

SIERRA ARMY DEPOT

Dry Lake Area Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis and Action Memorandum

Introduction

This fact sheet provides you with information about the investigation of Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) contamination conducted by the U.S. Army on the Dry Lake Area of the Former Honey Lake Demolition Range (Dry Lake Area) and the Army's recommended remedy to clean up the contamination. The investigation is documented in an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), including the Army's proposed actions for the area based on the EE/CA results. The Army's proposed remedy is in the draft Action Memorandum. The Action Memorandum, when signed, will be the decision document that documents the Army's selected remedy. The Dry Lake Area is within the Honey Lake Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Parcel and consists of the lakebed which is periodically dry. This parcel is leased to the Center for Urban Watershed Renewal and slated for transfer to the California State Lands Commission. The area covers 4,486 acres on the lakebed. See map on next page.

Because military ordnance related materials are known to exist in the Dry Lake Area, actions are necessary to protect the public and environment. Any removal actions are likely to uncover discarded military munitions (DMM). DMM is a subset of MEC and are military munitions that have been abandoned without proper disposal or removed from storage in a military magazine or other storage area for the purpose of disposal. The area investigated was previously contaminated by DMM due to open burning/open demolition (OB/OD) activities conducted on the lakebed.

Background

The Army conducted demolition and burning of excess, unserviceable, and/or obsolete munitions following World War II on Honey Lake from 1941 until the mid 1950's. Items ranged in size from 20 millimeter ammunition to 2,000 pound bombs. Items to be destroyed were stacked on the dry lakebed, explosive charges were attached to the munitions, and the items were detonated. The explosions resulted in the destruction of the munitions and the dispersion of scrap metal that were "kicked out" onto the surrounding area. However, some items may not have been destroyed entirely, resulting in partially destroyed munitions and scrap metal containing residues of explosive material.

Results of the Investigation

The field investigation was initiated in July 2003 and was completed in September 2003. The EE/CA was conducted to evaluate and recommend the most appropriate response action(s) to reduce the risk of MEC to the public. The EE/CA characterized the Dry Lake Area for MEC resulting from the demilitarization of munitions in the past, and includes the results of the investigation, a qualitative risk assessment of the MEC risk to the public, identification and evaluation of potential munitions response action alternatives and recommends the most appropriate munitions response action(s).

Based on the results of this investigation, the Dry Lake Area was divided into three sectors: the OB/OD (1,737 acres), Buffer (756 acres), and Periphery Sectors (1,993 acres). During the investigation 245 DMM items and approximately 11 tons of munitions debris (MD) items were recovered. There are numerous subsurface pits filled with DMM and/or MD at depths ranging from 6 inches to over 8 feet below the ground surface. Most of the munitions are in the disposal pits. Some of the remaining potential DMM and MD are "kick-out" from the demilitarization operations and lie between the surface and the first 6 inches below ground surface. Some white phosphorus was found in a 60 acre area. White phosphorus reacts and burns when exposed to air. There is no chemical or explosive contamination of the soil. The results of the Ordnance and Explosives Risk Impact Assessment conducted for the Dry Lake Area indicate that the MEC risk level for the Dry Lake Area is low, although the white phosphorus does present a moderate risk.

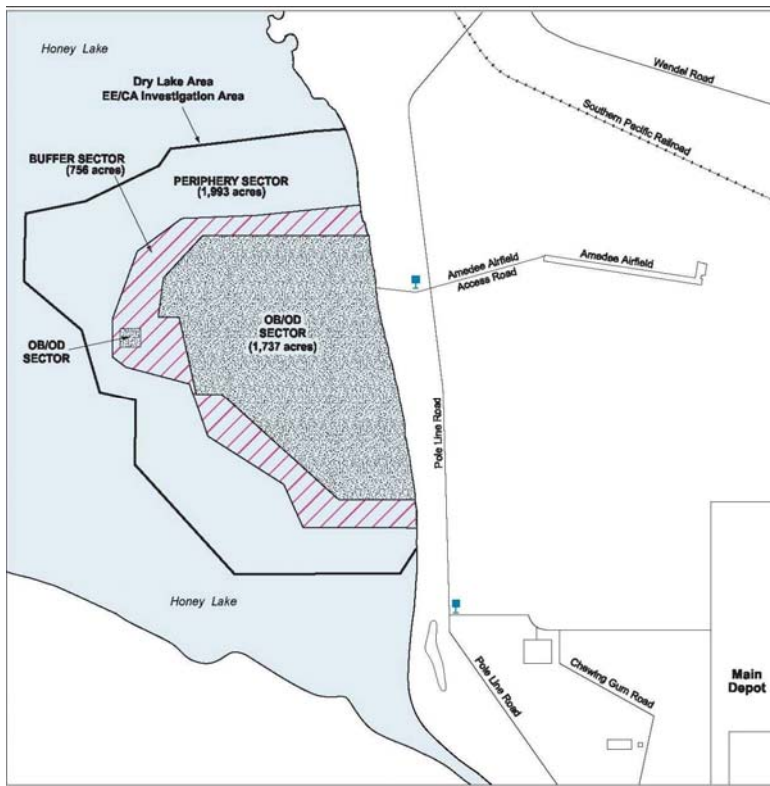
Proposed Response Actions

The Army is proposing response actions for each of the sectors, which are individually identified below. The proposed actions are based on the risk assessment performed in the EE/CA.

Public Comment Period
July 18 to August 18, 2006

Public Meeting and Open House
Wednesday, July 26, 2006
Drop in anytime 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Building 170 (The Chapel), D.S. Hall
Street, Herlong, CA





- OB/OD Sector – Subsurface Clearance of MEC to 1 foot depth and Institutional Controls
- Buffer Sector – Surface Clearance and Institutional Controls
- Periphery Sector – Institutional Controls.

The subsurface clearance will be performed by using handheld instruments to detect metal objects and/or by mechanical means. Whenever found, the object will be dug up down to 1 foot and removed from the area. This response action is likely to find items that contain explosives. All items with explosives will be destroyed by one of the following methods:

- If the item is deemed too dangerous to move it will be detonated where it is found, so as to ensure the safety of response personnel.
- Items that present explosives safety risks, but can be safely moved, will be moved to a secure storage magazine until the end of the project, at which time it will be transported to a permitted disposal facility where it will be destroyed.

Institutional controls will consist of placing warning

signs at all major access points into the area, and of developing land use and deed restrictions. The Army will perform Five-Year Reviews and take any required actions as a result of the review. DMM will be left in place and land use restrictions will be required. A land use covenant will be developed, executed and recorded as part of the property transfer. The land use covenant will restrict certain future land uses (e.g., residential, hospital, schools, and daycare) and soil disturbance at or below the surface.

How Can You Be Involved

The EE/CA and Action Memorandum are open for a public review and comment period beginning July 18, 2006 and ending August 18, 2006. Comments on the EE/CA or Action Memorandum may be sent to Ms. Chris Cochran, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, USACE, ATTN: CEHNC-OE-DC (Cochrane), P.O. Box 1600, Huntsville, AL, 35807-4301, (256) 895-1696, e-mail chris.cochrane@hnd01.usace.army.mil. The public is encouraged to become involved and to review the EE/CA and Action Memorandum documents at the Information Repositories listed below. A public meeting will be held on July 26, 2006 at Building 170 (The Chapel), D.S. Hall Street, Herlong, California. This will be an open meeting where the public is welcome to visit, gather information, and ask questions, and provide comments any time from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Public Comments will be responded to in a Responsiveness Summary section in the final EE/CA.

Information Repositories

Questions relating to these actions can be directed to Chris Cochran at the above address or the BRAC Environmental Coordinator, Mr. Mike Erickson, 11001 W. 120th Ave. #400, Broomfield, CO 80021, (720) 496-4671, e-mail michael.erickson@calibresys.com or Ms. Lori McDonald, SIAD Public Relations, at (530) 827-4343, e-mail lori.mcdonald@sierra.army.mil. You may also contact Ms. Francesca D'Onofrio, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-3603, e-mail fdonofri@dtsc.ca.gov or Ms. Kris Escarda, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-6683, e-mail kescarda@dtsc.ca.gov, or Toll Free at (866) 495-5651. To be placed on the Sierra Army Depot mailing list contact Mike Erickson.

Documents describing environmental conditions relating to Honey Lake are available for review at the following Information Repository locations:

Herlong Public Library Building 2067, California Street Herlong, CA, 96113 (530) 827-4343	Susanville Public Library 1618 Main Street Susanville, CA 96130 (530) 251-8127	Reno Public Library 301 S. Center Street Reno, NV 89501 (775) 327-8300	DTSC Sacramento Office 8800 Cal Center Drive Sacramento, CA 95826 (916) 255-3758, Call for appt.
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