Fall 2004

TOOELE
Army Depot
ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

BE INVOLVED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP AT TOOELE ARMY DEPOT

The Technical Review Committee/Restoration Advisory Board (TRC/RAB) at the Depot meets to:

- Encourage community involvement and understanding of environmental cleanup process.
- Foster partnerships between community members and government agencies.
- Provide a forum to discuss environmental cleanup at the depot.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TRC/RAB meetings are held quarterly and are always open to the public. The next meeting will be held on:

Wednesday, January 12, 2005 • 9:30 to 11:30 am
Tooele County Health Department, 151 North Main Street.

For more information about the TRC/RAB, please contact Larry McFarland, TEAD Installation Restoration Program Manager, at (435) 833-3235.

CLEANUP AT DEPOT MAKING PROGRESS

Completion Reports Prepared for Seven Cleanup Sites

Recently, corrective measures were completed at seven sites where contamination was identified at Tooele Army Depot (TEAD). Now, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing completion reports that document the work that was accomplished at each area. After review and approval by regulators, these sites will either be closed or managed with land use restrictions. Examples of the fieldwork performed at various sites include:

- Applied asphalt cap on lead-contaminated soil; removed and replaced deteriorated asphalt at an ammunition demilitarization facility; disposed of ordnance; removed contaminated soil at furnace sites which was properly disposed of at a regulated facility.
- Excavated and disposed of contaminated soil at a former battery shop.
- Removed contaminated soil at pesticide handling/storage area.
- Established perimeter fencing at former burn area and former ammunition test range.
- Excavated and disposed of contaminated soil at former laundry discharge pond.

In addition to the cleanup successes mentioned above, corrective measures fieldwork will begin at five more sites on the depot this fall.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY ENHANCES EFFICIENCY OF GROUNDWATER MONITORING

Officials from the TEAD Installation Restoration Program, U.S. Army Environmental Center, and USACE are working together with state and federal regulators to employ technology that will help expedite future waste removal and remediation activities.

Collected at least twice per year, data gathered from groundwater sampling provides valuable information for the ongoing investigation of the Trichloroethylene (TCE)-contaminated groundwater plume located beneath the former industrial area and outside the northeast boundary of TEAD.

The use of innovative technologies, such as passive diffusion bag sampling and improved data gathering reliability, is significantly improving the quality of the data and reducing the overall cost of this program. Combining multiple years of monitoring data into a single database and employing the latest Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software also provides unprecedented access to comprehensive groundwater information and the ability to evaluate trends.

The environmental team is also working together to develop a risk assessment standard (see "Glossary" on back) to assist in identifying contaminants and protecting public health.

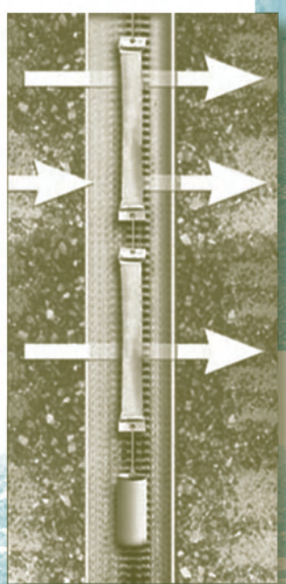
PASSIVE DIFFUSION BAG SAMPLING

Passive Diffusion Bag (PDB) sampling, a simple and inexpensive alternative to traditional methods of sampling, is being used at TEAD as part of the overall groundwater management program.

This innovative method involves filling a low-density plastic bag with distilled water and lowering it to a specific depth below the water level in one of the many groundwater monitoring wells at TEAD. Over time, contaminants in the groundwater, such as TCE, diffuse across the membrane, and the water inside the sampler reaches equilibrium with surrounding groundwater. Then, the sampler is removed from the well and the water sample is collected for laboratory analysis.

This relatively new technology is being employed in environmental cleanup and monitoring nationwide. Some of its benefits include:

- Eliminates the laborious process of purging water from a well before collecting a sample, and as a result, eliminates expensive disposal after testing.
- Reduces cross-contamination of samples that otherwise may occur from purging process and cuts sampling time by as much as 80 percent compared to traditional methods.
- Overall, provides savings in cost and time, and better quality data.



Cross-section of PDB sampling within monitoring well. The arrows indicate the natural groundwater flow.

Workers lower PDB samplers into monitoring well at TEAD.

GLOSSARY

What is Risk Assessment?

Risk assessment is a process by which scientists evaluate the potential for or probability of adverse effects to human health and the environmental that may result from exposure to contaminants. Risks are assessed by direct observation or by applying mathematical models and a series of assumptions to determine, for example, whether measured levels of chemicals at a particular site pose a risk to human health or the environment.

Turnaround for Depot

Former depot property evolves into commercial enterprise; milestone reached in cleanup

Eleven years after a federal committee closed portions of TEAD, privatization and cleanup are giving the depot a new lease on life. Since the Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRAC) closed portions of the depot in 1993, some property has been transferred to the city of Tooele for private commercial development. These new properties, many already equipped with ready-to-use buildings, are becoming an asset in the city's efforts to bring industry and new jobs to the area. The Army is hoping to clear the way for new businesses by completing environmental restoration work at the remaining sites within the transferred property.

Nearby on the active depot, TEAD's environmental restoration activities continue to progress, while the military and civilian personnel continue the depot's mission of providing America's joint fighting forces with munitions and ammunition-ready equipment in support of the nation's military.

As a result of operations and industrial activities conducted many years ago, portions of the soil and groundwater became contaminated. Since 1982, these contamination sites have been the subject of rigorous investigation and restoration efforts.

Today, more than 58 contaminated sites have been identified through the Installation Restoration Program. The environmental restoration team at the depot has already evaluated and cleaned up more than half of these sites. Many more cleanups are either ongoing or planned in the near future, including an extensive study of groundwater on and around the depot.

Did You Know?

The **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act** (RCRA) of 1976, administered by the U.S. EPA, establishes regulatory guidelines for long-term management, including disposal, of solid and hazardous wastes. At TEAD, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality shares regulatory responsibilities with the EPA.

RCRA site restoration at TEAD, expected to be complete in 2014, embodies two objectives:

- Research, identify and assess past hazardous waste disposal and spill sites on the installation.
- Develop appropriate cleanup or remedial actions for those areas where soil or groundwater contamination may pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Resources

Ways To Learn More About Environmental Cleanup In Your Community

- Attend the next TRC/RAB meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2005, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Tooele.
- Contact Larry McFarland, TEAD Installation Restoration Program Manager, at (435) 833-3235.
- Review project materials at the following local repositories:

Tooele City Library
128 West Vine
Tooele, UT 84074
(435) 882-2182

Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

University of Utah (Marriott Library)
295 South 1500 East
Special Collections, Floor 5, Room 541
Salt Lake City, UT 84112
(801) 581-8863

Call for hours

c/o Parsons
406 West South Jordan Parkway
Suite 300
South Jordan, UT 84095

Learn About
Tooele Army Depot
Environmental Cleanup
Wednesday, January 12, 2005
9:30 to 11:30 am

To be removed from this mailing list, please contact us via e-mail at jeff@lucyco.com.