

# NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

## Rocky Mountain Arsenal (USARMY) Adams County, Colorado

On January 21, 2003, EPA deleted the Western Tier Parcel of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (USARMY) National Priorities List site (RMA/NPL) from the NPL. The RMA/NPL site is located approximately ten miles northeast of downtown Denver, Colorado and is comprised of two operable units (OU), the On-Post and Off-Post.

The Western Tier Parcel consists of 940 acres on the western perimeter of the On-Post OU of the RMA/NPL site along Quebec Street in Commerce City, Colorado. The NPL partial deletion pertains only to the Western Tier Parcel which is a small portion of the On-Post OU. The On-Post OU of the RMA/NPL site encompasses 27 square miles in southern Adams County, Colorado, approximately 8 miles northeast of downtown Denver.

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 at RMA continued to be used by the Army. Beginning in 1946, some facilities were leased to private companies to manufacture industrial and agricultural chemicals. Complaints of ground water pollution north of the RMA/NPL site began to surface in 1954. Common industrial and waste disposal practices used during these years resulted in contamination of structures, soil, surface water, and ground water. As a result of this contamination, RMA was proposed for inclusion on the NPL on October 15, 1984.

A remedial investigation (RI) completed in January 1992 studied each of the five environmental media at the RMA/NPL site including soils, water, structures, air, and biota. Based upon evidence gathered during the RI, the western tier of the RMA/NPL site was exposed to minimal contamination and is considered a "non-source" area.

A feasibility study was finalized in October 1995 and a proposed plan prepared and presented to the public in October 1995 as well. On June 11, 1996, the On-Post Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by the Army, EPA, and the State of Colorado. The ROD specified no remedial action for soil within the western tier of the On-Post OU as the soil does not pose a risk to humans or biota.

On October 2, 1998, EPA published a notice of intent for partial deletion (NOIDp) in the Federal Register which proposed to delete the Western Tier Parcel from the RMA/NPL site. EPA received several comments during the public comment period including one expressing a concern for the potential future placement of a child daycare facility at the Western Tier Parcel and reiterating previous concerns that RMA, and hence the Western Tier Parcel, might be contaminated with dioxins. Based on the comments, EPA postponed action on the partial deletion until additional soil sampling and analysis of the Parcel could be conducted.

EPA proposed the partial deletion of the Western Tier Parcel on September 23, 2002, by publishing a second NOIDp in the Federal Register (67 FR 59487). Comments received during this public comment period, ending November 22, 2002, were primarily focused on how contamination or munitions would be addressed if found during development of the Parcel.

EPA and the State of Colorado, through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), have determined that the Western Tier Parcel of the RMA/NPL site poses no significant threat to public health or the environment and, therefore, no further remedial measures pursuant to CERCLA are appropriate.