



News Release

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Cleanup agreement reached for Camp Bonneville

OLYMPIA -- Clark County and the U.S. Army are one important step closer to cleaning up toxic contamination at the Camp Bonneville Military Reservation.

Over the past seven months, the state Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Army developed a detailed plan for cleaning up Camp Bonneville, located on 3,840 acres about five miles northeast of Vancouver. As the first step in implementing that cleanup plan, Ecology has formally notified the Army that the contamination at the reservation must continue to be investigated and cleaned up.

“Ecology and the Army agree on the work that still needs to be done at the site,” said Tim Nord, a supervisor with Ecology’s toxic-cleanup program, which will oversee the work. “This order really gets the ball rolling.”

In conjunction with the cleanup, Clark County and the Army are discussing transferring ownership of the property to Clark County. Under current plans, the property would be transferred to the county, along with all necessary cleanup funds. County officials want to develop a regional park and natural area on the site once it is cleaned up.

“We are excited about moving the Camp Bonneville cleanup forward quickly,” said Judie Stanton, a Clark County commissioner. “The joint efforts between Clark County, Ecology and the Army bring the redevelopment of the land into a regional park another step closer for our citizens.”

The administrative order issued by Ecology outlines the process for investigating and cleaning up the site, and calls for removing contaminated soils and unexploded ordnance from the site. Ground water also will be analyzed and monitored to make sure the contamination has not migrated off-site.

Camp Bonneville was used as a firing-practice range and training center for the military from 1910 to 1995. Some of the military munitions used or disposed at the site, including artillery and mortar ammunition, rockets, missiles, bombs and grenades, remain and pose a risk to health and safety.

The military operations at Camp Bonneville also released several chemicals into the soil and ground water that must be cleaned up.

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Ecology's Camp Bonneville Web site:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/camp_bonneville/camp_bonneville_hp.htm

Broadcast version

Clark County and the U.S. Army are one important step closer to cleaning up toxic contamination at the Camp Bonneville Military Reservation. The site is located five miles northeast of Vancouver.

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