



Arkansas Pine Bluff Arsenal

Facility and Location

Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA) plays a role in the Army Force Integration Process and has direct involvement in various phases of the life cycle systems management model. It produces, stores, and demilitarizes conventional ammunition; serves as the group technology center for illuminating and infrared munitions; serves as the specified mission facility for smoke munitions; and maintains the military's sole capability for white phosphorus fill. PBA supports the storage and destruction of the second largest stateside chemical weapons stockpile, preservation of the only permitted site east of the Rocky Mountains for acceptance of non-stockpile chemical munitions, and enforcement of international treaty efforts through compliance and education of worldwide inspectors. PBA is the Joint Services' Center of Expertise for chemical/biological defensive equipment production, maintenance, testing, certification, and training. PBA augments design agencies with development and engineering, prototype production, testing and evaluation, technical data packages, and concept prove-out and demonstration. PBA conducts engineering studies for product improvement, ensures environmental excellence through hazardous material/waste management programs, serves the needs of Arkansas communities and the military population, and is the only active Army installation in the state.

Media Sampled and Findings

Groundwater — In 2011, 8 of 25 samples detected perchlorate from 0.6 to 6,000 ppb. In 2009, 32 samples reported no detection. In 2008, nine samples reported no detection. In 2007, 2 of 60 samples detected perchlorate at 490 and 500 ppb.

Surface Water — In 2011, two of eight samples detected perchlorate at 2.23 and 3.2 ppb.

Wastewater — In 2011, 8 of 12 samples detected perchlorate from 1.3 to 5.1 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Samples were above the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb, PBA is required by a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit to monitor for perchlorate. Perchlorate sampling is ongoing at two sites involving groundwater monitoring. Sampling is also required for monitor and report at two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System outfalls. Sampling has ended at the 86 HWL open burn/open detonation (OD/OD) site per RCRA permit regulations. Past detections at this range were determined to be laboratory errors and subsequent samples showed results below laboratory practical quantification limits.