

Pre-Design Investigation:

Scientists study former disposal sites at Dunn Field

This fall, environmental experts will begin a pre-design investigation at Dunn Field to determine the most effective cleanup methods for 16 former disposal sites.

The purpose of this in-depth investigation is to confirm the location and contents of the disposal sites on Dunn Field. These sites were identified in the Remedial Investigation (2002) based on information gathered from historical records and employee interviews.

“Our goal for this project is to confirm what materials are buried under the ground at these sites, the conditions of those materials, and the size and boundaries of each disposal location,” said John DeBack, the Depot’s Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator. “With that

information, we can continue with the Remedial Design phase of the program to finalize our plan for removal, treatment or other efforts that may be required.”

According to available records, disposal activities at Dunn Field date back to 1946. It is suspected that substances buried at these sites may be the source of solvents and other substances detected in the soil and groundwater under Dunn Field.

As with every phase of the fieldwork, the health and safety of the community and workers remain the top priorities. All work is

being conducted in accordance with the standards used by the Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Site workers will be using personal protective equipment and are trained to recognize and minimize any potential exposure to themselves and the environment.

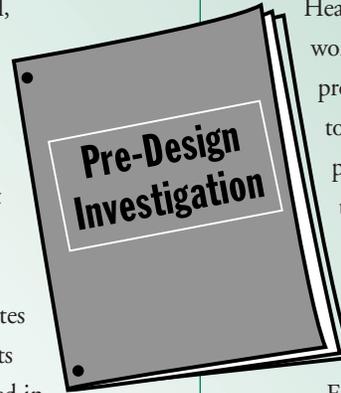
A work plan for the investigation has been reviewed and approved by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Throughout the study, contractors will follow the best environmental practices outlined in a site-specific Health and Safety Plan. Wetting dry areas and covering excavated soil will minimize dust. Fencing, already in place at Dunn Field, will restrict entrance to the site.

Once the study is completed, the BRAC Cleanup Team will use the results to refine the remedial design for the remediation of the Dunn Field disposal sites.

For background information, refer to the Dunn Field Feasibility Study (FS) and the Dunn Field Proposed Plan, available in the Depot’s three Information Repositories. These are located at the Memphis/Shelby County Health Department, the Cherokee Branch Library, and in the Community Outreach Room at the former Memphis Depot.

For general information on the Memphis Depot’s environmental cleanup program, please call the Community Relations Office at (901) 544-0613. □



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