



Camp Minden Site Removal Action

Explo Systems, Inc.
Webster Parish, Louisiana

April 2015

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The safety of the public is our most important consideration. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 at Camp Minden.

Future Actions

The Louisiana National Guard (LMD), submitted a contractor proposal to EPA for the cleanup of M6 propellant at Camp Minden. The recommendation of an alternative remedy comes after weeks of cooperation between local and federal stakeholders. EPA is currently conducting a technical review of the contractor proposal. Upon completion of the review process, EPA will respond appropriately and publicly.

Once the response method is determined and notifications are made, the contractor will provide LMD and EPA plans for work, health and safety, and emergency response. The work plan will include specifics of the removal action, environmental monitoring and sampling, etc. The health and safety plan will address worker health and safety during the removal action. The emergency response plan will include what will happen in the event there's an incident.

EPA is planning continued outreach efforts through additional workshops and Community Meetings. A Community Meeting is planned for mid-May. This meeting will discuss details of the alternative remedy. Once a date is set, a newsletter will be mailed to the community and a notice published in the Minden Newspaper.

Current Actions

As EPA prepares to announce a remedy selection, citizens of Camp Minden area are attending a series of environmental workshops held in cooperation with LMD and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ).

At an April 16, 2015 workshop, citizens learned various air data collection mechanisms that were being used around Camp Minden during the cleanup. They got to view the equipment that is being utilized. Residents received detailed descriptions of the equipment's functions and placement. Citizens learned processes used to measure and analyze the baseline standard for air quality for any potential or accidental exposure during the removal actions.

A second workshop was held April 23, 2015. During this workshop, residents learned basic response preparedness including: how local officials notify residents if an incident occurs, response procedures, and actions citizens should be prepared to take in order to protect their families.

Past Actions

In late October 2014 LMD, LDEQ, 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 agreement was effective 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.

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, LMD 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.

The EPA released the amended action memo on March 18, 2015, which allowed 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 LMD 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 90-day extension to the CERCLA settlement agreement granted to the state by the EPA expired on April 15, 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.

In August 2013, after Explo Systems, Inc. completed securing the materials, it then filed for bankruptcy and abandoned materials at Camp Minden. In September 2013, the LMD took ownership of the abandoned materials.

For More Information...

If you would like more information about Camp Minden, visit our website at www.epa.gov/region6.

You can also review copies of information at:

Webster Parish Library	Doyline Branch Library
521 East and West Street	333 Main Street
Minden, LA 71055	Doyline, LA 71023
(318) 371-3080	(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.

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.



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