

NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

Rocky Mountain Arsenal (USARMY) Adams County, Colorado

On September 13, 2010, EPA deleted portions of the On-Post Operable Unit (OU3), specifically the Central and Eastern Surface Areas including surface media and structures, and the surface media of the Off-Post Operable Unit (OU4) of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Federal Facility (RMA) located in Commerce City, Colorado, from the National Priorities List (NPL). This partial deletion pertains to the surface media (soil, surface water, sediment) and structures (both former structures that have been demolished and structures retained for future use) within the Central and Eastern Surface Areas of the On-Post OU and the surface media of the entire Off-Post OU. The rest of the On-Post OU, including ground water below RMA that is west of E Street, and the ground water portion the Off-Post OU will remain on the NPL and are not being considered for deletion at this time. Response activities will continue at those OUs.

The RMA site is located in southern Adams County, Colorado, approximately eight miles northeast of downtown Denver. RMA was established in 1942 by the U.S. Army 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 U.S. Army. Beginning in 1946, some facilities were leased to private companies to manufacture industrial and agricultural chemicals. Shell Oil Company, the principal lessee, manufactured pesticides at the site from 1952 to 1982.

The RMA site consists of 30 OUs (numbers 0 through 29) including 24 Interim Response Actions (IRA) conducted between October 1985 and June 1996 as part of the OU3 remediation and 4 IRAs completed in 1993 for remediation of the OU4. The IRAs were conducted to prevent or minimize further migration of ground water contaminants and eliminate potential releases from source areas through isolation or destruction of the contaminants. The original OU3 encompassed 27 square miles (16,990 acres) and was bounded by 56 Avenue and the former Stapleton International Airport on the south, Buckley Road and Denver International Airport on the east, Quebec Parkway and Commerce City on the west, Colorado Highway 2 and the Off-Post OU on the northwest, and 96th Avenue and the Off-Post OU on the north.

Between 2003 and 2006, EPA conducted four partial deletions from OU3 consisting of 13,406 acres of surface media so that property transfer could be expedited. Of the property deleted to date, 917 acres were sold to Commerce City for commercial development, 12 acres were transferred to South Adams County Water and Sanitation District for the Klein Treatment Facility, 126 acres were transferred to local governments for road-widening, and 12,188 acres have been transferred to the RMA National Wildlife Refuge. Another 163 acres were retained by the Army, primarily for water treatment systems.

This partial deletion for the site includes the entire surface media of OU4. Of the 3,584 acres (5.6 square miles) of OU3 that remain on the NPL, the partial deletion for the Central and Eastern Surface Areas includes 2,500 acres (3.9 square miles) of surface media (soil, surface water, and sediment), and structures within OU3. The entire Central and Eastern Surface Areas included in this partial deletion will be transferred from the Army to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for expansion of the RMA National Wildlife Refuge. The portions of OU3 not included in this partial deletion include the following:

- Cover areas (Hazardous Waste Landfill, Enhanced Hazardous Waste Landfill, Basin F, and Integrated Cover System) including drainages;
- Three areas of ground water treatment (Railyard Extraction and Treatment System, Lime Basins Mass Removal System, and the South Tank Farm Mass Removal System);
- Three laydown areas (areas used to stage equipment and construction materials or conduct support activities during remedy implementation); and
- Two structures: The CERCLA Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Landfill Wastewater Treatment System.

EPA, with concurrence from the State of Colorado, has determined that all appropriate CERCLA response actions have been completed within portions of OU3, specifically the Central and Eastern Surface Areas including surface media and structures, and the surface media of OU4 to protect public health and the environment and that no further response action by responsible parties is required. Therefore, EPA is deleting these portions of the RMA site from the NPL.