



Camp Minden Site Removal Action

Explo Systems, Inc.

Webster Parish, Louisiana

May 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 cleanup actions at Camp Minden.

Current Actions

The Louisiana Military Department (LMD) submitted a contractor proposal to EPA for the cleanup of M6 propellant. EPA conducted a technical review of the contractor proposal and approved it. EPA announced the technology that was selected on May 8, 2015. The technology selected is Contained Burn System (CBS). The CBS will provide superior protection to the public and the environment by processing all exhaust gases and products of combustion, and removing those emissions and materials of concern prior to release of cleaned exhaust gases to the environment.

The CBS consists of the propellant being placed in a Contained Burn Chamber (CBC) that is constructed of high quality steel and then burned at a high temperature for a long

enough time to ensure complete combustion. Once the burn process cycle is completed, the burn tray will be removed from the chamber and a new tray containing another batch of M6 material will be placed into the chamber.

Residue ash will be removed from the tray after each cycle. As a result of the contained burn process, all residue ash is anticipated to be non-hazardous. Prior to shipment offsite, the ash will be sampled and profiled for proper disposal. The operation will be conducted on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to achieve the daily disposal rate required. The vendor recommends Area-I for operations due to its secluded location.

Inside the CBC, the exhaust gases will pass through filters, scrubbers and an afterburner before the clean exhaust gases are released back into the environment. Air emission will be monitored during the operation.

Future Actions

LMD will provide EPA with 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.

The CBS should take five months to construct. According to the vendor, it will provide a maximum burn rate of approximately 60,000 lbs. per day. This will provide a capability to complete the destruction of the M6 and Clean Burning Igniters (CBI) in less than one year following start of operations.

The operation will be conducted on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to achieve the daily disposal rate required. The vendor recommends Area-I for operations due to its secluded location.

A Community Meeting is planned for May 28, 2015. The meeting will be held from 6pm to 8pm at the Doyline High School. This meeting will discuss details of the alternative technology that was selected. Representatives from the EPA, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), and LMD will be available to discuss and answer your questions on removal actions.

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 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. 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.

At an April 16, 2015 workshop, citizens learned various air data collection mechanisms that were be 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.

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 (LSP) investigated the explosion and discovered millions of pounds of chemicals and explosives improperly stored and exposed to the weather at Camp Minden. LSP 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. had 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, 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.

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.

