

THE UNITED STATES ARMY INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT ON AN ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR A TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL ACTION TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOSIVES SAFETY HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH MUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVES OF CONCERN, SITE LHAAP-17, BURNING GROUND NO. 2/FLASHING AREA, Group 2, LONGHORN ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT, KARNACK, TX

The U.S. Army, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (USEPA) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), has begun a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) Action for "munitions and explosives of concern" (MEC) and "material potentially presenting an explosive hazard" (MPPEH) at site LHAAP-17, Burning Ground No. 2/Flashing Area.

LHAAP-17 is a 3.9-acre site located in the southeast portion of the former Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant (LHAAP) in Karnack, Texas. The site was used as a burning/flashing ground from 1959 through 1980. The waste residues were reportedly removed from the trenches in 1984, and the site was allowed to revegetate. Remedial action started in 2019 as agreed in the 2016 Record of Decision (ROD) and soil excavation in 13 individual excavation areas began in August 2019 with a goal to remove soil contaminated with 2,4,6-Trinitrotoluene (TNT), 2,4-Dinitrotoluene (DNT), and 2,6-DNT exceeding human health criteria. Munitions debris (MD) and MEC (M301 81-mm illumination mortars, artillery base tracer elements, and M19 series rifle-launched green parachute signal) were discovered during soil excavation and a work stoppage was ordered on September 29, 2019.

The presence of MEC at the site creates a threat to public health and safety because munitions located near the surface and in the subsurface of the soil present the threat of explosion. The 2016 ROD for LHAAP-17 requires the removal of contaminated soil which contains-MEC. There is a moderate to high probability that munitions, some of which may be MEC, would be encountered within LHAAP-17 during resumption of remedial activities. Those munitions pose an unacceptable risk if not addressed through a response (removal) action.

The TCRA scope of work includes the identification and removal of surface and subsurface MEC and associated munitions constituent (MC) contamination. MPPEH will be inspected and MD not containing explosives material will be documented as safe for off-site disposition along with non-munitions related debris. **MEC detonations will be completed on site as needed. The removal action began October 7, 2021 and is expected to conclude mid-December.**

The U.S. Army welcomes the public's review and comment. The MEC TCRA Action Memorandum and UFP-QAPP are now available for public review on the LHAAP website at <http://www.longhornaap.com/LHAAP-17> and the Administrative Record is available at <http://www.longhornaap.com/admin-record>. The public comment period is from November 17, 2021 through December 16, 2021. Written comments will be accepted throughout the public comment period. After public review during the public comment period, the U.S. Army will respond to any comments received.

For further information or to submit written comments, contact: Dr. Rose M. Zeiler, Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant, P.O. Box 220, Ratcliff, Arkansas, 72951; phone number 479-635-0110 or email rose.zeiler@calibresys.com.