



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 385



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Huntsville Center**

CHEMICAL WARFARE MATERIEL REMOVAL ACTION

Former Defense Distribution Depot Memphis, Tennessee

March 2000

MAXIMUM CREDIBLE EVENT (MCE) FACT SHEET

Each Corps of Engineers non-stockpile chemical warfare materiel project establishes an Maximum Credible Event (MCE) to provide maximum protection to the public. The MCE is the "worst-case" scenario based on the potential chemical warfare materiel that may be discovered at the project site.

To determine what the MCE is for a specific chemical warfare materiel project site, Huntsville Center safety and technical personnel examine all available data (Archives Search Report, Environmental Baseline Surveys, etc.). With this information, the item and situation that provides the most accurate and realistic "worst-case" scenario is selected as the MCE for that specific site.

Once the MCE has been determined, the Corps of Engineers adds safety measures such as the vapor containment structure. These safety measures reduce the likelihood of the MCE affecting the public by containing any potential chemical release and thus providing the highest level of protection to the community.

The MCE is used to calculate the No Significant Effects (NOSE) distance. This is the distance at which the community would not experience any significant effects should a chemical agent release due to the MCE occur. The distance is calculated by a downwind hazard prediction modeling computer program that is approved by the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board. This model uses existing meteorological data such as wind speed, temperature, and the chemical agent's characteristics. The NOSE distance is eliminated when using a safety measure like the vapor containment structure which is being used at Memphis Depot.

For More Information

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