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Explanation of Significant Differences for Basin F/Basin F Exterior Remediation Project

Remediation Project – Rocky Mountain Arsenal Federal Facility Site

The U.S. Army recently completed the Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for the Basin F/Basin F Exterior Remediation Project. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires public notification for any modification to a Record of Decision (ROD), which provides detailed descriptions of the cleanup approach selected for the site. The On-Post ROD for areas within the Rocky Mountain Arsenal boundaries was signed by the U.S. Army, State of Colorado, and EPA on June 11, 1996, and is supported by Shell Oil Co. and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Basin F/Basin F Exterior Remediation area is located in the north-central portion of the site. The Basin F impoundment area was used from 1956 to 1981 for the solar evaporation of liquid waste from Army and Shell chemical manufacturing operations. Disposal of waste associated with the Army and Shell Oil Co.'s manufacturing occurred from the 1940s through the 1960s, resulting in contamination of chemical sewer lines, ditches, drainage areas and surface soil.

The original project involved excavating contaminated soil and surface soil from the areas outside Basin F (the Basin F Exterior) and constructing a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-Equivalent cover over Basin F. During design, changes were made to both site and project boundaries, resulting in an increase in soil excavation volume. A reduction in the area requiring a RCRA-equivalent cover, along with a decrease in required backfill volume and mobilization costs, also resulted in an overall cost reduction for the project.

These changes do not alter the overall hazardous waste management remedy selected in the ROD and are supported by federal, state and local regulatory agencies.

This ESD, the administrative record, the RODs and Post-ROD documents supporting the cleanup are available at the RMA Joint Administrative Record and Document Facility, 5650 Havana St., Building 129, Commerce City, CO 80022; 303-289-0983; open M – F 12 – 4 p.m. or by appointment, and at the EPA Superfund Records Center, 1595 Wynkoop, Denver, CO 80202; 303-312-7287; open M – F 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Comments on this ESD are requested by Dec. 30, 2010. Written questions/concerns should be directed to: Ms. Peggy Machamer, RVPRO, RMA, 5650 Havana St., Building 129, Commerce City, CO, 80022; 303-289-0300; Fax: 303-289-0582;

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