



# THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 554

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD  
REGARDING EE/CA PARCELS 35 & 28, MAIN INSTALLATION**

**May 20, 1999**

**The Memphis Depot  
"J" Street Cafe, Building 274**

**The public comment period regarding EE/CA Parcels 35 & 28, Main Installation following the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting was held at 7:50 p.m. on May 20, 1999 at the Memphis Depot, Memphis, Tennessee in the "J" Street Cafe, Building 274, 2163 Airways Boulevard. The attendance list is attached.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

1  
2 MS MOORE: I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Howard Robertson, the  
3 CEO and owner of Trust Marketing, downtown Memphis Howard has a  
4 background in communications, public relations and marketing. He has a  
5 firm of several people -- they did the tour book for Tennessee He has  
6 several clients in the Memphis area, not only in advertising, but in public  
7 relations and annual reports.

8  
9 His wife is his partner, Beverly Robertson, who is the president, no the  
10 executive director of the Civil Rights Museum They both have  
11 extensive backgrounds in meeting facilitation and public relations  
12 So at this time I would like to present Howard Robertson to you, and he  
13 will give the order of the Public Comment Period

14 MR. ROBERTSON. Thank you very much. I don't know if I'm wired so I know this one is on  
15 Good evening, everyone. My name is Howard Robertson As she said,  
16 I'm with Trust Marketing, and this is the Public Comment Period for  
17 EE/CA Parcels 35 & 28 which is the old paint shop and the maintenance  
18 area.

19  
20 And there are a couple of things that we'd like to cover before we start  
21 your comments The Public Comment Period is for the collection of

1 comments on this particular removal action If you require any further  
 2 clarification on the presentation, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),  
 3 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), and the  
 4 Depot and its contractors will be available after this particular period to  
 5 talk to you about those points of clarification

6  
 7 You can review the document which is available at four Information  
 8 Repositories Those are the Cherokee Library, the Main Library,  
 9 Memphis/Shelby County Health Department or call 544-0613 for a time to  
 10 visit the RAB at the Depot

11  
 12 There are three ways to comment during a 30-day calendar period, and that  
 13 period ends on Wednesday, June 16th One, you can voice your  
 14 comment tonight Two, you can write your comment in a letter form to  
 15 Mr Shawn Phillips, who's a Memphis Depot Caretaker at 2163 Airways  
 16 Boulevard, Building 144, Memphis, Tennessee 38114-5210, or you can  
 17 voice your comment on the Depot's Environmental Information Line, and  
 18 that number is 544-0618 Responses to comments received during the 30-  
 19 day calendar period about this particular removal action will be provided in  
 20 a Responsiveness Summary that will be available at the four Information  
 21 Repositories.

22  
 23 Now, with that said, we'd like to invite you to come to this particular mike  
 24 where I'm standing and make any comments that you would like  
 25 I would ask you to make comments and not ask questions which you  
 26 would need addressed right now. The questions for right now, essentially,  
 27 will have to be addressed much later -- at a later point and cannot be  
 28 answered now So they'll largely be rhetorical questions if you raise them;  
 29 but please deal specifically with these particular -- these particular parcels  
 30 which are the old paint shop and the maintenance areas And I would like  
 31 to open the mike up now for any comments that anyone might have, and  
 32 we ask that you stick to the point Welcome

33 MS PETERS

34 Thank you I'm Johnnie Mae Peters, and I'm concerned that we have so  
 many problems in this area Why -- if the Depot had stayed open and

1 people were still working here, would we still have the same complaints  
 2 because they still would still have been blasting paint; they would have  
 3 still been doing all the work that they did here? Would we have complaints  
 4 had they left it open and people were still working here? That's the  
 5 answers that I want. Wasn't anything happening here? When the people  
 6 were working here, nobody was complaining then. What is the problem  
 7 now being we have so many problems? Is it because they're going to reuse  
 8 this land and need to do some work to bring it up to standards for other  
 9 companies to come in and use it? But it was all right for citizens to work  
 10 here, thousands of them for the last -- ever since in the 40s? Because my  
 11 husband worked here 32 years. My daughter worked here 26 years

12  
 13 And I want to know why nobody was complaining while they was working  
 14 here because, I believe, if you had complained, they would have sent you to  
 15 the doctor if you worked here because my daughter was tested because she  
 16 worked here 26 years. My husband was tested for certain things because  
 17 he worked here 32 years. So if it had stayed open and everybody would  
 18 have been working now, what would be happening now?

19 MR. ROBERTSON: Thank you very much

20 MS. PETERS: Answer that one.

21 MR. ROBERTSON: Any other comments?

22 MR. CLAY: My question is: Why isn't this information that CH2M Hill just had and the  
 23 data that Ms. Bradshaw was concerned about available on the Defense  
 24 Depot Web site? And is the Web site still up and running?

25 MR. ROBERTSON: Other comments? Ma'am?

26 MS. SMITH: I just want to make this comment for the record: I want to know what  
 27 illnesses can be developed from the chemicals found on certain parts of the  
 28 Depot, as Mr. Ballard stated? And if these illnesses are the same as  
 29 illnesses that are in the community -- surrounding community, could this be  
 30 the connection for ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease  
 31 Registry) to -- is that right? -- ATSDR to -- to verify? And I would like  
 32 that information

33 MR. ROBERTSON: As I said, all of these comments are being transcribed and documented,

1 and you will receive an answer back on the questions included in the  
2 comments that you have

3 Are there any more comments? Any other comments? Ms Bradshaw?

4 MS. BRADSHAW: Yeah I had jotted down some notes. My name is Doris Bradshaw. My  
5 concern is for the employees that worked on this site and especially the site  
6 that is known to be highly contaminated. I think that DLA  
7 (Defense Logistics Agency) owe these employees to go back and look  
8 into their records and see what happened to those people that were  
9 surrounding these type of chemicals and find out what happened to them  
10 and how they're living now especially the sites that they've known that was  
11 very hot spots around here I feel like that also -- judging by the little areas  
12 where I seen dots for testing, I feel like that it wasn't enough, and I want to  
13 know, what did you test for? Because it seemed like that when -- the  
14 CH2M Hill there said well, we tested only for the chemicals that were  
15 stored or around that building. But it could be other things because from  
16 what I understand you said the Army -- when the Army was over here  
17 some of those records was destroyed

18  
19 And so that should automatically alert this facility to do broad spectrum  
20 testing and more than 12 inches because as sediments blow over the  
21 years -- as dust blow over the years, the sediments do go deeper. And I  
22 think that it should be required that you test more than 12 inches Maybe  
23 you should go 24 or even deeper to try to see if something else is going  
24 down into the groundwater especially some of these chemicals Some of  
25 these chemicals that was listed is known for a fact that they will go deeper.

26  
27 And I would like also for DLA to understand that you didn't give us a  
28 report You're asking us to comment on something that we have not read,  
29 and before we come to any of these meetings, we should be allowed the  
30 time to read documents before you say comment on them What the heck  
31 are we commenting on? Because this is not enough. This is just not  
32 enough to make an intelligent comment on if the cleanup is going to be safe  
33 or whatever And I think that this needs to be done again, and if this is the  
34 public comment time, you need to extend it again -- thirty days or whatever

1 days it is allowed by law. I don't know if this was publicized Was this  
2 publicized?

3  
4 Well, I'm asking for a 30-day extension on whatever extension that we  
5 have to comment because the document -- I haven't seen it, and I don't  
6 think any of the RAB members have seen it, and this is a shame. If we're  
7 going to sit on this RAB, we should be allowed the documents in our hand,  
8 not in the office We didn't even know the documents existed -- existed at  
9 all, and that's wrong

10  
11 And I would also like to know At Perry and Dunn, people live across the  
12 street, and some of those people are suffering some horrible type of  
13 diseases now This site was just a stone-throw away from these people I  
14 would like to see health studies done on these people You know that it  
15 happened You know what you did over here, and I would like to see  
16 some type of health study, intervention, investigation done on the people  
17 along in that area This is what I have complained about over and over  
18 again The closer you live to the Depot, the sicker the people are The  
19 further away you go, it lightens. It gets a little lighter So it depends on  
20 where you are located in the area.

21  
22 I think that's all the questions that I had, and I feel like that DLA is just  
23 using us, the RAB, to say that we approve -- we approved of everything  
24 that they were doing so that they could say, Well, the public did comment  
25 on it. So they can continue to do things that they're doing to the  
26 community with this -- I think it's a bogus cleanup because we don't know  
27 if it's clean We don't know if you have went back to retest You haven't  
28 come to us with this kind of information, what type -- did you test to see  
29 how clean it was on the things that you have done? I would like to see that  
30 done because you're still not believable because with a person -- with DLA  
31 being the lead agency and telling people that -- have to tell other agencies  
32 what to do These agencies have to go through DLA in order to get  
33 approval for some of the things that they say. It's still not going to be  
34 believable. Even the comments that the community made to ATSDR, first,

1 it was discussed with Denise Cooper; and so we have no way of knowing if  
 2 our answers are straight or not because as long as you are the lead agency  
 3 And I think that we need an independent agency to come in as far as to be  
 4 the lead person over any cleanup on federal facilities, and that's throughout  
 5 the United States. This is the same problem all over the United States.  
 6 You pollute and then you leave, and you think you got away; but you got  
 7 to go to bed at night You got children, and I think that God will take care  
 8 of you

9 MR. ROBERTSON Other concerns or comments? I would like to reiterate that this initial  
 10 period ends on Wednesday, June 16th; and as we said earlier, there are  
 11 three ways that you can voice your comment. You can voice your  
 12 comment tonight You can write the comment in letter form, or you can  
 13 voice your comment on the Depot's Environmental Information Line at  
 14 544-0618.

15 Any other questions or -- excuse me; any other comments or concerns?  
 16 Yes, sir

17 MR. TYLER: Stanley Tyler, RAB member My only concern is the "proposed action  
 18 meets objectives." I have a problem with it when you want "removal  
 19 volumes minimized by removing only soil above criteria, leaving cleaned  
 20 structure in place." Who or what's going to decide what is clean and what  
 21 is not clean and what is acceptable? And I hate this term "removal  
 22 expedites transfers of BRAC parcels." What does that mean "expedite"?  
 23 Are we going to expedite a quick, fast cleanup, or are we going to do a  
 24 thorough, safe cleanup that's going to be monitored and checked, or are we  
 25 concerned about getting rid of this property as quick as we can and saving  
 26 money? That has yet to be defined. Which one comes first, cleaning the  
 27 property or saving money? And you can say it or you cannot say it, but the  
 28 way I read this "expedite" means get rid of this stuff quick as you can, save  
 29 money on the cleanup.

30 And number two "Removal does not require long-term operations and  
 31 maintenance " Suppose it requires long-term operation Who's going to  
 32 pay for that, and who's going to maintain it; and who's going to make that  
 33 decision that we've cleaned it up and this stuff just won't go away? So  
 34 we're stuck with it over the long-term and over the long haul Somebody

1 has to explain that or put that in writing so we can know that people's  
2 safety and lives come first over expedited transfer of these BRAC  
3 problems Thank you

4 MR ROBERTSON Thank you Other concerns or comments?

5 (Brief pause.)

6 MR ROBERTSON If there are no other concerns or comments --

7 MS BRADSHAW: I have one more thing to say The State of Tennessee passed a law last  
8 year called the Superfund Sign Act, and I have yet to see a sign stating that  
9 this area is poison This is an NPL (National Priorities List) Superfund  
10 site, and I can't understand why the law is not being enforced on this  
11 federal facility, and it is a state law And I hope that somebody can answer  
12 that question Why those poison signs are not in the culverts and around  
13 this place to warn folks that this is an NPL Superfund site and that this  
14 place is poison?

15 MR ROBERTSON Are there other comments or concerns?

16 (Brief pause )

17 MR ROBERTSON If there are no other comment or concerns, we'd like to conclude the public  
18 comment period. We thank you for your attendance. We appreciate your  
19 participation. Thank you very much and good night.

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21 **(Whereupon, at 8:10 p.m., the public comment period was adjourned.)**  
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**Attendance List**  
**Restoration Advisory Board Members**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Mr Shawn Phillips      | Facility Co-Chair  |
| Mr Mondell Williams    | Community Co-Chair   |
| Mr Dave Bond           | Citizen Representative   |
| Mr John Garrison       | Citizen Representative   |
| Ms Willie Mae Willett  | Citizen Representative   |
| Mr Kevin Clay          | Citizen Representative   |
| Mr Carter Gray         | Memphis/Shelby County Health Department                        |
| Mr Jordan English      | Tennessee Department of Environment and<br>Conservation (TDEC) |
| Ms. Johnnie Mae Peters | Citizen Representative   |
| Mr Eugene Brayon       | Citizen Representative   |
| Mr. Ulysses Truitt     | Citizen Representative   |
| Mr James Webb          | Memphis Light, Gas & Water (MLG&W)                             |
| Ms Terri Gray          | Citizen Representative   |
| Ms Doris Bradshaw      | Environmental Representative                                   |
| Mr Stanley Tyler       | Citizen Representative   |

**Others in Attendance**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Mr. Randy Underwood      | CH2M Hill                               |
| Ms. Dorothy Richards     | U S Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville |
| Mr Kurt Braun            | U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile     |
| Mr Otis Bivins           | Citizen                                 |
| Mr Bob Mangum            | Roy F Weston, Inc                       |
| Mr. Randy Gentry         | Groundwater Institute                   |
|                          | University of Memphis                   |
| Ms Alma Black Moore      | Frontline                               |
| Ms Jennifer Hall         | Frontline                               |
| Ms Andrea Morrow Johnson | Frontline                               |
| Ms. Denise Cooper        | Memphis Depot Caretaker                 |

**Others in Attendance (cont'd)**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Mr Benjamin Moore    | Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease<br>Registry (ATSDR) |
| Ms Janice Smith      | Citizen   |
| Ms. Margaret Curry   | Citizen   |
| Mr Byron Hawes       | Citizen   |
| Mr. Kenneth Bradshaw | Citizen   |

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