

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE  
FORMER SMOKE AREA R, PARCEL 105(6)  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**ISSUED BY: THE U.S. ARMY**

**FEBRUARY 2001**

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES  
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. Groundwater was not investigated at the Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6); impacts to groundwater are not anticipated from site-related smoke training activities. However, groundwater contamination has been detected at Training Area T-38, Former Technical Escort Reaction Area, Parcel 186(6), located approximately 2,000 feet northwest of Former Smoke Area R. This contamination is being addressed as part of a remedial investigation currently being conducted at that site. Although site-related impacts to groundwater are not anticipated at Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6), offsite contamination from Training Area T-38 could impact groundwater at the site. Therefore, potential groundwater impacts to the Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6) can not be positively identified until the completion of the remedial investigation at Parcel 186(6).

The location of parcel 105(6) at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In

addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the No Further Action decision with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW). Unexploded ordnance (UXO)-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to HTRW. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information

presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6). A list of background documents for Parcel 105(6) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 105(6) is available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
SITE**

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510 established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) (Public Law 102-426) requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 105(6)

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc., 1998, *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation, 2001, *Final Site Investigation Report, Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, February.

IT Corporation, 2000, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

IT Corporation, 1998, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan Attachment for Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, October.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process.

### SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC is comprised of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range.

Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6) is located east of the central part of the Main Post (Figure 1). Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6) was used as a training area from 1952 to 1970 for troops operating smoke generating equipment using fog oil. Former Smoke Area R was used only when Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6) was occupied. Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6) is located approximately 900 feet northwest of Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6). Currently, Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6) is a restricted access area.

The site and surrounding area is mostly undeveloped or wooded. The site is located on a west-facing slope and covers an area approximately 50 feet by 100 feet. Site elevation is approximately 880 to 890 feet above sea level. The closest surface water source is an unnamed tributary located approximately 350 feet northwest of the site. The tributary eventually meets Cane Creek, located over 2,000 feet to the south of the site. Shallow groundwater at the site is probably controlled by surface drainage and/or topography.

### SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc., 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using U.S. Department of Defense guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act qualifier designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2); CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6) was categorized as a CERFA Category 6 parcel. CERFA Category 6 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred, but required actions have not yet been implemented.

With the issuance of this Decision

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES  
FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

**Anniston Calhoun County Public Library**

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Telephone: (256) 237-8501

Fax: (256) 238-0474

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Houston Cole Library**

9<sup>th</sup> Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road

Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249

Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Document, Parcel 105(6) is recategorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. A Category 3 parcel is an area where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred, but at concentrations that do not require removal or remedial response.

**SITE INVESTIGATION**

An SI was conducted at Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6) to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that would present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT Corporation, 2001).

Two surface and Two subsurface soil samples were collected from two locations at the site (Figure 1). Surface soil samples were collected from the upper 1 foot of soil; subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. The samples were analyzed for target analyte list metals, target compound list (TCL) volatile organic compounds (VOC), and TCL semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC).

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health and

site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) developed for FTMC (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals concentrations exceeding the SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998).

The concentrations of five metals (aluminum, arsenic, chromium, iron, and manganese) exceeded SSSLs in soils. Of these metals,

only the concentration of iron (one surface location and one subsurface location) exceeded the background concentration. The surface soil concentration of iron was within the range of background values; the subsurface soil result for iron exceeded the range of background values by approximately 10 percent.

Several metals were detected in surface soils at concentrations exceeding ESVs. However, only beryllium, iron, and selenium concentrations exceeded their respective background concentrations. With the exception of the beryllium result, these metals concentrations were within the range of background values. None of the VOCs or SVOCs detected in subsurface soils was present at a concentration exceeding residential human health SSSLs.

#### **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6).

#### **DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION**

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 105(6). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and organic compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Groundwater was not investigated at the Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6); impacts to groundwater are not anticipated from site-related smoke training activities. However,

groundwater contamination has been detected at Training Area T-38, Former Technical Escort Reaction Area, Parcel 186(6), located approximately 2,000 feet northwest of Former Smoke Area R. This contamination is being addressed as part of a remedial investigation currently being conducted at that site. Although site-related impacts to groundwater are not anticipated at Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6), offsite contamination from Training Area T-38 could impact groundwater at the site. Therefore, potential groundwater impacts to the Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(6) can not be positively identified until the completion of the remedial investigation at Parcel 186(6).

Parcel 105(6) is recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcel. A Category 3 parcel is an area where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred, but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

The following costs are associated with implementing the No Further Action:

Capital Cost:	\$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	\$0
Present Worth Cost:	\$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

#### **DECLARATION**

Remedial action is unnecessary at Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(3) (formerly Parcel 105[6]).

The No Further Action protects human health and the environment, complies with federal and state regulations that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate to this remedial action, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with developing a No Further Action at Former Smoke Area R, Parcel 105(3) (formerly Parcel 105[6]).

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

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## **GLOSSARY**

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
HTRW	hazardous toxic and radiologic waste
LUCIP	Land Use Control Implementation Plan
SI	Site investigation
SSSL	Site-specific screening level
SVOC	Semivolatile organic compound
TCL	Target compound list
UXO	unexploded ordnance
VOC	Volatile organic compound

**Prepared under direction of:**

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