

EnviroNews

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CWM UPDATE Soil Samples Confirm Location of 1946 Neutralization Pit

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractors have begun the final phase of the chemical warfare material (CWM) removal project at Dunn Field. At the end of November 2000, soil sampling and excavation began inside the Vapor Containment Structure (VCS) at the site known as the 1946 mustard neutralization pit.

In 1946, mustard agent was drained from 29 bomb casings and neutralized with a bleach solution then covered with soil. On November 29, 2000, soil samples were collected at Site #24B – which historical records and geophysical testing have identified as the 1946 mustard neutralization pit – and indicated low levels of mustard in the soil. These soil samples confirm the progress of the removal action and the accuracy of the historical records and field investigation.

All excavation and removal activities continue to take place inside the VCS. The VCS is designed to contain any material or vapors that are uncovered and to filter the air during the excavation, thus providing maximum protection for

the workers and the community. Since the CWM program began at Dunn Field in April 2000, there has been no release outside the VCS of mustard, its breakdown products or other chemical warfare agents at any of the excavation sites. Any recovered CWM will be transported according to the approved Site Safety Plan.

“The VCS at Dunn Field is constructed to contain any and all vapors that could potentially be released and remove them from the air through four filtering systems,” said Mr. Clyde Hunt, CWM On-site Coordinator for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. “After all, safety remains our number one priority, and the VCS provides an increased measure of safety and protection for our community, our workers and the environment.”

The CWM project is scheduled to continue through May 2001. Weekly CWM briefings are held each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Memphis Depot’s Community Outreach Room in Building 144 at the Memphis Depot Business Park to update the community

UPCOMING RAB MEETINGS

The RAB includes community members who review proposed plans and actions and provide input on the environmental cleanup activities.

The next RAB meetings are Jan. 18th & Feb. 15th, 2001

The January RAB meeting will be held at Hamilton Elementary School, 1378 Ethlyn St. The February meeting will be held in the “J” Street Cafe at the Memphis Depot Business Park. Both meetings will begin at 6 p.m. □

on the progress being made at Dunn Field. For more information on the CWM briefings, call our information line at (901) 544-0613 or access our website at www.ddc.dla.mil/memphis.

Safety First: Depot contractors win safety awards

The Memphis Depot Caretaker Division congratulates its cleanup project contractor, Sverdrup Civil, Inc., for winning the Celebrate Safety Award in recognition of the company’s commitment to a safe and healthy work site.

Sverdrup received the top award from the Tennessee Area Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for completing the cleanup project at the old paint shop and maintenance area of the Main Installation with no injuries. The Corps’ Tennessee Area Office also considered for the award eight other environmental and construction projects of comparable

size completed within the last quarter of fiscal year 2000.

Sverdrup and its subcontractors completed 25 working days and approximately 5,420 hours of work without an accident. Subcontractors on the project included Solutions to Environmental Problems, Inc. (STEP) who received the Small Business Administration’s Tennessee District Office Minority Small Business of the Year award in September 2000. □

Congratulations Sverdrup and STEP!



Soil was removed and disposed of as part of the completed cleanup project at the old paint shop and maintenance areas of the Main Installation.