



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment



NEWS

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Investigation of contaminated soil under way at Rocky Mountain Arsenal

COMMERCE CITY, COLO. — The Rocky Mountain Arsenal, in conjunction with regulatory agencies, is investigating the discovery of a small area of additional contaminated soil east of the Former Basin F, which once was used to dispose of hazardous wastes from the production of pesticides and chemical-warfare agents.

An area of odorous and stained soil with fragments of clay pipe was found while constructing the Basin F cover. Crews were prepared to handle this discovery. The area does not pose a risk to the public, was covered with six inches of clean soil and no offsite odors were detected. The U.S. Army, Shell Oil Co., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Tri-County Health Department and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment are investigating the nature and extent of the contamination, and are developing a path forward.

This discovery occurred shortly after completion of the last major work involving contaminated soil. Earlier this year crews finished moving odorous soils from the Former Basin F into the second of two on-site landfills, which are now full and closed. Although project officials had expected that the primary future work would involve moving and placement of clean soils for

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cover construction, plans are in place to manage any future contaminated soil discovery and disposal as part of an off-site waste disposal management plan that has been coordinated with the regulatory agencies and is currently out for public review.

The discovery also coincides with a public comment period regarding changes to plans for off-site waste disposal following the closure of the Arsenal's on-site landfills. The comment period is scheduled to end July 14. The changes do not alter the overall hazardous waste management remedy selected in the Record of Decision that governs the cleanup. Documents related to the changes are available at the RMA Joint Administrative Record and Document Facility, 5650 Havana St., Building 129, Commerce City, CO 80022, (303) 289-0983, open M – F 12 – 4 p.m. or by appointment at (303) 289-0983, and at the EPA Superfund Records Center, 1595 Wynkoop, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 312-7287, open M – F 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Community members with questions about the ongoing cleanup of the Arsenal are encouraged to contact the site's Community Information Line at (303) 289-0136 or the Tri-County Health Department's Rocky Mountain Arsenal Information Line at (303) 286-8032. Information also is available at www.rma.army.mil.