



# THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

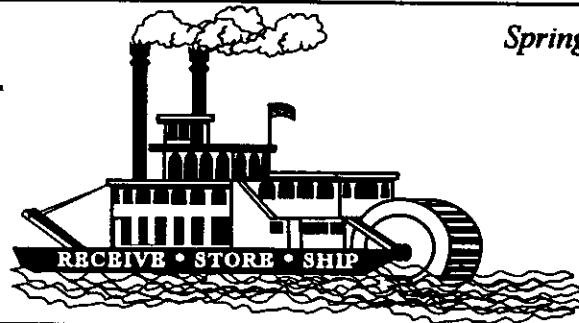
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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

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# ***The Restoration Newsletter Defense Depot Memphis, Tennessee***

Vol. 1 No. 2



Spring 1995

## **HELLO**

We hope that you will take the time to read this newsletter. It is distributed by the Defense Distribution Depot Memphis to inform the public of the ongoing restoration efforts that are underway at the Depot.

This newsletter will inform the community of the past activities as well as the future plans for restoration at the facility.

## **THE CLEANUP PROCESS**

In 1980, Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) which provided the mandate to cleanup abandoned or former hazardous waste sites. Congress made the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the lead agency in implementing CERCLA. Facilities which pose a potential risk to the health of people or the environment may be placed on the National Priorities List and regulated under CERCLA.

To understand the CERCLA process, it is necessary to understand the cleanup program. Under this program, EPA takes long-term actions to stop or greatly reduce releases of hazardous substances that are serious but not immediately life threatening. Interim cleanup actions are emergency actions necessary to stop release of hazardous substances that pose an immediate threat to human health and the environment.

The cleanup process begins with a preliminary assessment/site investigation. This is conducted to determine whether the facility poses a significant enough hazard to warrant further study and investigation. The facility is then ranked using the Hazardous Ranking System, a numerical scoring system used to identify the facility's potential hazard to the environment and public health. The facility's score determines their placement on the National Priorities List. When a facility is added to the National Priorities List, a remedial investigation is conducted to assess the extent and nature of the contamination and the potential risks. The Depot has been added to the National Priorities List and is currently in the process of completing a remedial investigation. A Feasibility Study is then prepared to evaluate various cleanup alternatives. Following a public comment period on the preferred alternative and the draft Feasibility Study, the facility, with concurrence from the EPA and the state, chooses a specific cleanup plan and outlines its selection in a Record of Decision.

Once the Remedial Design is completed, the cleanup work, or remedial action, will begin.

## **INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION**

The purpose of this Interim Remedial Action at the Depot is to insure protection of the Memphis drinking water supply. The Interim Remedial Action will prevent further movement of groundwater contamination in the shallow layer

of water beneath the ground's surface known as the Fluvial Aquifer.

Past burial activities at Dunn Field appear to have contributed to the contamination. The burials took place primarily from the 1950s through the 1970s when burying waste was common practice. Items buried included products that had reached expiration such as medical items, food, hazardous materials, and construction debris.

The Interim Remedial Action will be conducted in phases because of the uncertainty surrounding the distance the groundwater contamination plume has migrated from the Depot. Initially, one well will be installed to determine how to space and how much to pump the future wells. Additional wells will be installed and sampled to determine how far the plume has migrated.

The Interim Remedial Action at the Depot will consist of a series of small wells located along the leading edge of the contaminated plume. Some of these wells could be located off Depot property. Groundwater will be pumped from the recovery wells, preventing any further movement of the plume in the Fluvial Aquifer. The groundwater pumped from the wells will be filtered if necessary to remove contaminants to an approved level acceptable for disposal into the city of Memphis sanitary sewer system.

The Interim Remedial Action will create a barrier to contain the contaminated groundwater so that it can not migrate farther from the Depot until a permanent solution is reached.

## FEDERAL FACILITIES AGREEMENT

The Federal Facilities Agreement has been signed. This agreement is between the Environmental Protection Agency, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and The Depot. The Federal Facilities Agreement is designed to assure that the Depot conducts the work necessary to ensure that the

environmental impacts associated with past and present activities are thoroughly investigated. The agreement is designed to identify the appropriate response actions necessary to protect public health, welfare, and the environment of the local community.

This agreement will assure the local community that the Depot is expediting the cleanup/restoration process. The Depot, in accordance with the Federal Facilities Agreement, will continue to solicit community comments and interaction on each of the proposed restoration activities.

## BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE UPDATE

On February 28, 1995, the Department of Defense sent its list of military installations recommended for potential closure or realignment to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Committee. The Defense Distribution Depot Memphis (DDMT) is on the proposed closure list.

The BRAC process has several milestone dates. Since the announcement in February, DDMT has been visited by a BRAC Commissioner and the local community had an opportunity to make its case before the Commission. Other significant dates in the process are May 17, 1995, when the Commission publishes any proposed changes to Defense Secretary's recommendations; July 1, 1995, the Commission transmits recommendations to the President; July 15, 1995, the President approves or disapproves the Commission report. If approved, the President sends it to the Congress. August 15, 1995, is the deadline for the Commission to submit a new report to the President should he disapprove the original; September 1, 1995, is the deadline for the President to approve the revised Commission report. If he disapproves the revised report there will be no base closures in 1995. It should be noted that the President has never disapproved the report.

The deadline for Congressional disapproval of the Commission's final report is 45 days after July 15, 1995, but not later than the end of the first session of the 104th Congress.

The potential closure of DDMT will not significantly alter the environmental cleanup process at the installation, although it could possibly speed up the process.

## THE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meets monthly to act as an advisory board during the environmental assessment process.

The group has reviewed technical data and work plans for proposed environmental activities at the Depot to ensure public involvement in this process.

The RAB is made up of the following members:

### Technical Representatives

Martha Berry	Environmental Protection Agency
Jordan English	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Carter Gray	Memphis/Shelby County Health Department
Janet Hooks	Memphis City Council
Christine Kartman	Defense Depot
Dr. Cleo Kirk	Shelby County Commission
Cheryl Sessions	Memphis City Mayor's Office
Larry Smith	Mid-South Peace and Justice Center
Barbara Sonnenburg	Memphis City Council
James Webb	Memphis Light, Gas and Water Company

Edward Williams, III      Shelby County's  
Mayor's Office  
Citizen Representatives

Karen Blanks McGlown	Eugene Brayon
John Garrison	James Goines
Barbara Johnson	Johnnie Mae Peters
Veronica Smith	Ulysses Truitt
Willie Mae Willett	Mondell Williams

There have been some changes in the board members. These were made because of changes in the local government officials and also replacements were made for members who were unable to attend these meetings. The next RAB meeting is scheduled for May 18th at 6:00 PM in the Commander's Conference Room at the Depot and will meet on the third Thursday of each month. RAB meetings are open to the public.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information call the Depot's Environmental hotline at (901) 775-4569.

To review copies of documents related to the restoration at the Depot, information has been placed in the following repositories for public review.

Memphis/Shelby County Library  
Main Branch, Gov't and Law Section  
1850 Peabody  
Memphis TN 38104-4025

Cherokee Branch Public Library  
3300 Sharp Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38111-3758

Memphis/Shelby County Health Dept.  
Pollution Control Division  
814 Jefferson Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38106

**THE NEXT RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
WILL BE HELD:  
MAY 18, 1995**

***FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE***

***901-775-4569***

**The Restoration Newsletter**  
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Defense Distribution Depot Memphis-DE  
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Memphis, TN 38114-5210

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