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Rocky Mountain Arsenal Five-Year Review Report Now Final and Available to the Public

COMMERCE CITY, Colo.—The U.S. Army recently completed its latest Five-Year Review (FYR) report for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA). The report covers the period of 2011-2015.

The U.S. Army established the RMA in 1942 to produce chemical weapons as a deterrent in World War II. Shell Oil Co. later leased some of those facilities to manufacture agricultural products. Common disposal practices of the time resulted in contamination of the site's soils, structures and groundwater. Contaminants included pesticides, solvents, metals and miscellaneous industrial chemicals.

The U.S. Army conducted the FYR in accordance with the federal Superfund law and in cooperation with the EPA, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Tri-County Health Department. The purpose of the FYR is to determine whether the RMA's cleanup remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. The FYR process includes a statutory and policy review of the RMA's 1995 and 1996 On-Post and Off-Post Records of Decisions (RODs). The RODs provide detailed descriptions of the environmental cleanup approach selected for the site.

A critical part of the FYR is to update any changes to environmental standards and to determine if the remedy outlined in the RODs and subsequent Decision Documents remains protective in light of these new standards.

Based on a review of documentation, site inspections and interviews with technical experts and community members, the U.S. Army has determined that the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. The EPA concurs with the U.S. Army's findings for the off-post remedy and agrees that the on-post remedy is currently protective of human health. The EPA has issued a deferred protectiveness determination for the overall on-post remedy pending completion of the RMA biomonitoring program.

FYRs at the RMA will be required for the foreseeable future, since the cleanup approach included landfills and consolidation areas to hold contaminated waste from the RMA's cleanup. The next FYR is scheduled for 2020, with the final report to be issued in 2021.

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The 2015 Five-Year Review report, along with the protectiveness determinations of the U.S. Army and EPA, are now posted on the RMA's website at www.rma.army.mil. The document is also available for public review at: Joint Administrative Records and Document Facility, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, 6550 Gateway Road, Commerce City, CO 80022

To learn more about the 2015 Five-Year Review report, please contact the Rocky Mountain Arsenal by phone at 303.289.0300 or by email at Patty.1.lee6.civ@mail.mil.

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