



Facts About...

Phoenix Military Reservation Fire Control Area FEDERAL FACILITIES PROGRAM

Site Description:

The Phoenix Military Reservation (PMR) is consisted of two operational areas known as the Fire Control Area (FCA) and the Launch Area (LA). This fact sheet provides information about the 17-acre FCA property, which is located in north central Baltimore County, about one mile southwest of Jacksonville, Maryland. The FCA is also identified on Maryland's State Master List as MD-157. The facility is located on a topographic high point in a residential area. Surface water drains into Greene Branch, which flows along the northern perimeter of the property and ultimately discharges to the Loch Raven Reservoir located three miles west of PMR.

Site History:

The PMR served as a battery (BA-03) of the Baltimore-Washington air defense system. The facility housed Nike surface to air missiles. PMR was constructed and operated between 1954 and 1966. The facility was decommissioned and all missile-related equipment was removed from the site. In 1966, the PMR remained largely inactive until 1974. At that time, the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) signed a five-year lease with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The MDNG used the property for field training activities. At the end of the effective lease period, the term of the lease was extended another five years. In 1981, the MDNG requested termination of the lease. Since 1981, no further military operations have been conducted at the site.

Environmental Investigations and Actions:

In 1983, the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency (USATHAMA) conducted a contamination assessment of the Phoenix FCA. This investigation included the installation of 12 monitoring wells: six shallow and six deep, and biased soil sampling. Samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds and inorganics. A septic system was identified as a source for trichloroethene (TCE) groundwater contamination. In 1986, the septic system and all other buildings and improvements to the property were removed.

In 1985, a remedial action alternatives assessment was conducted by USATHAMA. Based on the nature of the fractured bedrock aquifer contamination, the Army determined that groundwater pump and treat was not feasible.

To address contamination in residential wells, the Army installed a community well system in 1991. The well system, which consists of an extraction well located at 2918 Paper Mill Road and conveyance piping to the affected homes, draws groundwater that is not impacted by the TCE contamination. The system remains in place and is operated and sampled by Baltimore County.

Current Status:

In 1999, the Federal Facilities Division of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) began oversight of the project. As of December 2010, the Federal Facilities Division is overseeing the completion of the remedial investigation (RI). The Army is currently in the process of obtaining right of entry permits to sample private wells adjacent to the Phoenix Nike Site property. This is part of an overall effort to

characterize the extent of TCE contamination in groundwater. Based on the results of the forthcoming investigation, the Army and MDE will determine the appropriate course of action.

Future Activity:

The Army has expressed its intention to dispose of the property at some point in the future. The MDE Federal Facilities Division is working with the Army to ensure that appropriate response action is implemented in compliance with 42 U.S.C. 9601 section 120(h). All provisions affecting and/or governing land transfers specified within this section will be addressed prior to any future property disposal.

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