



FIVE-YEAR REVIEW FACT SHEET - 2013

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Site Location: Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge (formerly the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Woodbridge Research Facility), Dawson Beach Road, Woodbridge, VA

Site Background: The Woodbridge Research Facility was an Army installation that was officially closed under Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) on 16 September 1994. On 26 June 1998, the property was transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior (Fish & Wildlife Service) for the establishment of the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The site is located on 579 acres of land in the easternmost portion of Prince William County, VA. The Occoquan and Belmont Bays of the Potomac River border the site on the south and east, respectively while the Marumsco Creek runs along the western border. The site is mostly undeveloped grasslands and woods with significant wetland features along the many drainage areas. In 1951, the U.S. Army acquired the property for use as a military radio transmitting station. From 1971 until its closure in 1994, the primary mission of the site was to support U.S. Army Research Laboratory programs. The facility studied the effects of electromagnetic pulses on communications and other military systems.

Site Environmental History Since Closure:

Operable Unit 1 (OU1) Former Dumps: Investigations at OU1 identified seven former dump areas (AREE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6A, and 6B). A decision document was signed on 10 September 1997 and called for clean closure of AREEs 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6B by removing all solid waste and contaminated soils. For AREEs 1 and 6A, the decision document called for removal of solid waste and contaminated soils from wetland areas and performance of in-place closure of waste in upland areas with an engineered surface cover that included shoreline protection features. In addition, all wetland areas were to be restored and a long term monitoring program initiated. The Army began remedial actions for OU1 in 1998 and completed them in 2000. Based on the remedial action findings, the decision document was revised on 21 October 1999 to classify AREE 6A as a clean closure. Only AREE 1 required the construction of an engineered surface cover. Long term monitoring commenced in 2000.

Operable Unit 3 (OU3) Main Drainage Ditch: Investigations at OU3 identified PCB contamination in soils adjacent to the former main compound area and in sediments along the Main Drainage Ditch (AREEs 11, 17, and 23). The decision document was signed on 10 September 1997 and called for the excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils and sediments. In addition, the stream channel was to be restored and a long term monitoring program initiated. The Army began remedial actions for OU3 in 1998 and completed them in 1999. Long term monitoring commenced in 2000.

Long Term Monitoring: Long-Term Monitoring commenced in 2000 and is currently projected to occur through the year 2030. As a result of an Interim Clean Closure evaluation of OU1 completed in 2002, AREEs 2, 3, 5, 6A and 6B in OU1 were closed. A determination of clean closure was made at AREE 4 in 2006. Following the 2010 LTM sampling event, the BRAC Cleanup Team agreed that a determination of No Further Action (NFA) be made for OU3. The objective of the continuing LTM effort is 1) to monitor groundwater and storm-water runoff at AREE 1 in OU1 every fifth year, in conjunction with the Five-Year Review cycle; 2) to perform annual inspections of the AREE1 landfill cap and riprap revetment; and, 3) to monitor land use controls annually site-wide. Presently the 19th long term monitoring event is being conducted

Five-Year Reviews: Five-year reviews completed in September 2003 and November 2008 concluded that the remedies in place are protective of human health and the environment. The next Five-Year Reviews is currently scheduled for 2018.

Purpose of the Five-Year Review: The purpose of a five-year review is to evaluate the implementation and performance of a environmental remedy in order to determine if it has remain protective of human health and the environment. Basically, the five-year review serves as a regular checkup to insure that previous cleanup activities at a site by the U.S. Army were successful and remain effective.

Agencies Involved: The Lead Agency conducting this Five-Year Review is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. The Army Project Manager is Ms. Phyllis Della Camera who can be reached at (410) 962-6643. URS Corporation is under contract to the Army to provide public affairs and other support during the Five-Year Review. This work is being performed for both the Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi, MD and the Army BRAC Office. In addition, representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency Region III, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will fully participate in this Five-Year Review.

Five-Year Review Process:

Task #1 – Planning: During the planning process, the agencies involved meet and discuss all activities of the Five-Year Review. As part of these discussions, a community involvement plan is developed and public notices are prepared. In addition, a list of people to be interviewed and the interview questions are created. Also, site specific inspection checklists are developed based on the input from all of the agencies involved. Finally, the schedule for the Five-Year Review is completed.

Task #2 – Collect Information: During this phase of work, all relevant documents on the site are collected and reviewed. Interviews of key agency personnel and community representatives are performed. Changes in applicable and appropriate requirements (ARARS) of Federal, State, or local regulations are considered. Finally, a site inspection is performed to document site conditions and the previously instituted environmental remedies.

Task #3 – Prepare Report: A Five-Year Review report is prepared that summarizes all of the collected information. This report includes a protectiveness statement, which identifies whether or not the selected remedy remains protective of human health and the environment at the site. This report will be made available to the community for review and comment before it is finalized.

Five-Year Review Schedule:

	<u>Est. Start Date</u>	<u>Est. End Date</u>
Task #1 – Planning	April 2013	May 2013
Task #2 – Collect Information	May 2013	June 2013
Task #3 – Prepare Report	July 2013	August 2013
Public Comment Period	August 2013	September 2013

Information Repository: Documents of interest for the site are available for public viewing at the Chinn Park Regional Library, 13065 Chinn Park Drive, Prince William, VA 22192. These documents include the decision documents, remedial action reports, and long term monitoring plan and reports. Once completed, the Five-Year Review report will also be placed in the information repository for public comment.

What You Can Do: If you are interested in providing any input, being interviewed, or submitting comments as part of this Five-Year Review, please contact us as shown below.

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