

NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

Rocky Mountain Arsenal (USARMY) Adams County, Colorado

On July 31, 2006, EPA deleted the Internal Parcel of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) site On-Post Operable Unit (OU) from the National Priorities List (NPL). All areas originally proposed for deletion, except for a three-acre area which encompasses the Rail Yard Treatment System, are being deleted. The Rail Yard Treatment System is excluded from the Internal Parcel due to a delay in developing the Interim Construction Completion Report. With the Rail Yard area excluded, the Internal Parcel consists of 11.5 square miles (7,396 acres) of the On-Post Operable Unit of RMA.

The RMA site is located in southern Adams County, Colorado and is comprised of two OUs, the On-Post and Off-Post. The On-Post OU of the RMA site encompasses 17.2 square miles (11,007 acres) approximately eight miles northeast of downtown Denver, Colorado. The Off-Post OU addresses contamination north and northwest of the RMA proper boundaries.

The RMA was established in 1942 by the U.S. Army and was used to manufacture chemical warfare agents and incendiary munitions for use in World War II. Following the war and through the early 1980s, the facilities continued to be used by the Army. Beginning in 1946, some facilities were leased to private companies to manufacture industrial and agricultural chemicals. Shell Oil Company, the principal lessee, primarily manufactured pesticides from 1952 to 1982. After 1982, the only activities at RMA involved remediation.

Complaints about groundwater pollution north of the RMA site began in 1954. Common industrial and waste disposal practices resulted in contamination of structures, soil, surface water, and groundwater. As a result of this contamination, RMA was proposed for inclusion on the NPL on October 15, 1984.

The original On-Post OU of the RMA/NPL Site (see map, RMA Internal Parcel) encompassed 27 square miles (17,000 acres) in southern Adams County, Colorado, approximately 8 miles northeast of downtown Denver. On January 21, 2003, 940 acres known as the Western Tier Parcel were partially deleted from the NPL. This was followed by the partial deletion of 5,053 acres in perimeter areas of RMA on January 15, 2004, which led to the establishment of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge on April 2, 2004. As a result of these prior partial deletions, the On-Post OU of the RMA/NPL Site currently encompasses 17.2 square miles (11,007 acres).

The Internal Parcel is an area of approximately 7,399 acres (11.5 square miles) in the interior of RMA. The proposed deletion includes all or portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, and 35, but excludes areas where the remedy is incomplete such as the former central processing areas, munitions demolition areas, sanitary sewers, select structures, haul roads, and designed drainage areas for future covers.

This partial deletion pertains to the surface media (soil, surface water, sediment), structures, and groundwater of the Internal Parcel of the On-Post OU of the RMA Site. The Internal Parcel includes groundwater that is east of E Street with the exception of a small area in the northwest corner of Section 6.

The rest of the On-Post OU, including groundwater below RMA that is west of E Street and the small area in the northwest corner of Section 6, and the Off-Post OU will remain on the NPL.

EPA ensures that human health is protected from on-going remedial activities on the remaining NPL areas through effective control of project emissions, restricting visitor access, and implementation of the Site-Wide Air Quality Monitoring Program Plan, including monitoring of air emissions. There are two major project areas that involve disturbance of contaminated soil remaining in the NPL area. Visitors to the Refuge are restricted to areas located approximately one mile from the Lime Basin slurry wall project and approximately two miles from the Basin F projects. Air emissions are measured at the current fenceline and near the Visitor Center to verify that potential risks to visitors and the nearby communities are minimized. These requirements to protect human health will remain in place irrespective of the deletion of the Internal Parcel.

EPA, with concurrence from the State of Colorado, has determined that all appropriate CERCLA response actions have been completed within the Internal Parcel of the RMA/NPL Site to protect public health and the environment and that no further response action by responsible parties is required. Therefore, EPA proposes to delete the Internal Parcel of the On-Post OU of the RMA/NPL Site from the NPL.