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## Camp Minden Site Removal Action

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Camp Minden – Explo Systems, Inc. Removal Action

Webster Parish, Louisiana

Through March 18, 2015

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### This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- Future Actions
- Current Actions
- Past Actions
- Site Background
- For More Information
- Contacts

### Future Actions

The safety of the public is our most important consideration. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency strongly believes that public engagement better informs decisions - both for the EPA and for the community. The EPA remains committed to finding ways to increase the involvement of local officials and the community in the remedy as we move forward in addressing the dangerous situation facing us at Camp Minden.

On March 18, 2015, the EPA took another important next step in fulfilling our promise to the community to increase public participation in reaching our decisions at Camp Minden, and to keep the safety of the public as our most important consideration. The EPA released the amended action memo which allows alternative technologies to be considered in disposing of the materials abandoned by Explo and left deteriorating at the site. The amendment clears the way for the Louisiana Military Department to review quotes for alternative methods and select a company to dispose of the M6 and CBI. A copy of the amended action memo is available at <http://www2.epa.gov/la/camp-minden>.

The Louisiana Military Department accepted written competitive quotes for alternative methods of M6 propellant disposal until March 18, 2015 and will begin evaluating proposals shortly.

The 90-day extension to the CERCLA settlement agreement granted to the state by the EPA expires on April 15, 2015.

### Current Actions

The Camp Minden Dialogue Committee completed its final meeting on March 11, 2015, at the community house in Minden, Louisiana.

On March 13, 2015, the Camp Minden Dialogue Facilitator's report was released to the public. The report provides a summary of the participant's feedback regarding possible alternatives technologies. The report is the result of a tremendous commitment by the community to seek alternative solutions to address the materials at Camp Minden. The report represents the culmination of endless hours work, tireless study and research, and the incredible understanding and knowledge of the participants. A copy of the report is available at <http://www2.epa.gov/la/camp-minden-dialogue>.

Six alternative technologies were identified by the Committee including: Super Critical Water Oxidation, Microwave Reactor, Rotary Kiln, Humic Acid Catalyzed Hydrolysis, Tunnel Furnace, and Contained Burns.

## **Past Actions**

In August 2013, Explo Systems, Inc. filed for bankruptcy and abandoned materials at Camp Minden. In September 2013, the Louisiana National Guard took ownership of the abandoned materials. Under federal law, the EPA requires polluters to pay for their actions. The EPA ordered three companies, referred to as 'responsible parties,' to remove nearly 3 million pounds of materials from Camp Minden. These orders were issued to General Dynamics, Alliant Techsystems, and Hercules, Inc. The work is nearly complete. Copies of these orders are publicly available.

In late October 2014, the U.S. Army, Louisiana National Guard, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and EPA signed a Settlement Agreement for the destruction of more than 15 million pounds of M6 propellant and 320,000 pounds of clean burning igniters (CBI). The Army Explosive Safety Board made several trips to see first-hand the conditions at Camp Minden and recommended destroying the materials.

The agreement and state's contract requires the contractor to meet state and federal environmental requirements to protect public health. The award requires the contractor to conduct extensive monitoring before, during and after their work. The EPA and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) will conduct independent monitoring during the destruction of materials at Camp Minden. Monitoring information will be publicly available.

On October 28, 2014, a CERCLA settlement agreement negotiated by Department of Justice was signed by the EPA, LDEQ, Louisiana National Guard and Department of Army. The agreement was effective on November 4, 2014. On January 15, 2015, the EPA extended the state's deadline under this agreement by 90 days to allow review of alternatives.

On January 28, 2015, the EPA announced the creation of a Dialogue Committee to address community ideas and suggestions on

alternatives to address the dangerous conditions at Camp Minden. The committee was made up of volunteer citizens, community leaders, local and statewide organizations, scientists, elected officials and state representatives.

On February 10, 2015, Louisiana National Guard notified EPA of their plans to use the Emergency Response Procedures set forth in Governor Jindal's Executive Order (BJ2013-14) to request additional information for alternative technologies from vendors by March 18, 2015.

## **Site Background**

On October 15, 2012, an uncontrolled explosion at Camp Minden shattered windows four miles away in the City of Minden and generated a 7,000-foot mushroom cloud. The Louisiana State Police investigated the explosion and discovered millions of pounds of chemicals and explosives improperly stored and exposed to the weather at Camp Minden. Louisiana State Police directed Explo Systems, Inc. to secure these materials and immediately protect them from the weather to prevent further deterioration. This work was completed before Explo Systems, Inc. filed for bankruptcy.

## **For More Information**

If you would like more information about Camp Minden, visit our website at [www.epa.gov/region6](http://www.epa.gov/region6).

You can also review copies of information at:

Webster Parish Library, 521 East and West Street, Minden, LA 71055, (318) 371-3080

Doyline Branch Library, 333 Main Street, P.O. Box 8, Doyline, LA 71023, (318) 745-3800

## **Contacts**

Citizens can call 800.887.6063 during normal business hours (9 am – 4 pm weekdays) and by email at our dedicated mailbox [r6\\_camp\\_minden@epa.gov](mailto:r6_camp_minden@epa.gov).

All inquiries from the news media should be directed to the EPA Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200 or by email at [R6press@epa.gov](mailto:R6press@epa.gov).



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