

# Finding the Answers

The Memphis Depot environmental team and the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members are often asked questions on topics that are not related to the cleanup program. To help direct you to the person or agency best able to answer these questions, we have prepared this handy reference that lists different topics of concern along with a telephone number and contact name where available.

## FORMER WORKERS' HEALTH:

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health . . . . . (800) 356-4674  
Tennessee Department of Labor  
– Workers' Compensation  
. . . . . (800) 332-2667

## PUBLIC HEALTH:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)  
Benjamin Moore . . . . . (404) 562-1784,  
or toll free . . . . . (888) 422-8731

## FACILITY REUSE:

Depot Redevelopment Corporation (DRC)  
Jim Covington . . . . . (901) 942-4939

## ZONING:

Memphis/Shelby County Division of  
Planning and Development  
. . . . . (901) 576-7143

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Tennessee Department of Employment  
Security - Job Services (Poplar Office)  
. . . . . (901) 543-7535

## PUBLIC DRINKING WATER:

Memphis Light, Gas, and Water  
James Webb . . . . . (901) 320-3901

## REGIONAL GROUNDWATER ISSUES:

U.S. Geologic Survey - Water Resource Div.  
Randy Thomas . . . . . (901) 544-0252

University of Memphis  
Groundwater Institute  
Randy Gentry . . . . . (901) 678-3062

Groundwater Quality Control Board  
Carter Gray . . . . . (901) 544-7775

Tennessee Department of Environment  
and Conservation (TDEC)  
Jordan English . . . . . (901) 368-7953

## COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS: (Other than Depot cleanup issues)

Tennessee Department of Environment  
and Conservation (TDEC)  
Jordan English . . . . . (901) 368-7953

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Tiki Whitfield . . . . . (404) 562-8530

Memphis/Shelby County- Health Dept.  
Carter Gray . . . . . (901) 544-7775

## DEPOT GROUNDSKEEPING AND OTHER DEPOT INFORMATION:

Memphis Depot Caretaker  
Lisa Word . . . . . (901) 544-0616

We encourage you to contact the Memphis Depot Community Relations Office at (901) 544-0613 if you have any questions regarding the cleanup program or our community relations activities. □



# Our Legal Environment



The cleanup program at the Memphis Depot is a highly regulated process that must comply with many different laws and regulations. In most cases, federal laws are enforced under similar state or local laws. While federal laws are the highest authority, the Depot also complies with all state, local and military laws that can, in fact, require a higher standard than some federal laws.

Below is an overview of some of the laws and how they apply to the Depot cleanup program. In future issues of EnviroNews, we will provide more details on these laws, the complex regulatory environment and the procedures that must be followed by the environmental team, the Depot's progress in meeting these legal requirements, and the role you can play in the process as an interested member of the community.

## Environmental Protection Agency Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA):

The RCRA is a federal law enacted in 1976 to provide regulations for generating, storing, treating and disposing of solid waste and hazardous waste. In January 1990, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a RCRA Facility Assessment at the Depot that identified areas of concern the Depot should address.

## The Installation Restoration Program (IRP):

In 1981, as a result of the enactment of RCRA, the Department of Defense initiated the Installation Restoration Process (IRP), a military initiative that regulates the evaluation and cleanup of federal facilities such as the Memphis Depot.

## National Priorities List (NPL):

The NPL is a federal regulatory program that identifies sites that require special consideration for cleanup. The federal regulations that define which sites should be on NPL are part of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan, which prevents and controls spills into surface water and other parts of the environment, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (see below for more information on CERCLA). On October 14, 1992, the EPA placed the Memphis Depot on the NPL based on a numeric ranking called the Hazard Ranking System that determines the level of potential risk of a site to human health or the environment.

## Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA):

In 1980, CERCLA was passed by Congress to investigate and clean up sites representing a certain level of risk to human health or the environment, including sites on the NPL. In 1986, Congress passed the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) defining how federal facilities were to comply with CERCLA. When the Depot was placed on the National Priorities List, the Depot's IRP was restructured to comply with CERCLA and SARA.

CERCLA sets out a seven-stage process for identifying and solving cleanup issues. Each stage must be followed, completed and approved by federal and state environmental regulators before the next stage can begin. The Memphis Depot environmental team is currently working on the fourth stage.

## Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC):

BRAC legislation was passed in 1980 and established new procedures for closing or realigning military installations such as the Memphis Depot. Because the slow pace of cleanup efforts under highly structured regulatory programs was seen as a hurdle in efforts to reuse the property, the President created the Fast-Track Cleanup initiative within BRAC legislation to speed up the cleanup process. However, BRAC legislation still requires facilities to follow a detailed, step-by-step process with federal and state approvals required at each step.

Other Acts and regulations that must be followed during the cleanup include:

- Federal Property and Administration Services Act
- Surplus Property Act
- Federal Property Management Regulations
- 1994 Defense Authorization Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Toxic Substances Control Act

