

# Letterkenny Army Depot, Southeast

## EPA Region 3

Pennsylvania  
Franklin County  
5 miles north of  
Chambersburg

EPA ID# PA6213820503

3rd Congressional District

## Last Update:

August 1999

## Other Names:

Letterkenny Army  
Depot (LEAD)

## Current Site Status

A Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) was signed in October, 1998 for the Phase I parcel, those parcels identified by LIDA as top priority. These parcels are located in the both the Southeast Area NPL site (Site 1) and the PDO NPL site (Site 2). Future transfers could take place prior to final cleanup. Several Findings of Suitability to Lease (FOSLs) have been signed, including Buildings 7, 8, and 42.

## Site Description

Letterkenny Army Depot is a 19,243 acre active Army base, 5 miles north of Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. There are two NPL sites: 978 acre Southeast Area NPL site (Site 1) and 1,900 acre Property Disposal Office (Site 2), and 16,365 acres non-NPL (Ammunition Area). Approximately 17,000 people live within 5 miles. First established in 1942 for ammunition storage, after 1947 the

Southeast Area (Site 1) provided maintenance and overhaul of wheeled and tracked vehicles and missiles. The Property Disposal Office (Site 2) supports industrial operations. Realignment of operations will be completed by 2001 according to the 1995 Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC), with 1497 acres excessed for local redevelopment, and 17,746 acres remaining for maintenance and storage after 2001. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from Southeast Area (Site 1) industrial waste lagoons emanate from springs up to 2« miles to the east and south of the lagoons, including wells that formerly supplied 44 homes to the east. Contamination of both sites includes chlorinated organic solvents, blast media, paints, petroleum products, metals, and cleaning agents stored or disposed of in landfills, trenches, burn pits, or spilled from storage.

### **Site Responsibility**

This site is being addressed by Federal action and Base Closure (BRAC 1995).

### **NPL Listing History**

**Southeast Area (Site 1)** This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites requiring long term remedial action on October 15, 1984. The site was formally added to the list on July 22, 1987, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

**Property Disposal Office (Site 2)** This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites, requiring long term remedial action on April 10, 1985. The site was formally added to the list March 13, 1989, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

## **Threats and Contaminants**

Groundwater beneath the Southeast Industrial Area of the depot (Site 1), as well as beneath an off-depot area of approximately 4,000 acres, extending at least 2 1/2 miles to the east, is contaminated with chlorinated organic chemicals. Soil has been found to be contaminated with chlorinated organic chemicals, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Individuals may be at risk if they accidentally ingest, inhale vapors, or come in direct contact with contaminated groundwater or soil, or consume fish from contaminated areas. Additional residential wells could become contaminated.

Groundwater beneath the PDO area (Site 2) and PDO surface water, including Rocky Spring Lake, are contaminated with low levels of chlorinated organic chemicals including trichloroethylene (TCE) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), according to tests conducted by the Army. Soils have been contaminated by xylene, heavy metals, chloroform, and other VOCs. Residential wells are not known to be impacted by this site, but could be threatened. Individuals may be at risk if they accidentally ingest, inhale, or come in direct contact with contaminated groundwater or soil, or consume fish from contaminated areas. Additional residential wells could become contaminated.

The non-NPL Ammunition Area has not been fully addressed.

## **Cleanup Progress**

Environmental Studies began in 1978 and continue. The majority of the two NPL sites were identified in 1995 as excess and to be returned to the community for local reuse. The Army, EPA, and Pennsylvania signed an Interagency Agreement in 1989. The Army, state and EPA formed a BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) in 1996 which is working closely to streamline the cleanup process, to expedite the cleanup, transfer and reuse of excess property to facilitate local redevelopment. Franklin County has formed a Local Reuse Authority (LRA) referred to as the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority (LIDA) to support reuse and cleanup priorities.

A Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) was signed in October, 1998 for the Phase I parcel, those parcels identified by LIDA as top priority. These parcels are located in the both the Southeast Area NPL site (Site 1) and the PDO NPL site (Site 2). Future transfers could take place prior to final cleanup. Several Findings of Suitability to Lease (FOSLs) have been signed, including Buildings 7, 8 and 42.

The Army also formed a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) with the regulators, citizens and local government members to give input to final cleanup decisions. Funding for cleanups comes from both Army BRAC and Installation Restoration Programs accounts. Further study is also needed for additional transfer of BRAC parcels, including possible transfers prior to final cleanup.

Southeast Area (Site 1). Local residents were provided with drinking water in the mid-1980s and, in 1989, 44 residences were connected to the local public water system. Since 1989, lagoons were closed according to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations, contaminated soil was treated and capped, and a groundwater extraction and treatment system was installed. Over 171,000,000 gallons of contaminated ground water were treated. One record of decision (ROD) was signed in 1991, and between 1993 to 1995, 15,000 cubic yards of Area K soils were treated and capped. Removal actions repaired leaking sewer lines in 1995, and removed sediments in two streams in 1996 and 1997. In 1997, more removals of contaminated soils were completed for the Area A landfill and near the Building 370 sewer line. In 1998, additional innovative soil treatments were initiated and are expected to be completed in 1999; in addition to groundwater treatment options to be further developed for incorporation into the existing RCRA lagoon treatment system.

Property Disposal Office (Site 2). In 1990, the Army ceased fire training due to contamination concerns. One ROD was signed in 1991; no further action was required for the drum storage revetments. In 1994, studies of on-site VOCs in the Rocky Spring system indicated no action may be required beyond use restrictions. Removal action in 1995 cleaned up lead paint in soil at the water tower, which was a former playground area. In 1996, mercury studies in the Rocky Spring system required no further action. In 1996, the Army began to delineate a soil removal action for the Oil Burn Pit, and throughout the Summer 1997 implemented an innovative in-situ hydrogen peroxide injection technology for hydrocarbons. In March 1997, investigation began for the sources of PCBs at the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) and for the extent of low-level PCBs in the Rocky Spring drainage system. A PCB contaminated soil removal is scheduled to take place during Spring 1999. Follow-up sampling for the innovative soil treatment is ongoing. Remedial study should end for off-site residential wells south of the Base and groundwater and surface water toward the Ammunition Area.

## **Contacts**

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Detailed public files (Administrative Record) on EPA's actions and decisions for this site can be examined at the following locations:

Letterkenny Public Affairs Office

Room SDSLE-CY

Chambersburg, PA 17201

Coyle Free Library

Chambersburg, PA 17201