

Public Notice for Five-Year Review Former Fort Devens Superfund Site Devens, Massachusetts

The U.S. Army Base Realignment and Closure Division (BRAC) is announcing the start of the sixth Five-Year Review of remedial actions taken at the Former Fort Devens Federal Superfund site. The purpose of the Five-Year Review is to evaluate whether the cleanup methods put in place at the site are working as designed and continue to remain protective to human health and the environment as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The Five-Year Review will begin in January 2025 and will be completed in September 2025.

As part of the review process, the Army invites the local community to participate in community interviews and attend quarterly Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings. The next RAB meeting will occur on February 13, 2025 (6:30pm) and will be a virtual event discussing the Five Year Review process.

To participate in the community interviews, please contact Penelope Reddy, the US Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager, via email at penelope.w.reddy@usace.army.mil or by phone at 978-318-8160. For additional information, or to request a meeting invitation, email FormerFortDevensRAB@arcadis.com.

Background:

Camp Devens was established in 1917 as a temporary training area for soldiers during WWI. In 1932 the site was named Fort Devens and made a permanent installation. After closure in 1996, portions of the property were retained by the Army as the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, while the remaining sections were transferred to the Local Redevelopment Authority, MassDevelopment, in addition to other Federal agencies. The current and former facility is located in the towns of Ayer, Shirley, Lancaster, and Harvard. Pursuant to CERCLA, Devens was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1989 because of environmental contamination at several locations associated with petroleum products and other chemicals of concern. The principal threats to human health and the environment are primarily related to the presence of contaminants in soil and groundwater. Since its placement on the NPL, numerous investigation, remediation, and monitoring actions activities have been completed at the installation.

Information of the environmental cleanup at Former Fort Devens including past reports can be found on the Former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup Website:

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/>