



FACT SHEET 3
FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

Proposed Plan for the South Post Impact Area Groundwater and Areas of Contamination 25, 26, and 27

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This fact sheet is one in a series informing interested citizens about the environmental restoration program at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. This fact sheet provides an overview of site specific information about the investigations at the South Post Impact Area Groundwater and Areas of Contamination 25, 26, and 27. Other fact sheets will be prepared at program milestones and in response to other items of public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) Environmental Office, (508) 796-3114.

INTRODUCTION

The Army has prepared this fact sheet to provide interested citizens with a brief explanation of the Army's plan to implement the "No Action" alternative for the South Post Impact Area (SPIA) Groundwater and the following Areas of Contamination (AOC):

- AOC 25 - Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Range
- AOC 26 - Zulu Ranges
- AOC 27 - Hotel Range

The "No Action" alternative provides a comparative baseline for which other alternatives can be evaluated and is selected only if results of remedial investigations show no potential threat to human health and the environment. Under this alternative, no formal remedial action is taken and the site is considered to be left "as is", with no additional institutional controls, containment, removal, treatment or other mitigating measures.

AOCs 25, 26, and 27 are located within the SPIA. The SPIA is approximately 964-acres and is located

within the 4,800-acre South Post section of Fort Devens (Figure 1). The Army conducted extensive environmental investigations of soils, sediments, and surface waters to assess the environmental impacts of related disposal activities. The Army also studied the groundwater of the SPIA to evaluate the area-wide effects and the potential off-site impacts related to contamination migration. Results of these studies showed that risks posed to human health and the environment are within the EPA's standards for acceptable risk. This fact sheet contains important information to help the public understand the Army's plan and briefly summarizes the information provided in the Proposed Plan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Beginning on February 1, and extending through March 1, 1996, the Army will hold a 30-day comment period during which people are encouraged to comment on the Proposed Plan. Written comments may be submitted to the Army at any time during the comment period and should be mailed to Mr. Jim C. Chambers, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator (BEC) at the address provided on page 5.

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A formal public hearing will be held on February 21, 1996, at 7:00 p.m., at Fort Devens, Building P-12, followed by an informal question and answer period. The public hearing is an additional opportunity to comment on the Army's plan. During the formal public hearing, individuals can provide oral or written comments on the Proposed Plan. All comments received will be transcribed, and the Army will respond to all comments in a document called a Responsiveness Summary.

The Army will consider all comments from the public in making its final decisions for the SPIA Groundwater and AOCs 25, 26, and 27. The Responsiveness Summary will be issued with the Record of Decision (ROD). Both documents will be available for public review in the Administrative Record, located in the Fort Devens Base Realignment and Closure Environmental (BRAC) Office and the Ayer Town Hall. A copy of the Proposed Plan can be obtained by calling or writing Jim, at Fort Devens.

The Army's Proposed Plan and other pertinent reports are available for public review at the information repositories at the libraries in Ayer, Shirley, Lancaster, Harvard, and at Fort Devens.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOUTH POST IMPACT AREA AND AOCs 25, 26, AND 27

The SPIA is an active weapons and ordnance discharge area used by the Army, the Massachusetts National Guard, and nearby law enforcement agencies for training purposes. The area covers the AOCs and includes the potential areas of impact of all the South Post ranges. It also contains a number of other firing ranges along Dixie Road and Trainfire Road, which are not designated as AOCs. The SPIA is generally bounded by Old Turnpike Road, Firebreak Road, the southern portion of Harvard Road, Trainfire Road, and Dixie Road.

At least some portion of the SPIA has been used for military training since the inception of Fort Devens, as Camp Devens, in 1917. Prior to 1979, open burning and open detonation (OB/OD) activities occurred at AOCs 25, 26, and 27.

AOC 25 is used for the disposal of explosives and ammunition through OB/OD under an emergency RCRA permit and is used once or twice a year. AOC 26 is used for demolition training and hand grenade training. AOC 27 is used for firing small-caliber weapons.

NATURE OF CONTAMINATION

The Army conducted extensive environmental investigations of soils, sediments, and surface waters to assess the environmental impacts of related disposal activities. The Army also studied the groundwater of the SPIA to evaluate the area-wide effects and the potential off-site impacts related to contamination migration.

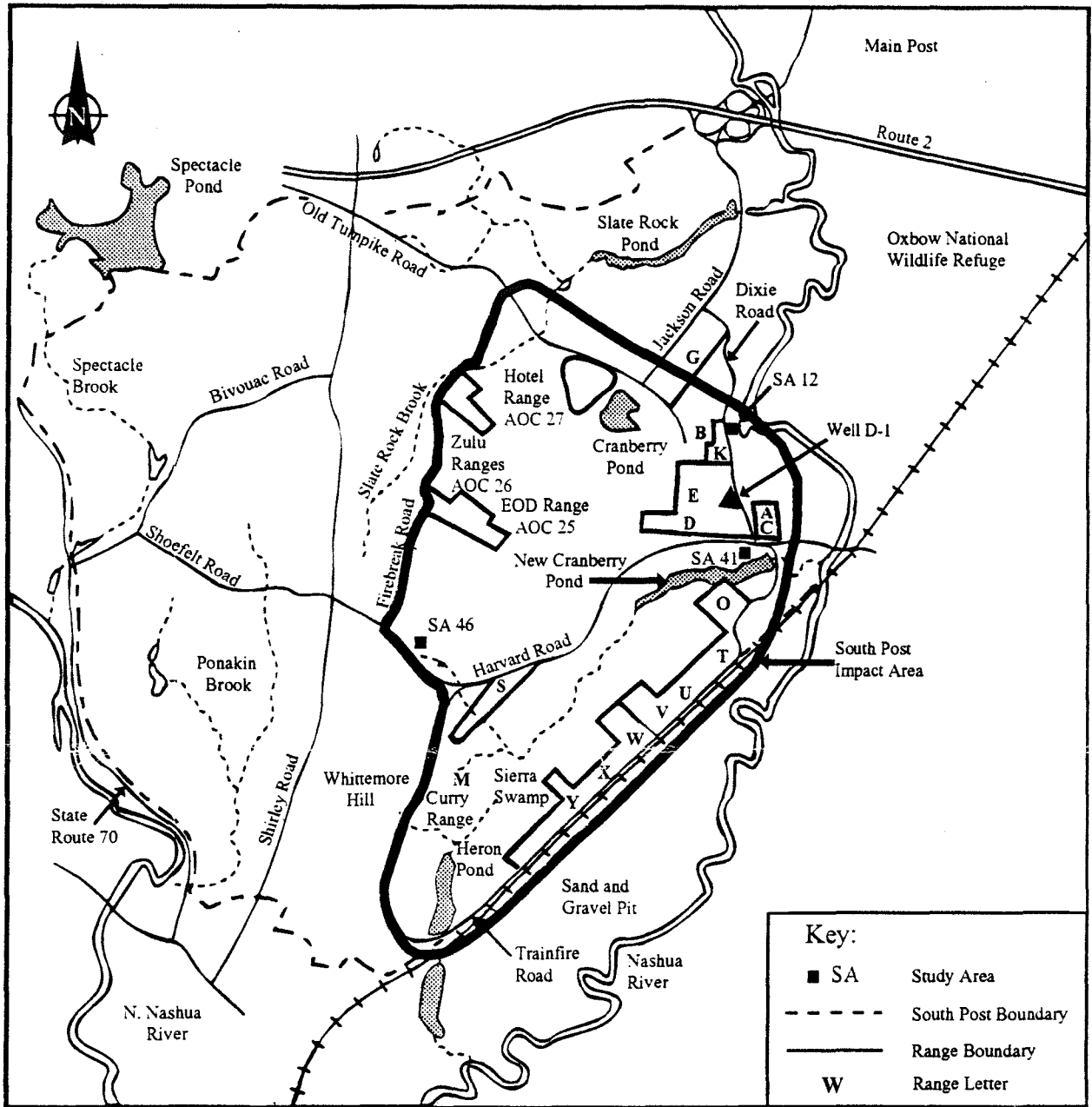
The presence of contaminants of potential concern in the SPIA soils, sediments, and surface water may be related to site training and disposal activities. The type of metals found in the SPIA groundwater were consistent with naturally occurring inorganics and are not those typically associated with range activities. Groundwater flow in the SPIA is split by a divide. On the north side of the divide, a few organics were detected intermittently, but no explosives. South and east of the divide, several wells had detections of explosive-related organics above EPA guidelines. However, Well D-1, which is located in the discharge zone to the Nashua River, showed no explosive-related organics in four sampling events conducted over the past four years. Therefore, contamination found in the southern SPIA wells is not impacting the Nashua River.

Results of these investigations showed that risks posed to human health and the environment are within the EPA's standards for acceptable risk.

THE ARMY'S RATIONALE FOR PROPOSING "NO ACTION" FOR THE SOUTH POST IMPACT AREA GROUNDWATER AND AOCs 25, 26, AND 27

The 1991 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission Report to the President indicated that the

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SOURCE: Ecology and Environment, Inc. 1994



Figure 1

Location of South Post, South Post Impact Area, AOC 25, AOC 26, and AOC 27

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Army will retain the South Post and continue operating its training and detonation ranges. Therefore, the South Post will not be cleaned-up for unrestricted use.

Public access is restricted and unauthorized personnel are prohibited.

No contamination was found in the only drinking water well on the South Post (Well D-1). Well D-1, which is located near the northeast edge of the SPIA, is used on a limited basis by military personnel during training activities.

No potential threat to human health and the environment is associated with the SPIA groundwater and AOCs 25, 26, and 27. Although, in some instances, the ecological risk assessments for AOCs 25, 26, and 27 slightly exceeded EPA risk guidelines, their impacts are not likely to be ecologically significant due to the disturbed nature of the habitat. There is no threat to the SPIA ecosystem associated with the groundwater. Therefore, the "No Action" alternative is proposed. The same pathways will also exist under future site conditions since the land use is expected to remain unchanged. The Army will maintain the South Post, the SPIA and associated ranges, continue training, maintain security, and develop long-term Ecological Management and Groundwater Monitoring Plans.

The Groundwater Monitoring Plan will include the installation of sentinel wells to monitor the groundwater. Details of the monitoring plan will be developed jointly by the Army, EPA-New England Division, and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP). The Fort Devens environmental caretakers staff will ensure that:

- Groundwater monitoring continues for potential contaminant migration out of the SPIA. The following wells are proposed for this purpose: Wells EOD-1, 26M-92-03X, and 27M-92-01X will monitor the groundwater from the EOD Range, the Zulu Ranges, and Hotel Range, respectively. Wells SPM-93-06X, SPM-93-08X, SPM-93-10X,

and SPM-93-16X will monitor the north, northeast, and east sides of the SPIA, respectively. The wells would be sampled for explosives and the Target Analyte List (TAL) metals annually in the fall;

- A Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the South Post will be developed and will include detailed groundwater monitoring at discharge points. The plan will include specific information on additional sentinel wells to monitor potential off-site groundwater flow;
- Well D-1 will be sampled annually and analyzed for explosives, and Massachusetts and Federal drinking water requirements (MCL/MMCLs); and
- An Ecological Management Plan for the South Post is developed once the final ROD is approved.

Monitoring reports will include a description of site activities and a summary of analytical results. Reports will be submitted to MADEP and EPA. Under CERCLA, any action that results in contaminants remaining on-site must be reviewed at least every five years. During five-year reviews, an assessment is made of whether the implemented action is protective of human health and the environment and whether the implementation of additional remedial actions are appropriate.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Administrative Record, when completed, will include all documents which form the basis for the Army's approach for the South Post Impact Area Groundwater and AOCs 25, 26, and 27, including the community relations plan, investigation reports, the feasibility study report, the proposed plan, correspondence pertaining to the site, and other relevant documents. The Administrative Record is available for public review at the following locations:

Fort Devens, BRAC Environmental Office
Fort Devens, MA 01433-5010
(508) 796-3114, x311 (Mr. Jim C. Chambers)
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ayer Town Hall
Main Street
Ayer, MA 01432

(508) 772-8220
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

If you have questions about the site, or would like a copy of the proposed plan, you may call or write to:

Jim C. Chambers, BRAC Environmental Coordinator
U. S. Army
HQ, Fort Devens
AFZD-BEC, Box 1
Building P-12, Buena Vista Street
Fort Devens, MA 01433-5010
(508) 796-3114, x311

Linda Jeleniewski, Public Affairs Officer
U. S. Army
HQ, Fort Devens
Public Affairs Office
AFZD-PO, Box 3
Fort Devens, MA 01433-5030
(508) 796-3307

We Would Like to Hear From You !

If you have any questions about the environmental restoration activities at Fort Devens, please let us know by calling one of the program contacts listed below. Also, be sure to let the BRAC Environmental Office know if you would like to be on our mailing list to receive additional information on the program.

TELEPHONE ☎ NUMBERS

FORT DEVENS:

Linda Jeleniewski 508-796-2159
Jim Chambers 508-796-3114, ext. 311

EPA

Jim Byrne 617-573-5799

MADEP

Lynne Welsh 508-792-7653

ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER:

Charlie George 410-671-1625

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS:

Darrell Deleppo 617-647-8712

MAILING LIST UPDATES

If you, or someone you know, would like to be added to (or deleted from) the Fort Devens mailing list, please fill out and mail this form to:

Jim Chambers, BRAC Environmental Office
AFZD-BEC, Box 1
Fort Devens, MA 01433

Name: _____

Address: _____

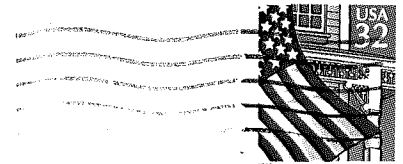
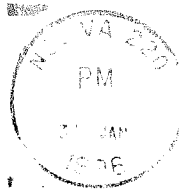
Telephone No.: _____

Add to list

Delete from list

Change information

BRAC Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Army - Fort Devens
AFZD-BEC, Box 1
Fort Devens, MA 01433



Harvard Public Library
P.O. Box 666
Harvard, MA 01451

