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PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE RECORD OF DECISION FIVE YEAR REVIEW
ALLEGANY BALLISTICS LABORATORY ROCKET CENTER WV (PUBLIC DOCUMENT)
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Record of Decision Five-Year Review Allegany Ballistics Laboratory, West Virginia

The Department of the Navy and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3, with concurrence from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), have completed the fourth Five-Year Review of five existing Record of Decision (ROD) documents and ongoing remedial (environmental cleanup) actions at the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory (ABL), in Mineral County, West Virginia. A Five-Year Review was required by Section 121 of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) for remedial actions which result in any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at a site at levels that do not allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure.

The purpose of the Five-Year Review is to ensure that these remedial actions are providing adequate protection of human health and the environment. The Five-Year Review was completed in August 2013.

The findings of the review are as follows:

Operable Unit (OU1) - Site 5 Landfill cap and Surface Soil: This former landfill received inert wastes (wastes not contaminated with explosives nor generated at an area where explosives were managed) generated by ABL. A landfill cap (consisting of a geosynthetic clay layer and flexible membrane cap) was placed in the subsurface at Site 5 in October 1997 to reduce potential exposure risks and to reduce contaminant leaching from the landfill waste and degradation of groundwater beneath. Additionally, the landfill cap prevents direct contact with landfill contents and surface soil. The remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

OU2 - Site 5 Groundwater, Surface Water, and Sediment: Previous groundwater sampling at this former landfill indicated a release of trichloroethene (TCE), as a result of the historical landfilling activities. A permeable reactive barrier (PRB) was installed in the subsurface at Site 5 in May 2006 to address TCE in alluvial groundwater. Groundwater is monitored to determine the progress of the PRB wall and for natural attenuation (evaluation of reductions in contaminants through naturally occurring processes, i.e. biodegradation, dispersion, and dilution). Land Use Controls (LUCs) are in place to prohibit groundwater use. The groundwater remedy remains protective of human health and the environment in the short-term; however additional data will be collected and additional analyses will be conducted in order to confirm the remedy remains protective in the long-term.

OU3 - Site 1 Groundwater, Surface Water, and Sediment: This Site consists of several historical disposal units within an active burning ground and a vegetated area that was historically used for various waste disposal activities. A groundwater extraction and treatment system has been in operation since September 1998 to reduce migration of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (chemicals with properties that readily allow them to vaporize) in groundwater. Groundwater, surface water, and sediment are monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the extraction system. LUCs are in place to prohibit the on-site use of untreated groundwater. All exposure pathways that could result in an unacceptable risk are being controlled by the groundwater extraction system, engineered LUCs, and institutional controls (ICs). A protectiveness determination of the remedy will be made following a vapor intrusion assessment, which is expected to be completed by December 2014.

OU5 - Site 10 Groundwater: This site consists of the area around Building 157, which was a former TCE still, and two former production wells. VOCs were detected in groundwater as early as 1980. Site-wide groundwater is extracted and discharged into the Site 1 treatment system to address the VOC contamination in alluvial groundwater. Groundwater monitoring is conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the extraction system. Land use controls are in place to prohibit groundwater use. All exposure pathways that could result in an unacceptable risk are being controlled by the groundwater extraction system, engineered LUCs, and ICs. A protectiveness determination of the remedy will be made following a vapor intrusion assessment, which is expected to be completed by June 2015.

Site 11 - Production Well "F" and Site 12 - Building 167 Solid Waste Management Units: Site 11 formerly consisted of a boiler house, fuel oil storage area, and a deep bedrock production well (F-well). F-well was never put into operation. Site 12 served as the preparation chamber building used mainly for the preparation of rocket casings. In the 1960s and 1970s, both TCE and methylene chloride (MC) were used as degreasing solvents in the building operations. Two above-ground storage tanks were used for storage and handling of solvent that contained MC. Sites 11 and 12 sampling indicated VOCs and metals contamination within the alluvial and bedrock groundwater. The selected remedy was focused enhanced anaerobic biodegradation, monitored natural attenuation, and ICs. All exposure pathways that could result in an unacceptable risk are being controlled by the ICs. A protectiveness determination of the remedy will be made following a vapor intrusion assessment, which is expected to be completed by December 2014.

Where to find the RODs and related information:

These RODs and other information about the environmental cleanup program are available on the public website, by clicking on the "Administrative Records" tab. The Allegany Ballistics Laboratory Administrative Record file contains all documents that the Navy and regulators used as the basis for these RODs.

Website: <http://go.usa.gov/DyRh>

Community members who have questions regarding the Five-Year Review are encouraged to contact the Public Affairs Officer:

Mr. Thomas Kreidel
NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic
9742 Maryland Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23511
(757) 341-1410
Thomas.Kreidel@navy.mil

The next Five-Year Review for ABL is scheduled for 2018.