



Oregon

Umatilla Chemical Depot

Facility and Location

Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) is a 19,728 acre military facility located in northeastern Oregon on the border of Morrow and Umatilla counties. It was established as an Army ordnance depot in 1941. Activities at the facility have included the disassembly, analysis, modification, reassembly, repacking, and storage of conventional munitions, as well as the storage of chemical filled munitions and containerized chemical agents. The UMCD facility is currently slated for realignment under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program. When the Army eventually vacates the site, the facility could be released to private interests for either light industrial or residential use. Retention of the ammunition demolition area under government control for use in military training is also being considered.

Formerly known as the Umatilla Depot Activity (UMDA), the Army began storing chemical munitions at the facility in 1962. The facility was placed on the National Priorities List in 1987. In 1988, the BRAC Commission listed UMDA for closure, making the land available for private sale and use after closure. Current plans call for the facility to be made available for wildlife management, commercial and industrial development, and possibly agricultural use.

During the Superfund cleanup project at UMCD, the Army pioneered the use of microbes in cleaning up soils contaminated by explosive compounds. Bioremediation is typically used in oil based contamination cleanups; however, the Army worked closely with EPA and others to develop a method for the microbes to work on soils contaminated by explosives. The lagoon cleanup at UMCD represents the first use of composting and microbes to remediate explosives at a Superfund site. The lagoon site is an area where conventional bombs were dismantled and washed out with water in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Media Sampled and Findings

Groundwater — Prior to 2007, 84 samples taken from the ammunition demolition area reported a high detection of 9.6 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Not Applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.