



Camp Minden Site Removal Action

Explo Systems, Inc.
Webster Parish, Louisiana

June 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 leads to better informed 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

Details of the Contained Burn System (CBS), an alternative remedy selected by Louisiana Military Department (LMD), was the topic for a Community Meeting held May 28, 2015. Representatives from the EPA, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), and LMD were available to answer questions from the community on removal actions.

It was necessary for EPA to postpone a proposed community meeting on June 11, 2015 in order to ensure that the LMD's contractor could be available to explain the Contained Burn system. On June 18, 2015 the contract between LMD and Explosive Service International (ESI) was signed.

Future Actions

The next Community Meeting is in the process of being scheduled. ESI will be on hand to discuss details of their Contained Burn system.

Under the AOC, LMD will submit a draft work plan, a health and safety plan, and an emergency response plan to EPA for approval. The health and safety plan addresses health and safety measures to be conducted during the removal action to protect workers during the action. The emergency response plan will detail what will happen at the Site, response duties, and required notifications in the event of an incident during the action.

The Contained Burn system will take approximately five months to construct. The operation will be conducted on a 24 hour basis to achieve the daily disposal rate required. The vendor recommends Area-I in Bossier Parish for operations due to its secluded location.

Past Actions

LMD submitted a contractor proposal to EPA for the cleanup of M6 propellant. EPA approved the contractor proposal after

conducting a technical review. EPA announced the technology that was selected on May 8, 2015.

At an April 16, 2015 workshop, citizens learned various air data collection mechanisms planned to be used during the cleanup. Residents also viewed the equipment that is being utilized on site. They 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 on April 23, 2015. During this workshop, residents learned basic response preparedness including: how local officials notify residents when an incident occurs; response procedures; and actions citizens should take in order to protect their families.

The EPA released an amended action memo March 18, 2015, which allowed alternative technologies to be considered in disposing of the materials abandoned by Explo Systems, Inc. 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 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) settlement agreement granted to the state by the EPA expired April 15, 2015.

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.

Site Background

An uncontrolled explosion at Camp Minden shattered windows four miles away in the City of Minden and generated a 7,000-foot mushroom cloud on October 15, 2012. 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 to secure these materials and immediately protect them from the weather to prevent further deterioration.

In August 2013, Explo filed for bankruptcy and abandoned materials at Camp Minden. LMD took ownership of the abandoned materials in September 2013.

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 a.m. – 4 p.m. weekdays) and send email to 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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