

THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

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EnviroNews



REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT: Main Installation Passes Safety Standards for Industrial Use

The Remedial Investigation is completed for the Main Installation (now known as the Memphis Depot Business Park), and the results offer positive news for the Depot and the community of south Memphis. The full report is available at the Depot's Information Repositories.

The U.S. Army Engineer and Support Center and their contractor, CH2M Hill, collected the data and prepared the report. The Environmental Protection Agency, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Department of Health reviewed and provided comments on the draft reports and approved the final report.

The RI report concludes that Depot operations have not significantly affected the environmental conditions at the Main Installation. Investigators found that, overall, the Main Installation is safe for current and future industrial and commercial workers.

Across the Main Installation, several compounds were found at levels higher than those found elsewhere in Memphis. Arsenic, dieldrin and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were identified in surface soils at railroad tracks and roadways and where pesticides were applied around the warehouses and on the golf course. The arsenic levels are such that it is safe to work at the Depot and to use the recreational areas.

A few small areas were identified with elevated lead concentrations in the soil. One of these areas was cleaned up this summer as part of the removal action at the old paint shop and maintenance area in the southwest corner of the Main Installation. The other areas will be evaluated for possible future cleanup.

The Main Installation was divided into six geographic areas called functional

units, based on past land-use and anticipated future land-use. Groundwater in the shallow fluvial aquifer under the Main Installation became a seventh functional unit.

Using EPA-approved methods for sampling and analysis, soil in a total of 702 locations was sampled, resulting in 1,208 soil samples collected. The laboratory performed 99,264 analyses looking for 300 different compounds. The groundwater has been under investigation for several years and has been sampled on a regular basis.

The seven functional units of the Main Installation are identified below, along with the conclusions for each area.

Functional Unit 1—20 Typical Warehouses

It is safe for current and future industrial and commercial workers to work in this area. Because of PAH levels at locations near the railroad tracks and roadways, homes cannot be built on these areas.

Functional Unit 2—Southeast Golf Course/Recreational Area

The golf course is safe to use as a golf course. The playground is safe to use as a playground. The baseball field is safe to use as a baseball field. It is safe for current and future industrial and commercial workers to work in this area. Because of dieldrin levels at the golf course, homes cannot be built there.

Functional Unit 3—Southwest Open Warehouses

It is safe for current and future industrial and commercial workers to work in this area. The sump in Building 1086 had elevated levels of chromium and lead. Elevated lead levels were also found in soils around the old paint shop and maintenance area in the southwest corner of the Main Installation. Cleanup for this sump and the surrounding area is complete.

UPCOMING RAB MEETING

Join us at the next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting to learn about the environmental cleanup program and to raise issues of interest or concern to you.

The RAB includes community members who review proposed plans and actions and provide input on the environmental cleanup activities.

**The next
RAB meeting
is Thursday,
July 20th**

The RAB meeting will be held in the "J" Street Café at the Memphis Depot. On the agenda is a presentation on the risk assessment portion of the Main Installation Remedial Investigation report. □

Because of the lead levels around the old paint shop and maintenance area as well as PAH levels near the railroad tracks and roadways, homes cannot be built in these areas.

Functional Unit 4—Northern and Open Areas

Overall, it is safe for current and future industrial and commercial workers to work in this area. Higher than acceptable levels of lead were detected in a small area of soil north of the old paint shop and maintenance area near Building 949 and at one sampling location at Building 702 (demolished in 1997).

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CWM Removal Project Update

The Memphis Depot will continue to conduct weekly chemical warfare materiel (CWM) briefings for the community every Wednesday throughout the summer. However, because of the summer heat, the meetings will now be held in the Community Outreach Room at the Depot - 2163 Airways Blvd., Building 144 - beginning at 10 a.m. Mr. Clyde Hunt, the CWM on-site coordinator, and his assistant Ms. Elizabeth Burks, will provide up to date information on the removal project.

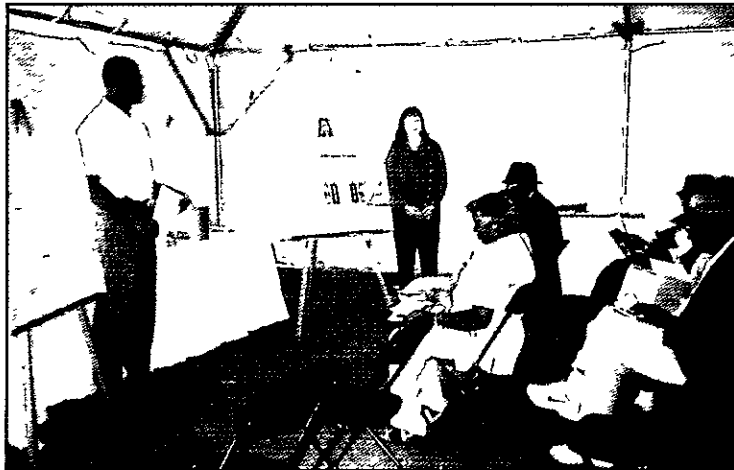
Removal of chemical warfare materiel (CWM) started at Dunn Field on May 4. The CWM removal project is centered on three sites at Dunn Field:

Site 1 - suspected Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS) disposal location;

Site 24A - suspected mustard neutralization pit; and

Site 24B - suspected 29 German bomb casings disposal location.

In April, before starting the removal project, the workers and supporting agencies took part in pre-operational exercises that included an assessment of work site safety and emergency response procedures.



Clyde Hunt and Elizabeth Burks of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center provide information on the CWM removal project to members of the community during a weekly briefing session on Dunn Field.

These exercises are required by the Department of Army to ensure that the procedures in the Site Safety Submission as well as all other Army and Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety and health regulations are being followed. The exercises also ensure that the air monitoring and video equipment is working properly and that all personnel are prepared for any given emergency scenario.

During the month of May, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their contractors excavated a total of 121 cubic yards of soil, and discovered no CWM. At Site 1 in May, the CWM team found 24 empty bottles and stoppers packed in a box. By the end of May, the excavated area was approximately 30' x 8' x 10'.

All removal activities take place inside the vapor containment structure (VCS), a 3,800 square-foot, tent-like structure designed to protect the community from any CWM that is uncovered and to filter the air during all removal activities.

For more information or to make an appointment to watch a live video of the removal activities taking place inside the VCS, call Mr. Hunt or Ms. Burks at (901) 743-7118. You can also visit the Community Information trailer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The CWM removal project continues to move us closer to our goal of restoration, reuse and revitalization of the Memphis Depot. □

BCT Presents Cleanup Alternatives

Now that the members of the BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) have finalized the Main Installation Remedial Investigation Report, they have turned their attention to cleanup alternatives.

A Proposed Plan for these alternatives will be prepared by the BCT and presented to the public for comment, as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

The Proposed Plan summarizes the cleanup alternatives presented in a Feasibility Study and specifies the BCT's preferred alternative. The plan also presents the BCT's reasoning for selecting the preferred alternative based on specific evaluation criteria.

It is important to note that the Proposed Plan is not the final decision document. The preferred alternative can be changed or modified based on feedback from the public comment period. The BCT encourages the public to comment on all the cleanup alternatives, as well as the preferred alternative.

Each cleanup alternative is evaluated using the following criteria that are based on CERCLA requirements and guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency:

- Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment
- Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
- Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence
- Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, and Volume Through Treatment
- Short-Term Effectiveness
- Implementability
- Cost
- State Acceptance
- Community Acceptance

The Main Installation Remedial Investigation Report is currently available for public review in the four Information Repositories (see back page for locations and hours). The Feasibility Studies for soil and groundwater and the Main Installation Proposed Plan will be available for public review in the four Information Repositories by August 1, 2000.

OLD PAINT SHOP AND MAINTENANCE AREA CLEANED



Soil was removed and disposed of as part of the completed cleanup project at the old paint shop and maintenance areas of the Main Installation.

During May and June, cleanup was completed on Parcels 35 and 28, also known as the old paint shop and maintenance areas of the Main Installation in the southwest corner of the Depot.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractor, Sverdrup Environmental Engineers, cleaned up the structures and surrounding soil to ensure these areas were safe for current and future industrial or commercial workers. The project included cleaning the interior of six buildings, removal and disposal of approximately 1,000 cubic yards of soil from around the buildings, removal of one underground storage tank, and demolition of one building and a concrete slab.

The project also included additional soil sampling along Perry Road outside the fence to see if the soil should be removed. The results of this additional sampling showed that the soil along Perry Road was safe and, therefore, was not removed. □

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RAB Member Profile:

James Webb Keeps Watch On Our Water

James Webb has been a valued member the Memphis Depot Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) since it was first formed

As Manager of the Water Quality Assurance Laboratory at Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW) for over 34 years, Mr Webb knows all about Memphis' drinking water. Recently, he finished work on MLGW's Water Quality Report that was distributed to every MLGW customer.

Mr Webb keeps a watchful eye on the local drinking water, which comes from deep groundwater aquifers throughout the Memphis area. Mr. Webb and his team in the Water Quality Assurance Laboratory at MLGW analyze samples of water from these wells, looking for traces

of any substances that might pose a potential concern. "To date, we have not found any contaminants from the Depot," said Mr Webb.

While Memphis water is safe to drink and not affected by substances found in the shallow aquifer, Mr. Webb wants to ensure it stays that way. "I would like for the Depot area community to make sure that the shallow groundwater is cleaned up before the environmental cleanup program completely ends at the Memphis Depot," said Mr Webb.

He is confident that MLGW can safely and effectively remove small amounts of substances that may enter the drinking water wells, so customers will continue to receive the same high quality of water they



RAB member James Webb

have come to expect from MLGW.

A proud father of two grown children, Mr Webb looks forward to retiring sometime within the next year and enjoying time with his wife. □



Proposed Plan for The Memphis Depot Main Installation

Public Comment Period
Aug. 1 to Aug. 31, 2000

Public Comment Meeting
Aug. 17, 2000 - 6:00 p.m.
Watch for ads in your local paper, or call for more information:

(901)544-0613

Main Installation Passes Safety Standards for Industrial Use

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These locations are being evaluated for possible future cleanup. Homes could be built on all other areas of this functional unit, although current land-use zoning is for light industrial only.

Functional Unit 5-Newer Warehouses

It is safe for current and future industrial and commercial workers to work in this area. Because of PAH levels at locations near the railroad tracks and roadways, homes cannot be built on this part of the Depot.

Functional Unit 6-Administrative and Residential Area

It is safe for current and future industrial and commercial workers to work in this area. It is safe for people to live in the housing area of this functional unit. Because of PAH levels, homes cannot be built on the parking lots, railroad tracks and maintenance shop area of this functional unit.

Functional Unit 7-Groundwater under the Main Installation

Groundwater samples from the shallow fluvial aquifer under the Main Installation found chlorinated solvents like those used for dry

cleaning or degreasing machine parts. This groundwater is not used for drinking water and is not affecting the city's drinking water system.

The Fate and Transport section of the RI report concluded that any substances moving off the Depot property in surface water, sediments and soil were within acceptable standards for human health. □

What are PAHs?

Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are compounds common to most urban areas. They are formed during the burning of substances such as coal, oil and gas, diesel fuel, garbage or other waste products. PAHs are also present in tobacco smoke and grilled meat. Some PAHs are also used in the production of medicines, plastics and dyes. PAHs can enter the environment through automobile or airplane exhaust, asphalt paving, crude oil, creosote, and roofing tar.

There are several ways that PAHs might have entered the Depot soils. Vehicle exhaust from the major roadways next to the Depot and exhaust from airplanes flying low

over the Depot would deposit PAHs onto the Depot. In the paved areas, it's likely that the PAHs came from the asphalt paving. Another likely source of PAHs in Depot soils are the railroad tracks between the warehouses. These tracks include railroad ties treated with creosote, a source of PAHs, and waste oil may have dripped from the trains traveling on the tracks. It is likely that the PAHs in gravel areas resulted from the use of waste oil to control dust and weeds. □

For more information on PAHs and health effects, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Visit ATSDR's website at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs.html or call toll free at 1-888-422-8737.

BCT Presents Cleanup Alternatives

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The public comment period for the Main Installation Proposed Plan is scheduled for August 1, 2000 through August 31, 2000. The BCT will present the Proposed Plan and preferred alternative at a public meeting on August 17, 2000, beginning at 6 p.m., which will be held in place of the regular RAB meeting.

The public can provide comments on the Main Installation Remedial Investigation Report, the Feasibility Studies and the Proposed Plan in the following ways:

- Verbal or written comments at the August 17 public meeting;
- Verbal comments on the Environmental Information Line. 544-0618,
- Written comments to Mr. Shawn Phillips, Memphis Depot Caretaker Division, 2163 Airways Blvd., Bldg. 144, Memphis, TN 38114-5210. □

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

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION.....

The Information Repositories are at the following locations:

The Depot, 2163 Airways Blvd., Bldg. 144,
Memphis, TN (901) 544-0613
The Community Outreach Room is located in Building
144 Please call ahead for an appointment to ensure
that 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

Hillview Village Neighborhood
Network Systems, 2119 Alcy Rd.,
Memphis, TN 38114 (901) 743-0500
The office is open Monday to Friday from
8 00 a m to 5 00 p m

HOW TO REACH US....

If you have any questions or comments about the Depot's environmental cleanup program,
please feel free to contact any one of the following:

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

Turpin Ballard
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Jackie Noble
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(717) 770-6223

Visit the Depot's website at www.ddc.dla.mil/memphis



EnviroNews is published by the Memphis Depot to
update the public on the environmental cleanup
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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