

Public Notice
Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest

CERCLA Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
for investigation and removal at the Navy/DRI Site

The Department of the Navy (Navy) recently completed a study to evaluate alternatives for investigation and removal at the Navy/Denver Research Institute (DRI) site at the Former Lowry Training Annex (FLTA) in Aurora, Colorado.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis to evaluate removal alternatives prior to conducting a response action. The Navy, as lead agency, has prepared an EE/CA in accordance with CERCLA and the National Contingency Plan (NCP). The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is the acting lead regulatory agency.

The Navy/DRI site occupies 379 acres within the 3,833 acres of FLTA located 20 miles southeast of Denver, Colorado, and east of Aurora, Colorado, in Arapahoe County. The Navy/DRI site lies in the southeast corner of the FLTA and comprises three distinct sections:

- DRI Test Area (DTA) – approximately 104 acres
- North Tract – approximately 118 acres
- South Tract – approximately 157 acres

The DTA consisted of numerous test areas designed for testing different munitions and explosive effects. The explosive test areas were located in and along a ravine that runs through the entire DTA. Due to the natural fragment containment, the ravine provided an ideal environment for conducting explosive tests. Other test areas were created at locations outside the ravine by constructing approximately 20- to 30-foot-high walls on three sides of the test areas. Concrete and metal structures were present throughout the site; however, these structures have since been removed. The North and South Tracts both consist of an area used primarily for cattle grazing. In addition to cattle grazing, the South Tract may have received ordnance overshot from the nearby rocket range on the Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range (FLBGR).

The EE/CA addresses the investigation and removal of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC); verifies the adequacy of previous radiological surveys and removals from the Navy/DRI site; and evaluates three removal action alternatives.

As a result of the EE/CA, the Navy is proposing to conduct a Non-Time-Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) at the Navy/DRI site. The recommended alternative is to remove 100 percent of the geophysically identified Targets of Interest (TOIs), in effect removing all of the identified targets that have the potential to be MEC. All accessible areas of the site would be surveyed using Time Domain ElectroMagnetic techniques to allow for identification and removal of TOI by unexploded ordnance (UXO) technicians. Areas that are not accessible for TDEM (such as steeper ravine slopes) would be investigated using mag and dig techniques where military grade metal detectors are used to manually sweep the slope and all anomalies are investigated.

A verification survey to assess radiological impact would also be conducted in the three areas remediated within the DTA. Any depleted uranium rounds or radiologically impacted

metallic TOI and soil found exceeding action levels will be removed. The NTCRA is scheduled for performance beginning in July 2009 and will require 9 months to complete.

The Department of the Navy will make the EE/CA report available for public review for 30 days at the Aurora Public Library from June 12, 2009 until July 13, 2009.

The Aurora Public Library is located at 14949 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, CO 80012. The telephone number is 303-739-6600.

Public comments on the EE/CA report, including the commenter's name and address, will become part of the Site Administrative Record and the Navy will provide a response to significant comments.

For additional information, please contact

Public Affairs Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
1101 Tautog Circle
Silverdale, WA 98315
(360) 396-6387