

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE  
FORMER WASTE CHEMICAL STORAGE AREA, PARCELS 87(7), 10(7), AND 135(7)  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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

**SEPTEMBER 2001**

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

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further action regarding additional investigation or active response measures will be undertaken by the U.S. Army at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. However, because of the presence of elevated concentrations of arsenic in soil at the site, the U.S. Army will develop a Land Use Control Implementation Plan (LUCIP) for Parcel 87(7) that outlines the restrictions to be placed on future site activities and land use. The location of the parcels at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the decision to implement land-use controls at the site.

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 consists of representatives from the U.S.

Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7), the U.S. Army will develop a LUCIP that outlines the restrictions to be placed on future site activities and land use at these parcels. 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 the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7). A list of background documents for Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7) 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 (DOD) 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 follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCELS 87(7), 10(7), AND 135(7)

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 Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, May.

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 Site Investigation at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area Site, Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, August.

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

## 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 comprises 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.

The Former Waste Chemical Storage Area (Parcel 87[7]) is

located in the northwest portion of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1).

This site, which covers approximately 5 acres, was originally the location of a motor pool facility and the former location of Buildings 594 and 598 prior to its use as a storage area for waste chemicals (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). Presently, only the concrete foundations of Buildings 594 and 598 remain at the site. Two vehicle bays (grease pits) are located at the northwest end of the Building 598 foundation. The Alabama Army National Guard equipment parking and staging area borders the site to the northwest (Figure 1). Second Avenue borders the site to the northeast.

It is unknown when Building 598 was first used as the Waste Chemical Storage Facility. Records indicate that the building was used to store expired chemicals, chemical degradation

materials, and damaged containers of chemicals. Waste containers were stored directly on the concrete floor. The length of time these drums were stored was not available. This building was not a permitted Resource Conservation and Recovery Act storage unit.

On March 17, 1989, Building 598 burned (ESE, 1998). A FTMC Fire Department report of this incident was not available. A hazardous waste inventory was conducted after the fire and any missing items were assumed to have been destroyed. A composite sediment sample was collected by Roy F. Weston, Inc., in the area where water used to extinguish the fire would have entered Cave Creek. Pesticides were not detected in the sample. The exact location of this sample was not identified in the Weston report and there was no record indicating that other analyses were performed on the sample. Prior to the fire, there

**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.

were not any releases or spills recorded at Building 598.

Parcel 10(7) is an underground storage tank (UST) location adjacent to the north side of the Building 598 concrete foundation. A 3,000-gallon diesel fuel UST was removed from this location in 1991. A second UST was reportedly located at the site; however, a closure report was not found and there was not any evidence of the existence of a second UST.

Parcel 135(7) encompasses an area believed to be a former FTMC gas station (ESE, 1998). A small concrete foundation (former Building 594) is located in the

southeast corner of the site near 2nd Avenue (Figure 1). Most of the former FTMC gas stations were constructed in 1941 and were associated with motor pool areas. The typical gas station buildings were of like construction, consisting of a 9 feet by 21 feet concrete foundation with corrugated steel walls. Closure reports for the former gas station USTs at this site are not on file with FTMC or ADEM and may not have been required at the time of tank removal (ESE, 1998).

The site slopes slightly to the west-southwest and lies at an elevation of approximately 760 feet above mean sea level. Cave Creek borders the site to the

southeast and flows to the southwest. A small marshy area is located in the southwest corner of the site, 50 to 70 feet from the Building 598 slab.

**SCOPE AND ROLE OF  
PARCEL**

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (ESE, 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-CERCLA 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. Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7) were categorized as CERFA Category 7 parcels in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or require additional evaluation (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 87(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 4 parcel. Category 4 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred, and all removal or remedial actions to protect human health and the environment have been taken. Parcels 10(7) and 135(7) are re-categorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

## SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7) to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 1998; 2001). As part of the SI, a geophysical survey was conducted to identify potential USTs.

The geophysical survey identified two anomalies representing potential USTs at Parcel 135(7). IT investigated the anomalies

representing potential USTs in July 2000. However, no USTs were found using exploratory trenching and excavation. The anomalies at Parcel 135(7) were caused by metal tie-down strapping and metal pieces.

Nine surface soil samples, two depositional soil samples, eight subsurface soil samples, eight groundwater samples, and one surface water/sediment sample were collected at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7). Surface and depositional 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. Groundwater samples were collected from eight temporary groundwater monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. Surface water and sediment samples were collected from Cave Creek located southeast of the site.

Chemical analyses of the samples included metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides/herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), total cyanide, and dioxins. In addition, the sediment sample was analyzed for total organic carbon and grain size.

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC. 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, metal concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998), and SVOC concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs in surface and depositional soils were compared to polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) background screening values developed for FTMC (IT, 2000).

Although the site is located within the Alabama Army National Guard enclave and is projected for industrial land reuse, the soils and groundwater analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted land reuse. In surface soils, only arsenic (at one location) exceeded its SSSL and the range of background values. In addition, the dioxin 2,3,7,8-TCDD (one location) exceeded its SSSL. Several PAH compounds were detected in surface and depositional soils at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and PAH background values; however, the elevated PAHs were in samples collected beneath or adjacent to asphalt. The PAHs are most likely the result of anthropogenic activities (i.e., asphalt) and do not appear to be related to site operations. Organophosphorus pesticides, cyanide, and PCBs were not detected in any of the samples collected.

In groundwater, aluminum (one location), thallium (one location), and vanadium (eight locations), were detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and the range of background values. However, the elevated metals concentrations are believed to be the result of high turbidity at the time of sample collection and therefore not related to site activities.

Metals, SVOCs, pesticides, and one herbicide were detected in site media (primarily surface and depositional soils) at concentrations exceeding ESVs. However, the potential impact to ecological receptors is expected to be minimal based on the existing viable habitat and site conditions. The site is covered with asphalt and concrete pavement with limited grassed areas. Viable ecological habitat is presently limited and is not expected to increase in the future land-use scenario.

#### **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions (i.e., active response measures) were not conducted at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7).

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

The U.S. Army will not take any further action at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(7), 10(7), and 135(7), with regard to additional investigation or active response measures. However, because of the presence of elevated arsenic concentrations in soil beneath the Building 598 concrete foundation in Parcel

87(7), the U.S. Army will develop a LUCIP that outlines the restrictions to be placed on future site activities and land use at this site. Parcel 87(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 4 parcel. Category 4 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred, and all removal or remedial actions to protect human health and the environment have been taken.

Parcels 10(7) and 135(7) are re-categorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

#### **DECLARATION**

Further investigation or active response measures are unnecessary at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(4), 10(3), and 135(3) (formerly Parcels 87[7], 10[7], and 135[7]). However, because of the presence of elevated arsenic concentrations in soil beneath the Building 598 concrete foundation in Parcel 87(4), the U.S. Army will implement land-use controls at the site to protect human health and the environment, comply with relevant federal and state regulations, and ensure cost-effective application of public funds. There will not be any remedial costs associated with implementing land-use controls at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcel 87(4) (formerly Parcel 87[7]). There will not be any remedial costs associated with implementing no

further action at the Former Waste Chemical Storage Area, Parcels 87(4), 10(3), and 135(3).

#### **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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## ACRONYMS

ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon
LUCIP	Land Use Control Implementation Plan
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
UST	underground storage tank
VOC	volatile organic compound

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