



FACT SHEET



Fort George G. Meade, Maryland Off-Post Groundwater Investigations

May 2013

Overview

The U.S. Army at Fort Meade is continuing investigations of groundwater in Odenton which includes installation of monitoring wells in residential areas. This fact sheet provides background information on the groundwater investigations and the recent and upcoming work, as well as the location of new monitoring wells and the estimated schedule.

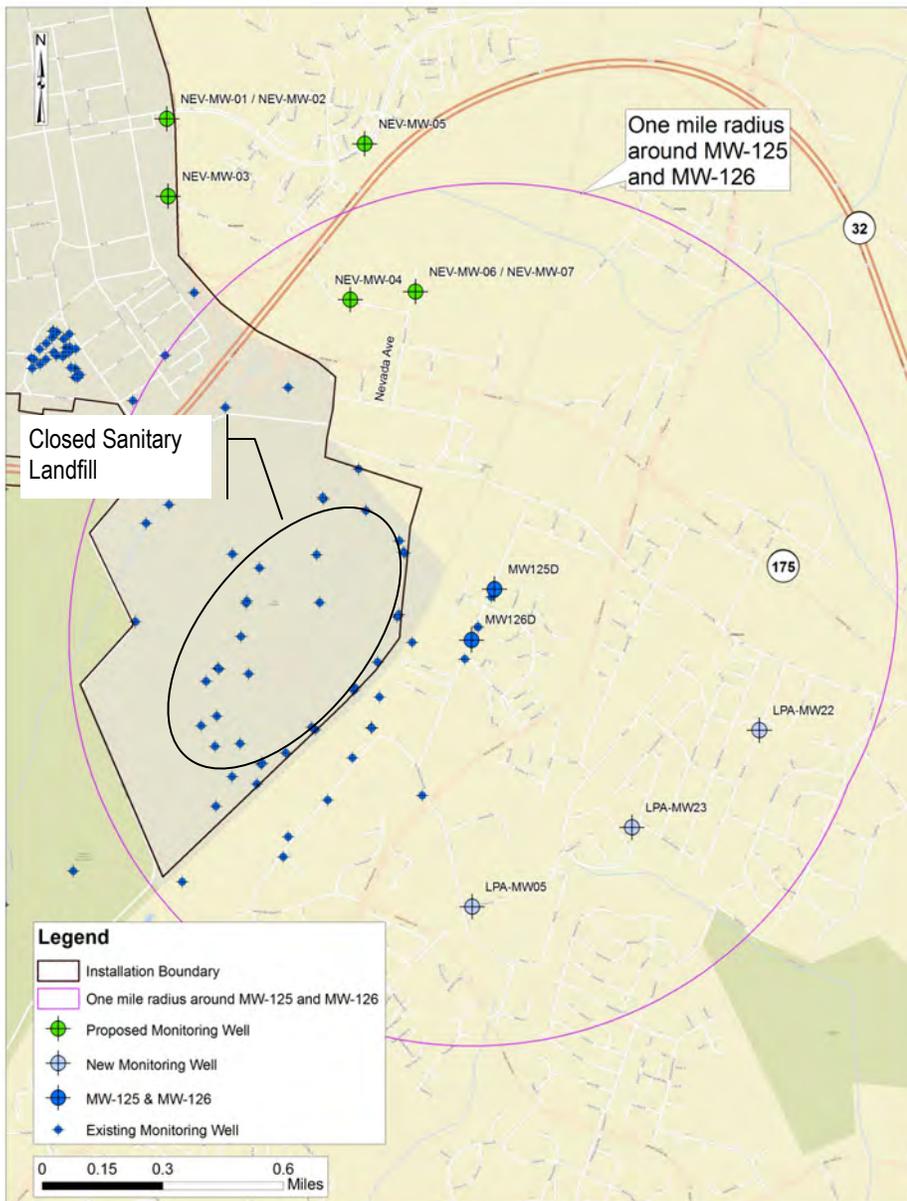
Investigation Background

The Army, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maryland Department of the Environment, and Anne Arundel County Department of Health, has been conducting groundwater investigations in Odenton adjacent to the eastern portion of Fort Meade (see map to the below).

Monitoring wells were installed in Odenton just east of Fort Meade's closed sanitary landfill to assess the potential for contaminated groundwater to migrate off-Post. Test results confirmed the presence of trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), and carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) in groundwater samples 200 feet below the ground surface from monitoring wells MW-125D and MW-126D (blue wells). These chemicals are industrial solvents also found in some on-Post monitoring wells (blue wells). The groundwater is generally moving in an easterly direction from Fort Meade to Odenton.

In 2008/09 as a precautionary measure, the Army began an interim measure involving testing all drinking water wells within a one-mile radius around the two monitoring wells and in homes along Old Dairy Farm Road. During this time and to the present, the Army has been providing bottled water to several dozen homes and businesses. Public meetings were held to inform the community of the contamination and the Army's response (supplying bottled water and a comprehensive investigation). The test results have been provided to the homes and businesses that were tested. **Homes and businesses on public water are not affected by the solvents.**

The test results show the solvent PCE in three drinking water wells on Nevada Avenue at concentrations near or exceeding EPA's drinking water maximum contaminant level. The Army continues to test these wells on a monthly basis and will install additional monitoring wells (green) to determine if this PCE comes from Fort Meade.



Comprehensive Investigations Continue

The Army is conducting comprehensive investigations to look for the source of solvents in groundwater and to define the nature and extent of the impact of the solvents on the groundwater. The available data has identified two separate areas of groundwater contamination; one in the vicinity of Nevada Avenue and the other east of the closed sanitary landfill. The data suggest the two areas of contaminated groundwater are unrelated and both require additional investigation.

The Army recently obtained rights-of-entry to install additional monitoring wells on County property in residential areas in Odenton. Three monitoring wells were installed just east of Fort Meade's closed sanitary landfill (light blue wells on the map on the reverse side). Data from these monitoring wells is being used to help locate the leading edge of groundwater contamination east of the closed sanitary landfill. To assess the groundwater around Nevada Avenue, the Army will be installing seven monitoring wells (green wells on the map on the reverse side). Data from these wells will be used to determine if the PCE is coming from Fort Meade.

The new monitoring wells (green wells on the map on the reverse side) will generate noise from the drilling; however, there will be no drilling on weekends or evenings. All drilling activities have been coordinated with the County Department of Public Works. Some traffic disruptions and lane closures are anticipated due to the size of the drilling equipment. The drilling activities are planned to start in early May 2013 and continue through June 2013; each monitoring well will take about four days to complete. The Army has notified nearby residents in person of the upcoming drilling.

The Army acknowledges these necessary inconveniences and appreciates the cooperation of the County and residents as it works to investigate the groundwater in Odenton immediately east of Fort Meade. The investigation results will be shared with the environmental regulatory community and the affected community.



The wells will be installed using a drill rig similar to the two pictured above.



The wells being installed will be flush-mounted and will look similar to the picture above.

Additional Information Available

Fact sheets for TCE, PCE, and CCl₄ 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 can also assist with health questions at 410-222-7398.

Additional project information is available on Fort Meade's Environmental Management System web site at www.ftmeade.army.mil/environment (click on the link for Clean-Up Program). Fort Meade has established two information repositories which contain environmental documents pertaining to Ft. Meade's Cleanup Program available for the public's review: 1) Fort Meade's Environmental Division, please call 301-677-9648 to make arrangements to review the documents; and 2) West County Area Library, 1325 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD, 21113, call 410-222-6277 for library hours.

This project and other environmental projects are discussed at meetings of Fort Meade's Restoration Advisory Board. These meetings are held approximately every other month. Meetings are announced in local papers and on the Fort Meade web site (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 are invited to consider applying to be a Community Board member.

Contact Information

- **Fort Meade Public Affairs Office:** 301-677-1301
- **Fort Meade Environmental Division:** 301-677-9365
- **US Environmental Protection Agency:** John Burchette, 215-814-3378
- **Maryland Dept. of the Environment:** Elisabeth Green, 410-537-3346 or Public Affairs, 410-537-3003
- **Anne Arundel County, Dept of Health:** Kerry Topovski, Environmental Director, 410-222-7191