U.S. Army Fort George G. Meade
Installation Restoration Program

Former Pesticide Shop
Remedial Action Fact Sheet

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November 2013

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Army at Fort George G. Meade (Army) is planning to remediate contaminated soil and groundwater at the Former Pesticide Shop, former Building 6621 (also referred to as "the Site"). This fact sheet summarizes the history of the Site, the environmental investigations, and the alternative selected to remediate contaminated soil and groundwater at the Site.

LOCATION AND HISTORY OF SITE

The Site is at the northwest corner of Gordon Street and York Avenue and is adjacent to the Directorate of Emergency Services (see figure on back). The Army used the former Building 6621 as a mess hall during World War II and later as a pesticide shop/maintenance facility for landscaping equipment from 1958 to 1978. Contamination of the soil and groundwater occurred during the Site's use as a pesticide shop/maintenance facility. The building was demolished in 1996. The Site is presently a fenced-in, grassy lot used for storage.

COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED

The Army conducted a thorough environmental investigation of the Site to determine if any residual contamination remained from historical activities, and if so, whether the contamination poses a risk to human health or the environment. The environmental investigations found elevated levels of metals (primarily arsenic, which is naturally occurring in soil) and pesticides in the soil. In addition, the Army's sampling detected metals, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds (solvents) in the groundwater.

A human health risk assessment was conducted to determine what risks metals, pesticides and solvents may pose at the Site. The risk assessment found no unacceptable risks at the Site for its current use. However, the risk assessment did identify some potential risks under hypothetical future land use scenarios such as construction workers who might construct buildings at the Site in the future.

ALTERNATIVES EXAMINED/REMEDY SELECTED

The Army conducted a detailed analysis of various options and the costs of each option to remediate the contamination within the soil and groundwater at the Site. The Army issued a Proposed Plan in August 2012 and invited public comment during a 30-day public comment period on the potential remedies.

The selected alternative was documented in a Record of Decision signed by the Army and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Maryland Department of the Environment concurred with the decision. The selected remedy is Soil Excavation with Off-Site Disposal, Land Use Controls, and Enhanced Reductive Dechlorination with Long-Term Monitoring of Groundwater. This alternative removes contaminated soil; therefore, there will be no unacceptable risk for any future industrial use. It also returns groundwater to potential beneficial use within the shortest reasonable timeframe.

Following the selection of the remedy, the Army prepared a Remedial Design document which outlined the specifics of how the remedy will be implemented

SCHEDULE AND REMEDY IMPLEMENTATION

The Army anticipates implementing the selected remedy in November/December 2013. The soil excavation process will take two to four weeks and includes:

- **Site Set-Up and Preparation**: This step includes the mobilization of heavy equipment and personnel to the Site by the Army's contractor. Erosion and sediment controls will be put in place to prevent surface water contamination. Buildings adjacent to the construction will be notified of the planned work. Safety measures will be put in place including traffic management signage and barricades, an air monitoring program, and the identification of any underground utilities.
- **Excavation and Disposal of Soil**: The excavation will remove about 850 cubic yards of soil which is approximately 40 to 50 tractor-trailer loads. The contractor will use standard heavy construction equipment and take precautions to reduce the potential for noise and dust. The excavated soil will be taken to an off-site permitted facility for disposal.
- **Site Restoration**: The contractor will backfill the excavated area with clean soil and re-seed, and the Site will be restored to its previous conditions.

After the site is restored, the groundwater portion of the remedy will be implemented and will take about one week. The contractor will install a series of injection wells and inject emulsified vegetable oil into the groundwater. The vegetable oil will optimize the natural degradation of the solvents in the groundwater.

The Army will monitor the groundwater which will determine if future injections are needed.

Land use controls will be maintained such as requiring permits for excavation and exclusion of future residential land use.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE

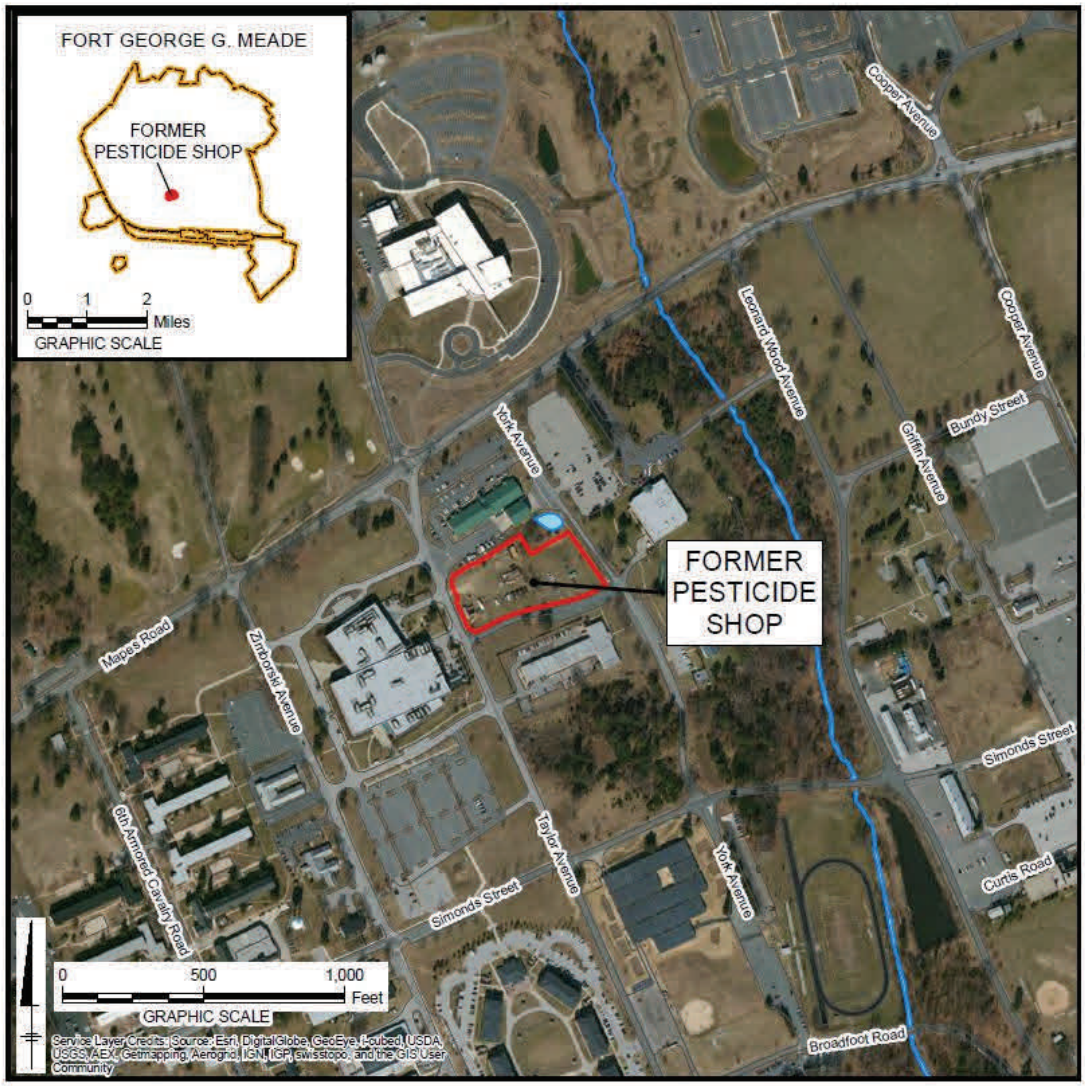
Fact sheets for chemicals found at the Site including arsenic, chlordane, heptachlor epoxide, and tetrachloroethylene are available from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html. The Anne Arundel County Department of Health also can assist with health questions at 410-222-7398.

Additional project information is on Fort Meade's web site at www.ftmeade.army.mil/environment (click on the link for Clean-up Program). The Remedial Design, as well as the full Administrative Record file, can be viewed at:

Fort Meade Environmental Division Office
4215 Roberts Avenue, Room 320
Fort Meade, MD 20755
(301) 677-9648
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(Monday—Friday)
(photo I.D. required to gain access onto Fort Meade)

Anne Arundel County Library
West County Area Branch
1325 Annapolis Road
Odenton, MD 21113
(410) 222-6277
Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
(Monday-Thursday)
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Friday and Saturday)
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Sunday)

This project and other environmental projects are discussed at meetings of Fort Meade's Restoration Advisory Board. These meetings are held every other month, typically the third Thursday, at 7 pm. Meetings are announced in local papers and on the Fort Meade web site at www.ftmeade.army.mil/environment; click on the link for Clean-Up Program and then the link for RAB. Interested community members are always welcome at the meeting and to consider applying to be a Board member.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Maryland Department of the Environment:
Lis Green, Project Mgr., 410.537.3346 or
Public Affairs Office, 410.537.3003