



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

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EnviroNews

July/Aug. 1999



Dunn Field Update



Ms Valerie Clinkenbeard, an engineer from the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., observes contractors sampling soil at Dunn Field.

The Dunn Field Chemical Warfare Materiel Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) report, prepared by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center (Huntsville), recommends the excavation and removal of chemical warfare materiel at three disposal locations on Dunn Field:

- the disposal location for Chemical Agent Identification Sets,
- the chlorinated lime slurry pit used to neutralize mustard agent that was drained from 29 captured German bomb casings; and
- the disposal location used to dispose of the drained bomb casings.

Chemical Warfare Materiel (CWM) Removal Action Work Plan

Several years of scientific research and investigation to pinpoint the location and extent of CWM disposal locations at Dunn Field indicates that if any mustard remains it has not moved away from the original location into groundwater or the surrounding soil. If any mustard remains in the original disposal locations, it will resemble hardened "globs" and be found within the soil or on the bomb casings. The Corps used this information to prepare a detailed CWM Removal Action Work Plan and Site Safety Submission.

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 meetings
will be held
July 15/99
August 19/99

Meetings will be held at 6 p.m. in the "J" Street Cafe at the Depot, 2163 Airways Blvd., Memphis, TN. Enter through Gate 2, proceed through guard entrance and follow the signs. ☐

One of the first steps in the plan will be the installation of an enclosure over the disposal locations on Dunn Field. This sealed and lined structure has an air-filtration system to monitor and filter the air from within the enclosure and between its multi-layered walls.

Expert chemical agent specialists from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) in Maryland will monitor air samples

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Working Together at the Memphis Depot

The Memphis Depot Caretaker Division draws from a long list of talented and experienced organizations to successfully complete closure and environmental cleanup projects.

At the top of the list is the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) located in Fort Belvoir, VA. DLA works with the U.S. Congress to obtain funds for and provide policy directions to its facilities around the world such as the Defense Distribution Center (DDC), Defense Distribution Depot, Susquehanna, PA (DDSP), and the Memphis Depot Caretaker Division. Funds make their way to the Memphis Depot from DLA through the DDC to DDSP.

The Memphis Depot receives funding and management direction from the DDSP, and federal employees at the Memphis Depot are considered a division of the DDSP. The DDC and DDSP have accumulated valuable experience with closure and environmental cleanup activities at other supply depots in Pennsylvania, Utah and California.

The U.S. Army also has several organizations that assist the Memphis Depot with closure and environmental cleanup activities. The Corps of Engineers in Huntsville and Mobile, AL, obtain and manage contracts with professional engineering and environmental cleanup companies to perform field investigations, produce cleanup design documents and conduct cleanup activities at the Memphis Depot. The Corps of Engineers Waterways

Experiment Station uses groundwater sampling data to produce groundwater models that were used to develop the groundwater pumping system at Dunn Field.

Other U.S. Army organizations on the Memphis Depot's long list of experienced players that will participate in the chemical warfare materiel (CWM) removal project include the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization/Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel, Technical Escort Unit and Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. Local organizations working with the Memphis Depot on the CWM project include the Emergency Management Agency, Memphis Police Department, Memphis Fire Department, Memphis/Shelby County Health Department and Regional Medical Center.

From the environmental regulator list, the Memphis Depot draws from the talents and experiences of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IV, in Atlanta, GA, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Memphis Field Office. Representatives from EPA, TDEC and the Memphis Depot make up the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team, which oversees environmental cleanup activities at the Memphis Depot facility.

All the organizations on the Memphis Depot's long list work together to ensure the effective and efficient closure and environmental cleanup of the facility. □

Dunn Field Update

Continued from cover

from field personnel within the enclosure as well as from air monitors around the outside of the enclosure. The chemical agent specialists will also be responsible for the sampling and analysis of material removed from the disposal locations during the cleanup process.

The U.S. Army Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel and the Technical Escort Unit from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland will also be present to respond if needed. They will also be responsible for the storage and transportation of any recovered chemical warfare materiel.

Site Safety Submission

As part of the CWM Removal Action Work Plan, the Corps prepared a Site Safety Submission. This document details the steps needed to ensure the safety of surrounding neighbors, the Memphis community and the CWM removal team at Dunn Field during the cleanup process.

The Site Safety Submission sets out in detail the personal protective equipment and safety training required by all workers involved with the cleanup project. This submission also includes the individual work and safety plans of all contractors working on the CWM project.

A medical support plan details the special training that has been provided to the Local Emergency Response Management team, including hospitals, doctors, fire and police departments, and ambulance services.

The Site Safety Submission for the Chemical Warfare Materiel Removal Action Work Plan will be submitted to the Department of Army, the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board and the Department of Health and Human Services for final review and approval this fall. We expect the CWM removal work to begin early next year when the specialized equipment and staff required to complete the project are available. □

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING DUNN FIELD

Q. Why is the CWM in Dunn Field?

A. Our historical records indicated that from 1942 until 1953 the Army's Chemical Quartermaster Corps received, stored and shipped materials such as flame-throwers, chemicals used on clothing to protect soldiers from chemical agents such as mustard, and Chemical Agent Identification Sets used to train soldiers at boot camp about chemical warfare agents such as mustard. Burial of these materials when their shelf-life expired, or when they became outdated was the appropriate disposal method at that time. Dunn Field was also used to dispose of

approximately 29 captured German bomb casings containing the chemical agent mustard. In 1946, railroad cars traveling from Mobile, Alabama to Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas were discovered to contain leaking mustard bomb casings while traveling through Tennessee. Since the Memphis Depot was the closest government facility, they were switched to the Memphis Depot, where the Chemical Quartermaster Corps assisted specialists from Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland to safely disarm and empty the bomb casings and to decontaminate the mustard agent. These casings were then buried

Q. Is mustard gas exposure to the community a possibility?

A. The Army Corps of Engineers, the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and the removal contractors have many years of experience protecting surrounding communities while safely cleaning up mustard and other chemical agents. Removal plans call for construction of a special structure designed to contain any release of mustard during excavation. Monitoring of air inside and outside of the structure as well as along the fence line of Dunn Field will ensure contractors respond quickly to cover any item that begins to leak mustard into the air.

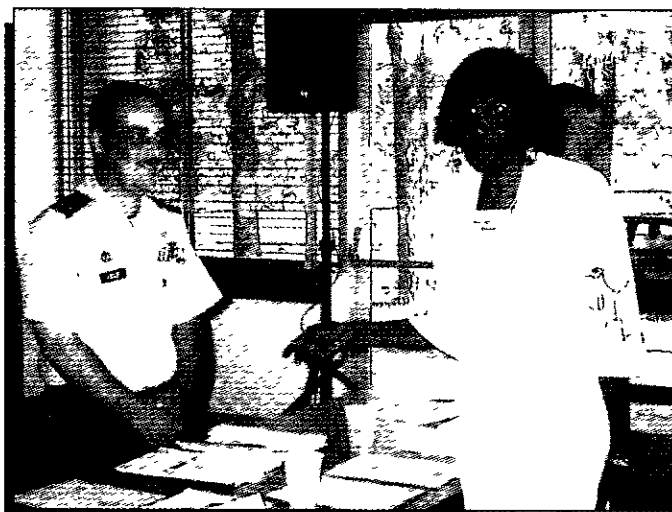
May Public Comment Meeting Soil Removal and Building Cleanup: Old Paint Shop and Maintenance Area

The Depot hosted a public comment meeting on May 20, 1999, to provide citizens an opportunity to comment about the recommended cleanup activities at the old paint shop and maintenance area of the Depot. This area is located in the southwest corner of the Main Installation, at Perry and Ball roads. The buildings in this area were used for material storage, sandblasting activities, paint spraying and paint storage, lubrication of equipment, and use of cleaning solvents.

Greg Underberg, project manager and hydrogeologist with CH2M Hill, presented an overview of the current environmental conditions of the soil and buildings at this area of the Depot property, the criteria used to evaluate each cleanup alternative and the recommended removal action.

Mrs. Peggy Brooks reviews a fact sheet with Bob Jones of the Public Outreach and Information Office, Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel.

- The recommended action includes:
- Cleaning buildings and equipment;
 - Removing the former maintenance, storage and woodshop building,



Mrs. Johnnie Mae Peters asks questions of Staff Sgt. Brian S. Field, U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit.

Mr. Kevin Clay comments on CWM presentations at the June CWM EE/CA public meeting.

- Removing building sump sediment and debris,
- Removing concrete, subsurface soil and the hydraulic fluid tank at the former grease rack, and Removing up to 12 inches of soil where EPA land use criteria are exceeded

This information is contained in the Engineering Evaluation/ Cost Analysis (EE/CA), Old Paint Shop and Maintenance Areas, Parcels 35 and 28, and can be found at each of the Information Repositories listed on the back of this newsletter.

The public comment period for this EE/CA began on May 17. Due to a citizen's request, the comment period was extended for an additional 30 calendar days and will end on July 15, 1999. The cleanup activities for this section of the property are scheduled to begin in the fall

June Public Comment Meeting CWM Removal at Dunn Field

A second EE/CA public comment meeting was held on Thursday, June 17, 1999, to provide citizens an opportunity to comment about the recommended chemical warfare materiel (CWM) cleanup activities at Dunn Field. The removal of CWM from Dunn Field is a very sensitive environmental issue for our neighbors. In order to discuss cleanup issues and listen to community concerns, the Depot environmental staff, CWM project managers and contractors, community support organizations, and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) were available prior to the public meeting, between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m., to address individual questions.

The public comment period, which began on

June 10, has been extended for an additional 30 calendar days due to a citizen's request and will end on August 9, 1999.

These meetings were one of several methods for the com-



munity to provide input during the 30-calendar-day public comment periods for each EE/CA.

Other methods include voicemail comments on our Information Line, (901) 544-0618, or comment in writing to the BRAC Environmental Coordinator (address provided on back page).

The Depot will provide a summary of responses to public comments on each EE/CA within 30 days of the close of each public comment period. These summaries will be available to the community through the Information Repositories located at the Memphis Depot, Cherokee Branch Library, Main Branch Library and the Memphis/Shelby County Health Department. □

Q. What should I do to avoid exposure?

A. The work area within the fence at Dunn Field will be very well marked. Please stay out of the work area. The Army Corps of Engineers, their contractors and the other government agencies involved in the cleanup project will take all the proper safety precautions to ensure that the community is safe.

Q. How will the community know if you have a serious release of a toxic substance? How fast will we know?

A. The Local Emergency Response Management team, in conjunction with the Memphis Police

Department, will notify the community immediately should a serious release of a toxic substance occur. Sirens, door-to-door notices and other emergency notification precautions are in place to ensure the safety of the community.

Q. How will the community be included in the cleanup?

A. We include the community in the cleanup project by providing information and listening to the concerns, questions and suggestions of the community. The Depot provides information to the community and listens to community issues in a variety of ways. We conduct monthly

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings that are open to the public and provide valuable information about the cleanup projects and allows opportunities to voice concerns and suggestions. We also produce a bi-monthly newsletter, EnviroNews, containing cleanup project information that is mailed to more than 4,500 homes and businesses. We also distribute fact sheets to our neighbors in the Depot community. If you would like to add your name to the mailing list, please contact Alma Black Moore, Community Relations Specialist at (901) 544-0613.

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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. Enter at
Gate 2. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 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 p.m. 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):

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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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