

For More Information...

Contacts:

If you have any questions or comments about the environmental restoration activities, please let us know!

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Community RAB member
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Restoration Advisory Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. Contact the BRAC Environmental Office for details.

BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Devens Reserve Forces Training Area
AFZD-BEC, Box 1
Devens, MA 01432



Information Repositories:

Documents relating to the environmental cleanup and restoration program at Devens are available for public review at the following information repositories:

Ayer Public Library
26 E. Main Street
Ayer, MA
(508) 772-2257

Lancaster Public Library
Main Street
Lancaster, MA
(508) 368-8928

Harvard Public Library
Fairbank Street
Harvard, MA
(508) 456-4114

Hazen Memorial Library
6 Lancaster Road
Shirley, MA
(508) 425-2620

A Quarterly Environmental Newsletter

Environmental Update

BRAC Environmental Office
Devens Reserve Forces Training Area

Number 11, Summer 1997

Environmental Site Synopsis Summer '97 Site Numbers Looking Good!

At the beginning of this fiscal year (October 1996) we reported that cleanup decisions at several sites were rolling in and that significant progress was being made in our overall program. Now, at the end of fiscal year 1997, and looking head to FY1998, our numbers continue to show steady progress!

Over the last year, the BRAC Cleanup Team has focused on many issues, including cleanup options for a number of landfills located throughout the Devens property. Two sites, Areas of Concern (AOCs) 43G and 43J, have gone through the complete cleanup process, with cleanup decisions being finalized in a Record of Decision (ROD). Furthermore, approval of two additional RODs are pending for AOC 63AX and AOCs 32 and 43A.

Also in the past year, no further action (NFA) decisions have been approved for 14 additional sites, totaling 227 sites that have been evaluated and removed from the cleanup program. Of all the sites investigated, more than 70% have been determined to pose no significant environmental risk, and have been approved for NFA by the BRAC Cleanup Team.

As we complete many activities, and the number of sites that require additional action continues to get smaller, there is still much work to do! Challenges continue to face the BRAC Cleanup Team and the Devens community. Several Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings and much time have been

devoted to assessing appropriate and cost-effective cleanup options for several landfills (see RAB Update on page 3). Here is a quick look at several recent activities and what lies ahead for the BRAC Cleanup Team and RAB.

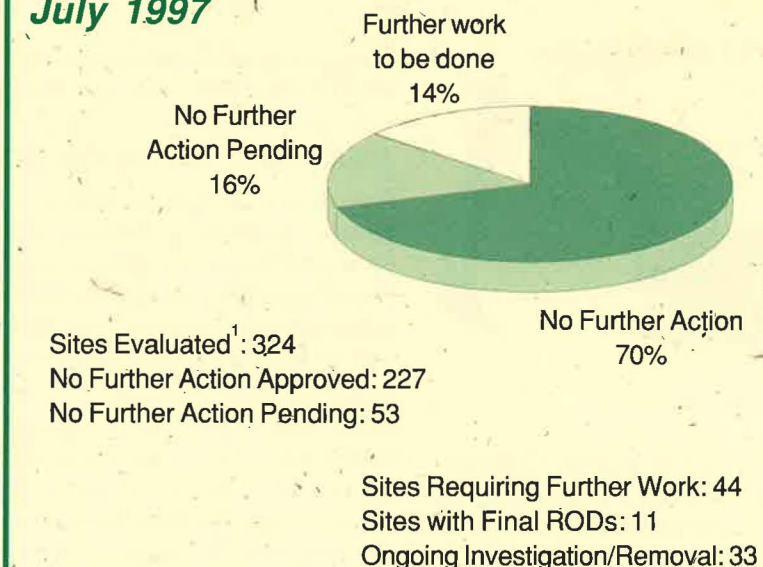
Baseline Bioremediation Report for AOCs 43G and 43J

As previously reported, the Army's selected cleanup action for these two sites is a technology known as intrinsic bioremediation (for more information, see Environmental Update, Numbers 7 and 8). Using this technology, fuel-related chemicals are changed into safer substances by naturally-occurring organisms that are found in the groundwater.

As part of the ROD, the Army will perform an Intrinsic Remediation Assessment (IRA) to evaluate the effectiveness of this selected remedy. In a step-by-step process, the technical team will collect the information necessary in the field in order to perform the assessment.

One of the first steps is to compile available information in a baseline report so that future data may be compared to a baseline data set. Also, it is important to make sure that the right data are being collected for the assessment. If additional data are necessary, the BRAC Cleanup Team can then modify the approach as needed.

Environmental Site Status July 1997



¹ Additional sites are being evaluated under the installation-wide studies.

In July, a draft Baseline Intrinsic Remediation Report was issued. In this report the results of several initial tasks are reported. These completed tasks include:

- a soil and free product assessment at AOC 43G, Area 2;
- bedrock monitoring well installation at AOC 43J;
- initial groundwater sampling;
- fate and transport modeling for benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and xylenes; and
- trend analysis for total petroleum hydrocarbons.

Subsequent sampling rounds and results will be compiled in individual data reports, an annual report, the IRA report, and a long-term groundwater monitoring work plan. The baseline report is available in the Information Repositories for public review.

Final Cleanup Plans at AOC 32 and AOC 43A

In June 1997 a proposed plan for the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office Yard (DRMO) (AOC 32) and the Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants (POL) Storage Area (POL) (AOC 43A) was mailed to individuals on our mailing list. The proposed plan summarized the Army's proposal for site cleanup and requested the public's review. In the plan, cleanup options are addressed for three areas:

- DRMO soils;
- groundwater in the area of the DRMO Yard and POL storage area; and
- groundwater to the east in the vicinity of underground storage tank #13.

For soils in the DRMO Yard that are contaminated with PCBs, metals, and POL products, the Army proposed digging them up and disposing of the soils offsite in an appropriate facility. For groundwater, the Army proposed natural attenuation and monitoring at the sites.



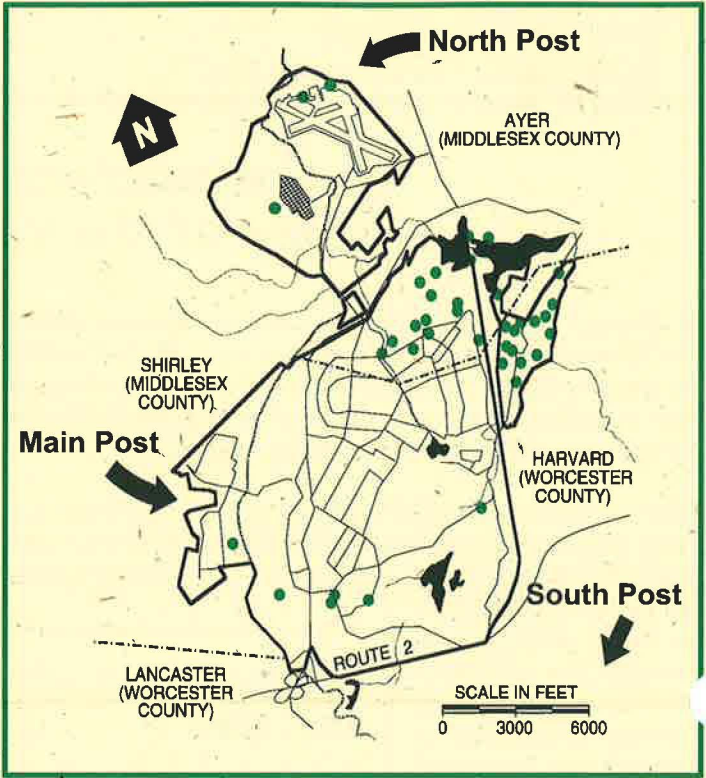
A public meeting was held on July 17th to present these options to the community. The cleanup plan is expected to be finalized with the Record of Decision signed early this Fall.

Proposed Plan for AOC 63AX

In June 1997 a proposed plan for AOC 63AX was issued and sent to individuals on our mailing list. After completion of earlier removal actions, the Army proposes No Further Action at this site. Because contaminated soil and an underground storage tank have been removed, the continuing source of groundwater contamination has been eliminated. Therefore, AOC 63AX poses no unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. A ROD is expected to be signed in late summer or early fall.

Removal Action at AOC 69W

The Army is planning a removal action at AOC 69W in the vicinity of the Devens elementary school. During the remedial investigation at this site, soils were found to be contaminated with fuel. The Army will excavate soils in and around the school where fuel products were observed. The removal action is expected to occur this fall.



Green Circles show sites with remaining action.

Remedial Investigation at AOC 50

Scientists and engineers continue to put the environmental picture together at Building 3803, the former Parachute Shakeout Tower, located on the former Moore Airfield. Detailed field studies during the Remedial Investigation (RI) have collected data about site conditions and contaminants, which include trichloroethene (a dry cleaning fluid). The data show that groundwater flow in the area is extremely complex. As the technical team better understands groundwater flow and determines how contaminants are transported by the groundwater, risks to the environment and human health can be estimated during the Risk Assessment (for more information on risk assessments, see Environmental Update, Number 8, Fall 1996). The draft RI report, including the Risk Assessment, is expected to be completed this Fall!

Bureau of Prisons and other Property Transfers

Property on the Main Post was formally transferred from the Army to the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) on June 26, 1997. As you may be aware, construction of the BOP's Federal Medical Center is underway and progressing on this parcel. Other property transfers are also on the way, including the property

transfer to the Department of Labor. As a matter of fact, the construction of the Job Corps Center on this property has already begun! Findings of Suitability to Transfer (FOSTs) and Environmental Condition of Property assessments for these sites and others are currently in the review process and are expected to be finalized by the end of 1997.

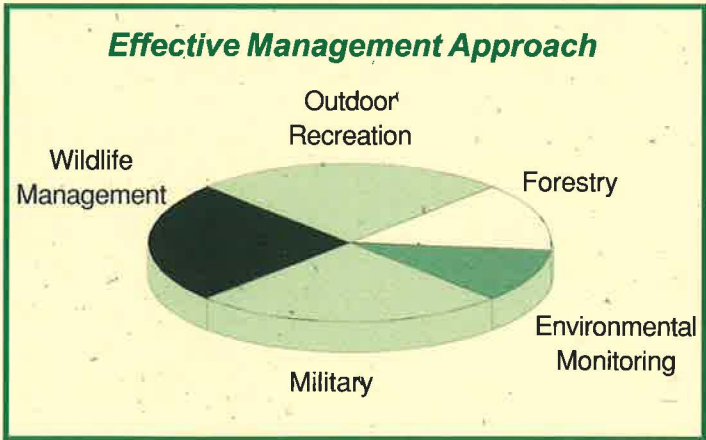
Environmental Monitoring at Several Sites

As part of the final cleanup plans, or RODs, the Army will monitor groundwater and environmental conditions at several sites. Monitoring helps the Army make sure that their cleanup action is working and that site contaminants are not continuing to move in the environment. The Monitoring Plan for the South Post Impact Area is currently being implemented, and the first round of groundwater sampling and monitoring at Barnum Road will be completed this fall.

Work also continues on collecting and evaluating data at Shepley's Hill Landfill. At this site, data has been collected for approximately two years. The annual report for 1996 that details sampling and landfill monitoring results is available for public review in the Information Repositories (see back page for locations).

Devens RFTA Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan

The Army is completing a draft version of its Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for the installation. The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework for managing and preserving Devens RFTA vast natural resources over the next five years.



Primarily dealing with the South Post, the plan reflects the newest policies in resource management by setting forth a comprehensive and holistic approach to managing our natural resources. The plan integrates forestry, wildlife management, outdoor recreation, and environmental monitoring considerations into an effective management approach. It sets forth just what the Army will be doing over the next five years to conserve and protect these resources while carrying out its military mission on the Devens RFTA. In the Fall, the public will be invited to review the plan and provide any comments to the Army.

Future RAB Meetings

Thursday, September 4, 1997, 6:00 pm
Thursday, October 2, 1997, 6:00 pm

RAB Update

The May RAB meeting was an open forum to discuss the Landfill Remediation options for Devens. Poster displays presented information on each landfill site. Attendees reviewed information and discussed options with technical specialists in an informal setting. Jim Chambers, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, led a general discussion about the process. Approximately 40 interested community members attended the meeting, received handouts, and provided comments to the Army and regulatory agencies.

RAB members encourage you to get involved. Come to a meeting to get your questions answered or contact one of your neighbors who participate on the board (see back page). If you're interested in RAB membership, come to the next meeting or contact Jim Chambers at 796-3835. New members are always welcome! As a new member, you would serve an important role as a direct liaison from your community to the Devens RFTA environmental cleanup program!

RAB Meetings are now held at:
Devens Reserve Forces Training Area
Command Headquarters
31 Quebec Street, Building 679

All RAB meetings are open to the public, and interested community members are encouraged to attend. For more information on RAB meetings, call Jim Chambers at (508) 796-3835.

BRAC Office has Moved!

We have a new address.
BRAC Environmental Office
Box 100
30 Quebec Street
Devens, MA 01432-4429

