

FORT ORD MUNITIONS RESPONSE

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (MR RI/FS) Program

Track 1 Update

TRACK 1 sites are areas where Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) were suspected, but no further action is necessary for the following reasons:

- Suspected training did not occur,
- Training did not involve explosive items, or
- Investigations identified evidence of past training using only practice and/or pyrotechnic items; in the unlikely event that a live item is found, it is not expected to activate through casual contact.

What Happened

- Final Track 1 Ordnance and Explosives Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study, Former Fort Ord, California (Track 1 OE RI/FS) was issued June 21, 2004.
- Track 1 Proposed Plan was issued on September 1, 2004.
 - Proposed no further action regarding munitions response for 21 munitions response sites (MRSs)
 - Proposed a plug-in process for evaluating and approving other MRSs as Track 1 (no further action)
 - Proposed no further remedial action to address ecological risks from residual soil contamination at Site 3, Beach Trainfire Ranges (MRS-22)
- The Proposed Plan public comment period began on September 15, it was extended at the request of the public to a total of 60 days, ending November 15, 2004.
- A Proposed Plan public comment meeting was held on September 29, 2004.
- The Army and the regulatory agencies are reviewing and considering all public comments received during the public comment period.

Purpose of the MR RI/FS Program:

- Evaluate explosive hazards from military munitions at the former Fort Ord.
- Evaluate long-term munitions response alternatives at the former Fort Ord.

Evaluation process:

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Contingency Plan (NCP)

Regulatory oversight:

- Fort Ord Federal Facility Agreement (FFA)
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

Munitions Response Study Tracks

- Track 0: Areas contain no evidence of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and have never been suspected as having been used for munitions-related activities.
- Track 1: MEC were suspected, no further action necessary.
- Track 2: MEC found, removal action complete.
- Track 3: MEC known or suspected, actions not complete.



Track 1 Update, continued

Public Comment

Comments both supporting and opposing the proposed remedies were received during the public comment period. Below are highlights of the public comments received on the Track 1 Proposed Plan. No comments were received regarding the proposed no further action at Site 3 to address ecological risks. The Army's formal responses to public comments will be included in the Record of Decision.

- Regulatory Process Issues:
 - Concern that Army did not perform full site investigations.
 - Concern that Army did not perform a feasibility study.
 - Recommendation that the Army should perform a risk assessment using the Fort Ord Ordnance and Explosives Risk Assessment Protocol.
 - It was suggested that the Army did not achieve community acceptance, one of the National Contingency

Plan's nine criteria for evaluating remedial alternatives.

- It was suggested that the Army's recommendations about ordnance recognition and safety training should be formalized as institutional controls.
- Concern that the Army did not adequately involve the community in the Track 1 process.
- Technical Issues:
 - It was suggested that there are limitations to Schonstedt magnetometers that were used in the field investigations at many of the proposed Track 1 sites.
 - It was suggested that there are limitations to SiteStats/GridStats statistical sampling method that was used at some of the proposed Track 1 sites.
 - A commenter stated that the probability of detecting MEC at the proposed Track 1 sites is low.
 - It was suggested that the

statement that "the MEC items potentially present at the proposed Track 1 sites have been exposed to moisture, degradation, and weathering from many years which could prevent them from functioning" is an informal hazard assessment and should be dropped.

- Recommended that the Army should explain how the site boundaries were developed.

- Site Specific Comments

What Happens Next

- The Army will respond to public comments in a Responsiveness Summary that will be included in the Record of Decision (ROD).
- The ROD will document the final selected remedies. The ROD will be made available for the public in the Administrative Record, information repositories and online at www.fortordcleanup.com.

Track 0 Update

TRACK 0 areas contain no evidence of Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) and have never been suspected as having been used for munitions-related activities

What Happened

- Track 0 Record of Decision was signed in September 2002.
 - Approved no action regarding munitions response for 130 parcels (over 2,100 acres)
 - Established a plug-in process for evaluating and approving other parcels as Track 0 (no action)
- Track 0 Plug-in Approval Memorandum for East Garrison Area 1 was finalized in June 2004.

- Approved no action regarding munitions response for East Garrison Area 1, former small arms ranges that had been remediated (approx. 21 acres)

What Happens Next

- Track 0 Plug-in Approval Memorandum for Group B Parcels:
 - Will provide Track 0 (no action) evaluation for 41 parcels (approximately 450 acres) that do not overlap any munitions response site (MRS)

- A 30-day public review is planned for Spring 2005.
- Track 0 Plug-in Approval Memorandum for Group C Parcels:
 - Will provide Track 0 (no action) evaluation for 19 areas (approximately 400 acres) that are adjacent to Track 1 sites.
 - A 30-day public review period is planned for Spring 2005, pending approval of the Track 1 ROD.