



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 456

EnviroNews

March/April 2000

GET INVOLVED! GET THE FACTS!

CWM Removal to Begin at Dunn Field

After several years of investigation and planning, the chemical warfare materiel will be removed from the ground at Dunn Field starting in April. Preparations are underway for the removal action that should be completed in July.

By the end of March, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their contractors should have completed training specialized personnel and preparing the site to include setting up the state-of-the-art Vapor Containment Structure (VCS) and the monitoring equipment to ensure a safe, effective removal. The VCS is an airtight, tent-like structure that has been used successfully at removal sites across the U.S. and is designed to provide the highest possible level of protection for workers and the community. The VCS is equipped with an air filtration system, as well as video cameras and monitoring equipment to maintain safety throughout the project.

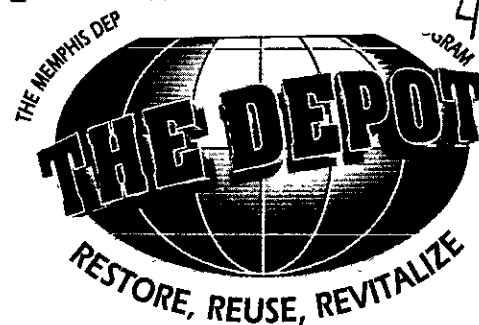
More information on safety procedures for the CWM removal action can be found in the Site Safety Submission at the Depot's four Information Repositories.

Prior to the start of the removal action, the Depot will host a Community Information Session on March 18, 2000 at Corry Middle School, 2230 Corry Road, to share information with the community. The CWM team will also provide regular updates on the CWM project at monthly Restoration Advisory Board meetings and weekly briefings. These briefings are scheduled to begin in early April and continue through to the end of the project. The times and locations of these meetings will be announced as soon as possible.

Upcoming CWM Information Meetings

RAB Meeting	March 16, 2000	6 pm	The Depot
Community Information Session	March 18, 2000	10 am to 4 pm	Corry Middle School
RAB Meeting	April 20, 2000	6 pm	The Depot

For more information about the CWM removal activities, please call the Memphis Depot's Community Relations Office at (901) 544-0613. □



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

The Memphis Depot will host a Community Information Session on Saturday, March 18, 2000, at Corry Middle School from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The purpose of the session is to update the community about the chemical warfare materiel (CWM) removal project scheduled to begin in April at Dunn Field.



Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis Emergency Management Agency, and the Product Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel will be available to answer your questions about their role in this phase of our environmental cleanup.

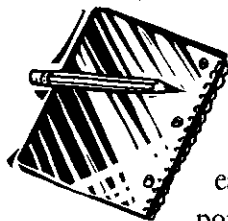
Plan to attend on March 18. For more information, contact the Memphis Depot Community Relations Office at (901) 544-0613. □



The Memphis Depot Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) attended a partnering session on December 16, 1999. Inetta Rogers of Time Warner Communications (pictured here) presented information about procedures for running effective public meetings. Janus Fullilove, WDIA talk show host and University of Memphis communications instructor, spoke about effectively communicating to achieve respect.

Risk Assessment Overview *HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S SAFE?*

An important part of the cleanup program at the Memphis Depot involves determining the full extent of environmental conditions in order to evaluate the potential for increased risks to human health. This is called the risk assessment process.



samples show higher concentrations than are normal for the area, the risk assessment continues.

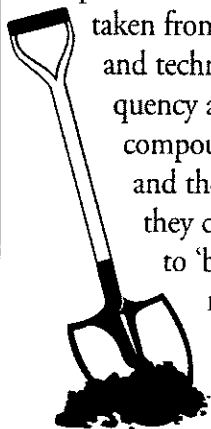
After compiling a list of possible hazards, the BCT carefully examines the data from each location to determine its potential to affect human health.

The Depot recently completed a risk assessment as part of the Remedial Investigation for the Main Installation. This article describes the risk assessment process that was followed, based on guidelines developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Performing a reliable risk assessment is a complex process that involves four key areas of investigation:

- ⇒ Hazard Identification
- ⇒ Toxicity Assessment
- ⇒ Exposure Assessment
- ⇒ Risk Characterization

First, the Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team (BCT), which includes representatives from the Depot, the EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), identifies any potential hazards found in samples taken from the site. Scientists and technicians record the frequency and locations of the compounds in both the soil and the groundwater. Then, they compare these findings to 'background levels' that may be present in the natural or local urban environment. If the



A toxicity assessment compares the types and levels of compounds identified at the site to accepted scientific standards. These standards are used to measure the potential impact of compounds on human health. An exposure assessment identifies who might come into contact with the material, including how they might come into contact, the quantities they might contact, exposure pathways and the duration of exposure. Exposure pathways are the routes by which people may come into contact with the materials, including ingestion (eating or drinking affected soil, water or fish), inhalation, or contact with the skin.

The exposure assessment also takes into account the following land-use scenarios and arrives at a calculation for each group:

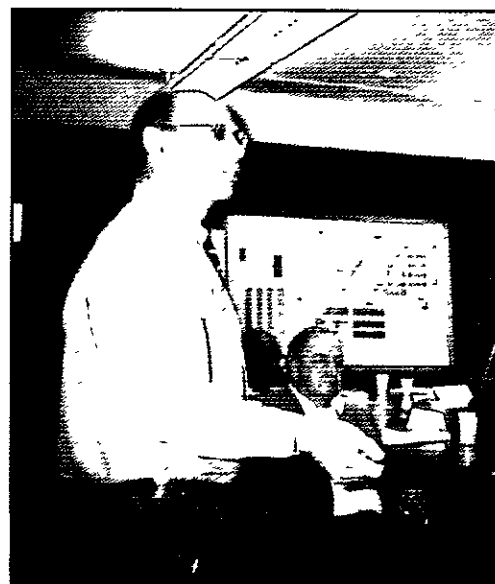
- ⇒ Residential (child and adult residents)
- ⇒ Industrial/Commercial (adult workers)
- ⇒ Youth Trespasser (age 7 to 16)
- ⇒ Recreational (site-specific activities)

Finally, the risk characterization step combines the information obtained from the exposure and toxicity assessments to make a statement about the potential for increased risk

and the conditions under which the risk may occur. It is the risk characterization that is used to answer the question: "Is there an unacceptable risk?" It also defines the nature of risk in enough detail that risk management options can be considered.

For a health risk to be present, two things must occur: first, a hazard must exist and be above acceptable levels; and second, exposure must take place. While different degrees of exposure affect the levels of potential risk, there is no risk if there is no exposure. This means the presence of a potential hazard in the environment is not considered to be a risk if people are not being exposed to it.

Once the risks have been characterized, the BCT determines the acceptable cleanup levels for a site. These levels are based on strict standards to protect human health and the environment, to ensure it is restored to safe levels for the intended future use. □



EPA toxicologist Dr. Ted Simon gave RAB members a detailed overview of the Risk Assessment process at a special training session on January 19 at the Depot.

First FOST Finalized

Depot marks an important milestone in the cleanup process

A 238-acre parcel of land at the Memphis Depot will soon be transferred to the Depot Redevelopment Corporation (DRC) - a significant step forward in the environmental cleanup program designed to restore and revitalize the Depot for community reuse.

While one million square feet of property at the Depot is currently being leased to local businesses and community groups, this is the first parcel of property that has been determined by the BRAC Cleanup Team to be environmentally suitable for transfer.

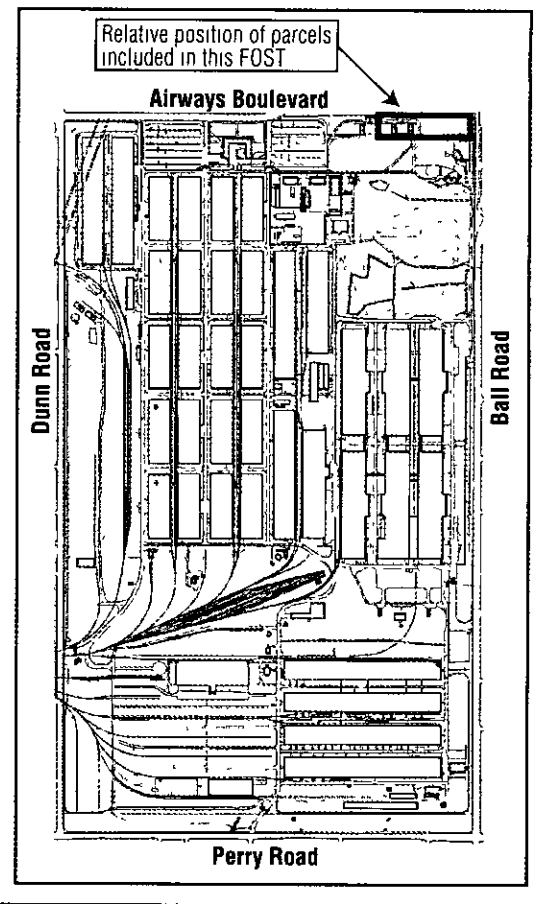
A Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST), required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), was completed at the end of last year for the family housing area on the Main Installation.

A FOST document outlines the environmental conditions of the parcel and documents the reasons why it is environmentally suitable for transfer.

The FOST was reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and was submitted for a public review and comment period from December 8, 1999, until January 17, 2000. The Memphis Depot anticipates the Army Materiel Command will have approved and signed this FOST in February.

Jim Covington, executive director of the DRC, told the Restoration Advisory Board in January that 600 new jobs have already been created by local businesses and community groups that have leased facilities at the Depot. The FOST process will now allow these and future tenants the opportunity to own former Depot property and build more permanent facilities on site.

Additional FOST documents for property on the Main Installation will be completed throughout the next two years. □



Remedial Investigation Completed for the Main Installation

State and federal regulators have approved the Remedial Investigation (RI) for the Memphis Depot's Main Installation and have started discussing the Feasibility Study of possible cleanup alternatives.

order to complete the remedial investigation phase of the Depot's cleanup project. The Main Installation RI Report provides the level of data necessary to make appropriate cleanup decisions."

investigation, laboratory analysis, data validation, data analysis, and the risk assessment - was assessed and reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and TDEC.

The RI, a technical study of the Main Installation, marks the halfway point of the six-step remedial investigation and cleanup process regulated by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). A similar study is also being done for Dunn Field and should be completed this spring.

"From the beginning, the investigation process focused on areas of potential concern as they related to past spills, maintenance, and other activities that might represent environmental problems," said Jordan English of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). "As data became available, areas that needed additional investigation became apparent. More data was gathered in

The overall conclusions from the Main Installation RI are summarized as follows.

- **Depot operations have not significantly affected the environment on the Main Installation of the Depot - surface soil, subsurface soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater;**
- **A few locations were identified that have environmental impacts from past Depot operations. These areas have been or will be restored as part of the Depot's environmental cleanup program.**
- **The off-site residents are not being exposed to these areas.**

The RI provides an in-depth analysis of the environmental conditions at specific areas of the Main Installation where past operations may have impacted the environment. The RI also analyzes the potential for these conditions to present unacceptable risks to humans, plants, and animals. Each stage of the investigation - field

"The RI marks a major step in determining where the contamination is at the Memphis Depot, and where it isn't," said the EPA's Turpin Ballard. "It also tells us where further cleanup is required, and where restricting certain activities in the future will be sufficient to ensure there are no unacceptable risks to the public."

The BRAC Cleanup Team is using the information contained in the RI to develop possible cleanup alternatives that will be detailed in the Feasibility Study for the Main Installation. The Feasibility Study, the fourth step in the CERCLA process, should be available in the Depot's four Information Repositories in July. □

We're On The Web!



You can find information about the Memphis Depot Caretaker Division's environmental cleanup program at:

www.ddc.dla.mil/memphis

Your feedback is important. Please tell us what information you would like to access through this website.

We will continue to add information on a regular basis.

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The Memphis Depot
Bldg. 144, Suite 137
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CWM
COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION
March 18, 2000
DETAILS INSIDE!

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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,
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.

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 cleanup program,
please feel free to contact any one of the following:

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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.

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



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