call the Depot's Community Relations Department at (901) 544-0613 if you have concerns or questions.

In Memory of Vernisteen Simon

By Alma Black Moore, Depot Community Relations Specialist

Since becoming the Community Relations Specialist for the Memphis Depot in June 1998, I've learned a lot about environmental cleanup sites and government protocol. But, I did not have to learn the neighborhood surrounding the Depot, because I'm from the neighborhood. I quickly learned that there have been some changes in the community, but there are still those people in the community that make things happen. Vernisteen Simon was just that kind of person.

I attended a block club meeting at her home, as I often do, to encourage participation at our Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings and to update the group on some of the cleanup activities taking place at the Depot. I also asked for help.

I asked for volunteers to help me keep informed of other block club meetings, to help me maintain the four Information Repositories, to make phone calls, to make copies and lots of other things that I'm responsible for. It wasn't a week after the meeting at her home when I received a phone



call from Mrs. Simon. "Alma Jo, I'll help you, and I've gotten three other retired librarians and some other ladies willing to join your Depot volunteer group through MIFA." (Retired Senior and Volunteer Program/RSVP). Mrs. Simon was a doer, an organizer and a leader.

Mrs. Vernisteen Simon worked as a school librarian for 30 years and was an elder at Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church. She was also president for the Presbyterian Women of Parkway Gardens and served as the first black moderator of the citywide organization of Presbyterian women. She was a member of the Johnson Auxiliary of the Regional Medical Center at Memphis, served as a volunteer counselor at Juvenile Court and worked with MIFA's Christmas Toy Store and Barriers Breakers. She died December 12, 1998, at Methodist Hospital. Her husband, Emmitt Simon, Jr., daughter Lisa Bates, son Michael Simon and grandson will miss her.

Mrs. Simon would be proud of the work that her fellow volunteers have been doing at the Depot. Posthumously, thanks Mrs. Simon for getting them all together for me. I truly miss you too!! ☐

Keeping in Touch



The Memphis Depot Restoration Advisory Board works with the Memphis Depot's environmental division on matters relating to the environmental restoration program. The RAB usually meets the third Thursday of every month, January through October, to review documents and work plans, and to share information on the Depot's activities with the members of the community.

The Memphis Depot RAB consists of 13 community members, five civic representatives, and three Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT) members. We encourage you to attend our RAB meetings or call any of the RAB members with concerns that you may have.

Community Members:

Mondell Williams, Community Co-Chair	(901) 946-9751
Dave Bond	(901) 774-4903
Eugene Brayon	(901) 775-0730
Doris Bradshaw	(901) 942-0329
Peggy Brooks	(901) 743-5136
Kevin Clay	(601) 895-4512
John Garrison	(901) 754-7672
Terri Gray	(601) 895-6038
Johnnie Mae Peters	(901) 785-7289
Ulysses Truitt	(901) 946-9751
Stanley Tyler	(901) 775-1722
Willie Mae Willett	(901) 775-7816
Elizabeth Young	(901) 458-1703

Civic Members:

Carter Gray, Memphis/Shelby County Health Department	(901) 544-7775
Janet Hooks, Memphis City Council	(901) 278-1122
Cleo Kirk, Shelby County Board of Commissioners	(901) 743-5723
James Webb, Memphis Light, Gas and Water	(901) 320-3901
Jim Covington, Memphis Depot Redevelopment Corporation	(901) 942-4939

BCT Members:

Shawn Phillips, Facility Co-Chair	(901) 544-0611
Jordan English, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation	(901) 368-7953
Turpin Ballard, Environmental Protection Agency	(404) 562-8553

Additional Memphis Depot Contacts:

Denise Cooper, Environmental Division Specialist	(901) 544-0610
Alma Black Moore, Community Relations Specialist	901) 544-0613

Interview with Kevin Clay RAB Member



Kevin E. Clay has been a member of the Depot's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) since April 1996. He works as a regional liability consultant for an international insurance group. Kevin also provides risk control engineering consulting services to various industries in the tri-state area. Kevin is married and the father of four girls. One daughter is a graduate of Hampton University, one is a student at Tennessee State University, the third is a student at Vanderbilt University and the youngest attends junior high school.

Q: How did you become involved with the RAB?

I lived across the street from the north end of Dunn Field for the first 17 years of my life. In '95 and '96, I attended several community meetings to learn about the proposed cleanup of the Defense Depot. During one of the community meetings, I was elected to lead a citizens group to challenge the Depot to widen the scope of the evaluation process and influence the Depot to become more responsive to the impacted community's request for more information and input. That group evolved into the DDMT-CCC, now capably headed by Mrs. Doris Bradshaw. After attending several RAB meetings as a

representative of DDMT-CCC, I submitted an application to join the RAB.

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

My sources indicate that there is over \$100 million dollars allocated to complete the cleanup of the Depot. I would like for more members of the community to challenge the government on how \$28 million dollars could be spent on the cleanup of the Depot with little participation by minority contractors. I would like to know if the contractors are being "hand picked". The longer the Depot community sits at home doing nothing, the easier it is for the Depot cleanup team to bring in contractors which don't reflect the demographics of the community. To get results, the impacted community must show up "en masse" to let the Depot cleanup team know we want minority contractors included in the cleanup process.

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

A great opportunity of the Depot community has already been lost because of the absence of minority contractor involvement in the cleanup at the Depot. I truly feel the Main Installation will be cleaned up to at least industrial standards. This should allow for new and expanding businesses to lease property to provide replacement jobs for those lost during the closing of the Depot. Companies like McAuley's have already made a positive impact in the community by providing new jobs. The addition of the Memphis Police Precinct is probably the most important development to date towards the reuse of the facility. The benefits will include new, decent paying jobs and a stronger economically viable community, making the entire Memphis metropolitan area a winner.

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

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There is no question about it - the north end of Dunn Field is the trouble spot. I have questions about the scope of the testing process that has been used to do the initial and follow-up testing. I'm concerned that the cleanup of Dunn Field will and continues to take second priority in the cleanup process. My goal is to challenge the RAB and the Depot cleanup team to widen the scope of the evaluation process, and to include minority contractors. I'm also concerned that not enough people from our community or elected officials are asking the needed questions to positively affect the changes in awarding the cleanup contracts. I'm pleased with elected officials Janet Hooks and Dr. Cleo Kirk's input as members of the RAB. □



New Depot Site Manager

The Depot says good-bye to Phil Amado, who retired from his position as Site Manager in January 1999 to begin teaching at a local Catholic elementary school.

BRAC Transition Coordinator John DeBack will now add Site Manager to his list of responsibilities. Since moving to Memphis in 1993, John has been open to listen to concerns of the community and former employees. He regularly attends community meetings hosted by community members, other government agencies and the Depot. □

The Memphis Depot
Bldg. 144, Suite 137
2163 Airways Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38114

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DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE DELIVER THIS IMMEDIATELY

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....

The Information Repositories are at the following locations:

The Depot, 2163 Airways Blvd., Bldg. 144,
Suite 137 Memphis, TN (901) 544-0613
The Community Reading 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....

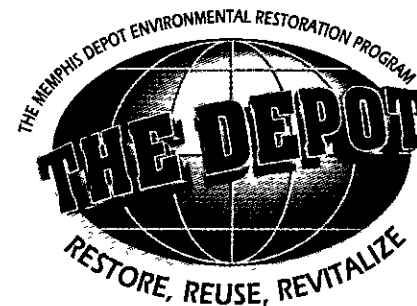
If you have any questions or comments about the Depot's environmental restoration program, please feel free to contact any one of the following representatives from the Memphis Depot, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)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

Shawn Phillips
The Memphis Depot
2163 Airways Blvd.,
Bldg. 144, Suite 137
Memphis, TN 38114
(901) 544-0611

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

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

Mondell Williams
RAB Community
Co-Chair
667 Mallory Rd
Memphis, TN 38106
(901) 946-9751



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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