



Introduction

This fact sheet summarizes a significant change in a portion of the remedy for groundwater contamination and revegetation requirements at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (Arsenal) Federal Facility Site. The proposed changes to the groundwater remediation and revegetation requirements are detailed in the “Explanation of Significant Differences for Groundwater Remediation and Revegetation Requirements, Rocky Mountain Arsenal Federal Facility Site, February 21, 2006.” The Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) and related Arsenal design documents are available for public review and comment (see bottom of fact sheet for locations).

These changes, while necessitating an ESD, do not alter the overall hazardous waste management approach that was selected in the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is the official document that describes the Arsenal’s 31 cleanup projects.

What are the significant changes to the remediation project?

Groundwater Requirements

The ROD groundwater remedy consists primarily of extraction (removal) and treatment of contaminated groundwater through the continued operation of existing boundary and on-site treatment systems. There are additional areas of

extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater at contaminant sources areas. The Army is proposing to perform additional source treatment in targeted areas to further reduce groundwater contamination. Contaminated groundwater will be extracted from the South Tank Farm Plume (STFP) and the South Plants North Plume (SPNP). The groundwater will be treated at the one of the Arsenal’s on-site wastewater treatment plants and once treated, it will be placed back into the groundwater beyond the original contamination.

The ROD groundwater remedy also includes maintaining water levels or other means of groundwater contamination (plume) control to prevent the South Plants plumes from moving into the South Lakes at concentrations exceeding Colorado Basic Standards for Groundwater (CBSGs) in groundwater. The ROD included a provision that groundwater monitoring would be used to demonstrate compliance. A study conducted to evaluate the potential for migration of contaminated groundwater plumes into the South Lakes led to the conclusion that contaminated groundwater with concentrations above CBSGs was not migrating into the lakes (USGS 2004). Therefore, the Army is proposing to eliminate the requirement for hydraulic containment, including lake-level maintenance, or other means of plume

control, to prevent migration of contaminated groundwater into the lakes.

Revegetation Requirements

The ROD soil remedy requires that all sites disturbed during the cleanup will have the surface soil reconditioned and be revegetated (reseeded) with native plants and grasses. Cleanup and support areas completed to date have been revegetated with either temporary or permanent vegetation, and/or have been identified for seeding in accordance with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) management plan titled, “RMA National Wildlife Refuge Habitat Restoration Plan” (USFWS 1999) and annual

“Vegetation Management Plan” (TtFW 2005, 2004). All revegetated areas were assessed in June 2005 as part of the Arsenal’s Five-Year Review process. In recognition of the unique status of the

Arsenal, in which the Refuge Act of 1992 mandated that the majority of the Arsenal be transferred to the Service for use as a National Wildlife Refuge upon completion of the cleanup, the Army is proposing to clarify the site’s revegetation requirement to require cleanup sites located on property that will be transferred to the Service be reconditioned and seeded in a manner acceptable to the Service. Revegetation will still be completed by the Army; however, responsibility for acceptance of revegetation performance and function after seeding will be independently conducted by the Service.

Summary of the ROD Remedy and the ESD Changes

The table below shows the changes being made to the remedy as compared to what was outlined in the initial remedy. All other aspects of the initial remedy will be implemented as detailed in the 1996 ROD.

ROD-Prescribed Remedy	Modification
Boundary Treatment Systems	No Change. Boundary Treatment Systems continue to operate in accordance with the ROD.
Basin A Neck Containment System	No Change. The BANCS continues to operate in accordance with the ROD.