

Camp Bonneville



Public comments sought on Ecology's plan for the Army to investigate and clean-up the Camp Bonneville site

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared this fact sheet pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act Chapter 70.105D RCW to provide you with information about its proposal for the US Army to investigate and clean-up the Camp Bonneville site.

You are welcome and encouraged to comment on the Enforcement Order (the 40-page administrative order between Ecology and the Army to implement the investigation and cleanup) during the 30-day public comment period.

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review all comments received and make recommendations for suggested changes to the Enforcement Order.

If no significant changes are made, the Order is final.

DEFINITIONS

An **"Enforcement Order"** is a legal document issued by Ecology to a Potentially Liable Person (PLP) that requires the PLP to initiate cleanup action.

A **"Potentially Liable Person"** is any person whom Ecology finds, based on credible evidence, to be liable for the cleanup action.

A **"Remedial Investigation"** is a study to define the nature, extent, magnitude, and source of the problems at a site.

A **"Feasibility Study"** uses information gathered during the Remedial Investigation to develop alternatives for cleaning up the site.

An **"Interim Action"** provides a partial cleanup of the site.

A **"Cleanup Action Plan"** is the document that describes the selected cleanup for the site.

Site background

The Camp Bonneville Military Reservation site (Camp Bonneville) is approximately 3,840 acres in size, including 800 acres of state-owned land. Camp Bonneville is located approximately five miles from the Vancouver City limits in Clark County. It borders both sides of Lacamas Creek and is approximately seven miles north of the Columbia River. Over half of the site is forested.

The Department of Defense owned and operated Camp Bonneville for firing range practice and training from 1910 to 1995. During that time, military ammunitions were stored and used at the site—including artillery ammunition, mortar ammunition, air-launched rockets, shoulder-fired rockets, guided missiles, bombs, land mines (practice only), grenades, fuses, and small arms ammunition.

The camp was officially closed in 1995. Since then, investigations have been ongoing to characterize the contamination from the ammunitions and other hazardous substances and to develop a plan for re-using the site once it's cleaned up.

The Enforcement Order

The Enforcement Order establishes guidelines and deadlines for the Army to investigate and clean-up the site.

February 2003

Public Comment Period for Enforcement Order

February 10, 2003 through March 10, 2003

Information Repositories

Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey Washington
Attn: Carol Dorn, (360) 407-7224

Vancouver Mall Public Library
8700 NE Vancouver Mall Drive
Suite 285
Vancouver WA
Attn: Barbara Meisenheimer
(360) 892-8256
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html

Send comments to:

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For administrative purposes, the site was divided into three units. Following is a brief description of each unit and the actions that will occur once the Enforcement Order is finalized.

Remedial Action Unit 1:

This area consists of 20 acres where hazardous substances (other than military ammunitions) have been located. This includes diesel fuel, fuel oil, pesticides, solvents, and lead- and chromium-containing paint.

The Army has already conducted some independent cleanup actions at this area (independent means without state or federal oversight or approval). The Enforcement Order requires the Army to develop a Cleanup Action Plan that will specify the ideal cleanup for this area.

Remedial Action Unit 2:

This area consists of:

- Twenty-one small arms range areas;
- Three demolition areas where ammunitions were either burned or detonated;
- One landfill.

The Army has conducted several investigations of this area. The Enforcement Order requires the Army to do the following:

1. Develop work plans to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Interim Action at the small arms range areas. The Interim Action would involve removing lead-contaminated soils.
2. Develop a work plan to conduct a Remedial Investigation at two of the demolition areas.
3. Develop a work plan to conduct an Interim Action at the landfill and one remaining demolition area. The Interim Action would involve removing materials from the landfill and contaminated soils from the demolition area.
4. Conduct Feasibility Studies and develop Cleanup Action Plans for all three areas of Remedial Action Unit 2.

Remedial Action Unit 3:

This area includes the entire site where ammunition (including unexploded) may still remain. Under the Enforcement Order, the Army will conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the site, and develop a Cleanup Action Plan.

Investigating & monitoring ground water

Preliminary investigations have found high explosive compounds, such as HMX and RDX, and ammonium Perchlorate, an artillery propellant, in the ground water.

To help determine if contaminated ground water is migrating off-site, the Army is developing a work plan to investigate ground water quality at the property boundary. The Enforcement Order imposes deadlines for completing the plan and corresponding field work.

“Early transfer” of property to Clark County

For the past several months, the Army and Clark County have been discussing an early transfer of Camp Bonneville to Clark County. Early Transfer is a process that enables the transfer of Department of Defense ownership of a property to a Local Re-use Authority prior to completion of cleanup.

The Enforcement Order will provide more certainty and predictability for Clark County and the Army in their property-transfer discussions without delaying the transfer process.

Once cleaned up, Clark County plans to develop a regional park on the property.

Your comments

Should you have comments after reading the Enforcement Order, please send them to Ben Forson, Ecology’s Site Manager, at the Department of Ecology, PO Box 47600, Olympia WA 98504-7600.