



Groundwater Investigation:

Memphis drinking water not affected by Depot operations

A comprehensive investigation of the water below the Memphis Depot's Main Installation (MI) and Dunn Field shows that the source of drinking water for the City of Memphis has not been affected by the environmental conditions at the former Depot.

There are now 96 monitoring wells located at the Depot and surrounding areas. Groundwater sampling has been conducted since 1996 as part of the ongoing environmental investigation and cleanup.

Steve Offner, Project Manager for the Depot's environmental contractor, CH2M Hill, told the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at the June 2001 meeting that the groundwater investigation has determined the flow direction of groundwater beneath the MI and Dunn Field, the underground geological conditions of these areas and the nature and extent of the environmental conditions.

In his presentation, Offner told the RAB that there are three areas with connections through the clay layers between the shallow aquifer and deeper groundwater aquifers. However, the clay layers also create areas of limited to no groundwater flow around these connections. This protects the deeper aquifers by limiting the amount of groundwater passing through the connections.

Samples for the MI taken from the shallow aquifer (about 80 to 100 feet beneath the ground surface) indicate that groundwater at 20 of the 28 monitoring wells on the MI do not meet health protective standards. This water is not used for drinking.

Samples for the MI taken from the intermediate aquifer (about 150 feet beneath the ground surface) indicate that the groundwater meets or surpasses safe drinking water standards.

Samples taken from the City's Allen Well Field drinking water wells closest to the Depot (about 500 feet beneath the ground surface) indicate no impact from environmental conditions at the Depot.

To assist with the design for the groundwater remedy at the MI, the Depot will install temporary monitoring wells near the connections and in areas where hazardous substances were used or handled. These wells will assist the Depot in determining locations to monitor as the remedy is being implemented and for long-term monitoring. The additional monitoring wells will also ensure that the deeper aquifers are protected from solvents in the shallow aquifer.

Samples for Dunn Field taken from the shallow aquifer indicate that groundwater in 27 of the 56 monitoring wells at Dunn Field meet health-protective standards, and that the drinking water aquifer under Dunn Field is not affected by the environmental conditions in the shallow aquifer.

These groundwater sample results have been reported in Groundwater Monitoring Reports, the MI Remedial Investigation (RI) and the MI Feasibility Study (FS), which are available in the Depot's Information Repositories. Cleanup remedies for the shallow aquifer beneath the MI

NEXT RAB MEETING

Due to the schedule for technical presentations, there will be no Restoration Advisory Board meetings in September or October of 2001.

The next RAB meeting is Thursday, Nov. 15, 2001 at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be held at April House (formerly the "J" Street Cafe) at 2222 Lloyd St. Enter at the Memphis Depot Parkway. For more information call (901) 544-0613.

include enhanced bioremediation (see the article on Page 2), deed restrictions, and additional monitoring wells. Long-term monitoring will ensure these remedies are effective at protecting human health and the environment.

The RI for Dunn Field will be completed later this fall and the FS will be completed early in 2002. The Proposed Plan for Dunn Field, which will identify preferred cleanup alternatives, will be completed in spring 2002 and released for public comment.

For more information on the groundwater investigation, please call the Depot's Community Relations Office at (901) 544-0613. □