



## **Fifth Five-Year Review for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (2020)**

### *Fact Sheet*

#### **What Is a Five-Year Review (FYR)?**

Conducted collaboratively with federal, state and local regulatory agencies, Five-Year Reviews (FYRs) involve a comprehensive assessment of the performance of an environmental cleanup program and its ongoing protectiveness of human health and the environment. During the review, a multiagency team evaluates if environmental standards that affect the site have changed in the past five years, whether the cleanup continues to be protective of public health and the environment, and whether the remedy can be expected to remain protective. The most recent FYR, which covered the period from 2015 to 2020, was the fifth to be completed for Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA).

#### **Why Is a FYR Conducted?**

Five-Year Reviews are conducted in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), which is more commonly known as Superfund. Under the Superfund law, FYRs are to be completed at sites where contaminated

waste remains (landfills, disposal basins, water treatment plants, etc.). The environmental cleanup at RMA included placing waste into on-site consolidation areas and two hazardous waste landfills. RMA also has groundwater treatment facilities. For that reason, FYRs will continue at the site for the foreseeable future.

#### **Who Conducted the FYR?**

Representatives from the U.S. Army (lead agency), Shell Oil Co., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Tri-County Health Department worked together throughout the FYR process to complete the FYR. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also provided input.

#### **What Were the Main Questions the Review Answered?**

A multiagency team conducted a comprehensive review designed to answer the following questions:

- Is the remedy functioning as intended and as outlined in the 1995

Off-Post and 1996 On-Post Records of Decision (RODs)? (The two RODs provide the overall framework and rationale for the environmental cleanup program.)

- Are the assumptions used at the time of the cleanup selection still valid?
- Has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the cleanup program?

### **What Were the Components of the FYR?**

There were six components to the FYR process:

1. Community involvement and notification
2. Document review
3. Data review and analysis
4. Site inspection
5. Interviews
6. Assessing the protectiveness of the cleanup program and identifying any needed changes

### **What Was the Public Involvement Process?**

As part of the process, the review team interviewed community members before the FYR began. The goal was to solicit input from a diverse array of citizens representing the needs and perspectives of the surrounding communities.

During the interviews, community members were asked to respond to the following questions:

- What do you know about RMA?
- Are you aware of the cleanup at RMA?

- Were you living in the area during the cleanup?
- Do you have any personal concerns about the cleanup?
- Are you aware of any community concerns about the cleanup?
- How do you think the overall remedy is functioning?
- Do you have any additional comments, questions or suggestions regarding the cleanup?
- Do you have any other information that could call into question the protectiveness of the cleanup program?
- How would you like to receive information about RMA?

### **How Did the Team Formulate Its Conclusions?**

The conclusions for the FYR were based on:

- Identification of issues and public concerns
- Recommendations and follow-up actions
- A determination of whether the remedy is, or is expected to be, protective of public health and the environment

The conclusions were reached through a technical assessment of the information collected during the document review, data collection, interviews, site inspection and other activities.

### **Did the fifth Five-Year Review Result in Any Changes to the Remedy Requirements?**

As part of the Five-Year Review process, a multiagency team evaluated whether

any environmental standards have changed that affect the site. During this review period, relevant standards were identified for two substances that the EPA classifies as among a group of emerging contaminants that are being evaluated across the country.

The RMA remedy requirements for emerging contaminants 1,4-dioxane and n-nitrosodi-n-propylamine (NDPA) were revised accordingly.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were also reviewed against EPA health advisory levels, but no significant contamination attributable to RMA was identified.

### **How Can I Review the Draft Fifth Five-Year Review Report?**

The draft report is available on the RMA's website at [www.rma.army.mil](http://www.rma.army.mil) (click on the Five-Year Review link on the home page). If you prefer to review a hard copy of the report, you may do so at:

- *Anythink Commerce City Library:*  
7185 Monaco St., Commerce City, CO 80022
- *Denver Public Library, Montbello Branch:* 12955 Albrook Dr., Denver, CO 80239

### **How Can I Submit a Comment?**

All comments received in writing by July 2, 2021, will be considered in the final report as part of the site's administrative record. If you would like to submit a comment, please direct it to: Patty Lee, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, 6550 Gateway Road, Building 129, Commerce City, CO 80022. You may also submit your comments by email to [Patty.l.lee6.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Patty.l.lee6.civ@mail.mil).

### **Who Approves the Final FYR Report?**

Following the public comment period, the 2020 Five-Year Review process will conclude with the preparation and delivery of the final Five-Year Review report to the EPA. The EPA will then review the report and offer its findings.

A copy of the final report will be available online at [www.rma.army.mil](http://www.rma.army.mil).

### **Whom Do I Call If I Have Questions?**

- Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Patty Lee, 303.289.0300
- Environmental Protection Agency  
Community Information Coordinator,  
Ryan Kloberdanz, 303.312.6078.