

MEETING MINUTES

Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant (CHAAP)

Annual Meeting – 29 November 2023

Date: 29 November 2023

Time: 5:30-7:00PM CST

Location: CHAAP Army Office – 7502 West 13th Street, Grand Island, NE

Attendees:

USACE-Omaha District:	Ryan Tefft, Patti Thomason, Tony Sedlacek, Jeremy Davis
USAEC:	Dwight Hollon, Nathaniel Garza, Candice Freeman
EPA:	Jeff Gill, Tabatha Adkins
NDEE:	Nancy Harris
Brice Engineering:	Corey Anderson, Gary Carson, Matt Sutton, Genesis Corral
UNL:	Steve Melvin
Hornady:	Dallas Powell
Hall County Board of Commissioners:	Pamela Lancaster

Minutes:

The meeting began at 5:30pm.

The OU1/OU3 Annual Update was presented by Corey Anderson (Brice).

Site background was discussed. CHAAP is a Superfund site that requires cleanup of explosives-contaminated groundwater plumes that exceed HALs) at OU1. USEPA Health Advisory Levels (HALs) were established as Action Levels for hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX), 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT), and octahydro-1,3,5,7-tetranitro-1,3,5,7-tetrazocine (HMX). The HALs for RDX and TNT are 2 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) and 400 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for HMX. Historical results and statistical analysis indicated the plume concentrations overall are decreasing and there is no longer off-site plume migration.

OU3 consists of volatile organic compound (VOC) contaminated groundwater plumes exceeding Action Levels. Action Levels are USEPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

The on-post remedy for OU1 is groundwater extraction with treatment. Temporary shutdown of all extraction wells and the pump and treatment system occurred in November 2019 to complete a rebound study.

The rebound study confirmed plume concentrations overall are decreasing and there is no longer off-site plume migration. The Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP) remains in standby status and the remedy is being changed.

Cleanup is managed and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC), with oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region VII and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE).

Water level measurements were completed on 19 and 20 June 2023. 104 wells were measured and three wells were dry. Water levels were down 1.5 feet compared to 2022.

Monitoring well inspection and Maintenance was completed between 19 and 29 June 2023. Well maintenance is planned for December 2023. Recommended future repairs or abandonments in the Final Monitoring Well Inspection and Maintenance Letter Report.

Samples were collected from permanent wells between 20 and 28 June 2023. Direct push groundwater collected at 13 locations between 13 and 18 November. OU1 off-post wells sampled for explosives only at 11 locations. OU1 on-post wells sampled for explosives and monitored natural attenuation (MNA) parameters at 71 locations. OU3 on-post wells were sampled for VOC and MNA parameters at 2 locations. SHGW03 sampled for TPH-DRO.

OU1 off-post results indicated TNT and RDX in all off-post annual long-term monitoring (LTM) permanent wells below HALs (2 µg/L), have been below HALs since 2014. TNT and RDX were below HALs in OS003. Results for OS001 and NW50R are pending.

OU1 on-post results indicated TNT and RDX concentrations generally continued decreasing trends or remain below HALs. 11 of 71 wells above HALs in June 2023. 7 of 10 direct push locations above HALs in November 2023. Detections generally found in 25' and 35' sample intervals.

OU1 explosives plume extent on-post remains about the same. November 2023 direct push results helped to further define the plume extent between EW6 and EW7. No explosives plumes exist at LL3, LL4, LL5, and at the Decant Station.

OU3 results indicated VOC concentrations were below maximum contaminant levels (5 µg/L).

Institutional controls review was completed. City Ordinance Institutional Controls and Water Supply Institutional Controls were verified. The institutional controls established in the OU1 ROD Amendment and the OU3 ROD for CHAAP are fully operative and effective.

An evaluation of Wells with concentrations less than HALs for 5+ years was conducted. All Seventy-Four (74) OU1 on-post wells were evaluated. Continue sampling all wells with explosives concentration greater than HAL in the past 5 years – 19 wells. Continue sampling all other wells between EW6 and EW7 – 15 wells. Continue sampling wells within and downgradient from recent (2019 and 2020) injections location or potential future injection locations (LL1 and LL2 source areas) – 13 wells. Continue sampling all wells at the Decant Station – 6 wells. Discontinue sampling wells further downgradient from recent or future injections where upgradient monitoring locations exist – 13 wells. Discontinue sampling wells at LL3, LL4, and LL5 – 7 wells. Abandon well G0089 – 1 well. Multiple lines of evidence were used,

such as proximity of a well to other wells, rate of change of concentration, proximity of wells to potential future injection locations.

The 2024 recommendations include:

- Continue site-wide water level monitoring.
- Continue annual monitoring of explosives off-post and explosives and MNA on-post. Reduce number of sampling locations from 86 to 65. Continue annual monitoring of VOCs and MNA at 2 OU3 Shop Area wells.
- Continue direct-push groundwater sampling at 3 former quarterly OU1 Rebound Study locations located off-post (3 samples per location).
- Abandon 1 monitoring well (G0089). Additional monitoring wells (21) meeting the criteria of less than HALs for 5+ years should also be considered for abandonment.
- Complete 600 subsurface injection points in the residual explosives plume located between EW6 and EW7. Consider completing injections at higher concentration at LL1 and LL2.
- Continue groundwater modeling to predict site remediation time frames.
- Continue institutional controls review to help prevent exposure to contaminated groundwater.
- Maintain shutdown of EW7 and GWTP.

OU1 path forward includes the preparation of a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS). The FFS develops and evaluates various remedial alternatives (cleanup strategies) to make sure they are protective of human health. The FFS was prepared and approved by USACE and EPA in April 2023. A Proposed Plan will be prepared to select the preferred remedial alternative (cleanup strategy) for the On-Post Plume and includes a public meeting and public comment period. The Army invites and encourages public participation. The Proposed Plan phase provides an opportunity for the public to voice their support or concerns of the Army's proposed actions. If you provide your name and email address, the Army will let you know when the public comment period begins and where the documents can be reviewed. Otherwise, the announcement will be published in the local newspapers. The Record of Decision Amendment officially modifies the remedial alternatives (cleanup strategies). This document is signed by Army and USEPA.

The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the Burning Grounds, Sanitary Landfill, and Pistol Range Annual Update was presented by Ryan Tefft (USACE).

The objectives included performing a background study, defining the vertical and horizontal extent of contamination in soil and groundwater, completing a baseline risk assessment, and completing a Feasibility Study.

CHAAP tract locations and sample locations were shown.

Nathaniel Garza (USAEC) indicated that the Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol (MRSPP) tables for Tract 19C (Demolition Buring Grounds) are being updated and the public is invited to review and comment on the MRSPP tables.

Remedial Action Objectives were discussed.

The Feasibility Study is being finalized and the next phase is to complete a Proposed Plan and Record of Decision.

The Five-Year Review Recommendations Annual Update was presented by Ryan Tefft (USACE). The Draft Final Five-Year Review Addendum (perchlorate sampling) and the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) was submitted to EPA. USACE is currently working through comments with the EPA.

The PFAS Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection Annual Update was presented by Ryan Tefft (USACE) and Dwight Hollon (USAEC). PFAS is Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances. The sampling is complete and the PA/SI has been finalized by the Army. USAEC understands that the EPA had some concerns with the PA/SI. Jeff Gill (EPA) indicated that they may reevaluate the PA/SI when the new MCLs are established in spring 2024 and may provide input at that time. Dwight Hollon (USAEC) indicated that the Army will cooperate with the EPA and NDEE, if future input is provided.

Comments and Questions:

Pamela Lancaster (Hall County Board of Commissioners) requests a synopsis of what was presented during this meeting that could be understood by the public. She would like to present it to the Board of Commissioners and provide information to the public so that they could provide their input. Ryan Teft (USACE) can provide a public information sheet for the Hall County Board of Commissioners for comment. The USACE Public Affairs office can also get involved in helping to facilitate public participation.

Pamela E Lancaster (Hall County Board of Commissioners) asks for clarity on future CHAAP contracts. Ryan Teft (USACE) responded saying institutional knowledge will be preserved and that Brice Engineering will continue work on the site. Ryan Teft (USACE) commented on a future plan of getting rid of any legacy contamination on site, such as addressing soil piles in tracts. This will be incorporated in the next contract.

Dallas Powell (Hornady) asked for confirmation that all samples, including the one located on Hornady property, showed non-detect. Ryan Tefft (USACE) indicated that the sample on Hornady property was non-detect.

The meeting concluded at 6:52pm.