



Weather Station monitors atmospheric conditions in Operable Unit 1

## Corps Presents Draft Proposed Plan

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed an environmental investigation of the former Marion Engineer Depot and identified the preferred cleanup alternative for Operable Unit 1, a former disposal area, on the River Valley School property, located at 1239 Columbus-Sandusky Road. Based on a comparison of nine evaluation criteria required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the recommended alternative is number five.

Alternative number five consists of removing the hazardous subsurface soils, treating the soils off-site and disposing of the soils at an approved, licensed facility. The 5-acre former disposal area within the 20-acre Operable Unit 1, has the highest concentrations of surface soils contaminated with semi-volatile organic compounds and arsenic. Soils will be removed to a depth of 13 feet from about three acres due to volatile organic compounds and metals, arsenic and lead.

The recommended alternative proposes that these soils be removed, treated and disposed off-site. A clean soil cover which meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for cleanup for future commercial/industrial use will be placed over about five acres. Following the cleanup effort, which should take approximately four months to complete, deed restrictions will be established inhibiting use of groundwater and limiting excavation in Operable Unit 1. Long-term groundwater monitoring may continue for up to 30 years and will be reevaluated after 3 years.

### Public Involvement

The Corps will make the final decision on the selected alternative following a 30 day public comment period. People can submit written comments from October 25, 2003 to November 24, 2003. The comments must be postmarked by the last day. These comments are carefully considered before a decision is made.

The Remedial Investigation Report and Focused Feasibility Study Report are available to view at the Marion Public Library. The library, located at 445 East Church Street, is open 9am to 9pm, Monday through Friday, 9am to 5:30pm on Saturday and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday. You can call the library at 740-387-0992.

The public is invited to attend a meeting and presentation on the Proposed Plan outlining the cleanup alternatives and the reasons for recommending alternative number five. The meeting is scheduled on November 6 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Tri-Rivers Career Center. A short presentation will be made at 7 pm. Written comments can be submitted at the meeting or faxed to the Corps at 502-315-6793.

## Share Your Opinions

You are invited to share your comments on the Proposed Plan recommending a cleanup alternative of contaminated soils within Operable Unit 1 located on River Valley School property in Marion, Ohio.

You may use the enclosed form to mail a written response or fax to:

Kimberlee Turner  
Public Affairs Specialist, PM-M-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 59  
Louisville, KY 40201-0059  
(502) 315-6793 FAX

Comments must be postmarked by the last day of the comment period.

**Public Comment Period**  
October 25 - November 24, 2003

**Public Meeting**  
November 6, 2003  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Presentation at 7 p.m.  
Tri-Rivers Career Center  
2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road

# Proposed Plan for Cleanup of Operable Unit 1

## Cleanup Alternatives

The five cleanup alternatives are each evaluated for their protectiveness of human health and the environment. The alternatives are rated based on the following nine CERCLA criteria:

- Overall protection of human health and the environment
- Compliance with cleanup requirements
- Long-term effectiveness and performance
- Reduction of toxicity, mobility or volume through treatment
- Short-term effectiveness
- Ease of implementation
- Cost
- State regulatory acceptance
- Community acceptance

Each alternative is rated against each of the nine criteria. The ratings are totaled and alternative number five received the highest total. Based on this evaluation, alternative number five is the recommended alternative.



Fence surrounding former athletic fields

### Alternative Number 1 - No Action

This alternative is required by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and would involve leaving the conditions as they are in Operable Unit 1. There is no cost.

### Alternative Number 2 - Exposure Prevention

This alternative consists of preventing public access to Operable Unit 1 by installing a security fence, removing the athletic facilities inside the fence, establishing deed restrictions, and conducting long-term groundwater monitoring. The cost is \$1.6 million.

### Alternative Number 3 - Exposure Prevention and Source Containment

This alternative includes installing a security fence, removing the athletic facilities, installing an engineered soil cover over portions of the property, placing stormwater control features, deed restrictions, and long-term groundwater monitoring. The total cost is \$3.5 million.

### Alternative Number 4 - Subsurface PTW Soil Excavation, On-Site Treatment, Off-Site Disposal

This alternative consists of removing the subsurface "principal threat waste" (PTW) treating the soils at the former



Air monitoring equipment

Marion Engineer Depot, but not within Operable Unit 1; and transporting the soils to an approved, licensed facility for disposal. The excavated area would be filled with clean soil, which meets EPA standards for industrial use and a designed soil cover would be placed over about five acres. Deed restrictions would be placed on the property and long-term groundwater monitoring would be performed by the Corps of Engineers. The cost is \$11.2 million.

### Alternative Number 5 - Subsurface PTW Soil Excavation, Off-Site Treatment, Off-Site Disposal

This is the preferred method of cleanup and involves removing subsurface principal threat waste within Operable Unit 1 and transporting, treating and disposing of the soils at an approved, licensed facility. The excavated area would be filled with clean soil and a designed soil cover placed over about five acres. Deed restrictions would be placed on the property; and long-term groundwater monitoring will be performed by the Corps of Engineers. The cost is \$9.5 million.

For more information, visit the Web site:  
[www.lrl.usace.army.mil](http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil) or call 1-800-527-4636

# How Are Cleanup Alternatives Evaluated?

On the chart below are the five cleanup alternatives for Operable Unit 1 and how the Corps of Engineers rated each alternative based on the nine Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) criteria.

The recommended alternative, number five, meets all the criteria in the protection of human health and the environment as does number four. However, alternative number five costs less to implement. The Corps, in consultation with the Ohio EPA, may modify the preferred alternative or select another response action based on new information or public comments. Therefore, the public is encouraged to

review and comment on all five of the proposed alternatives.

A baseline risk assessment was conducted to evaluate the risk associated with the future land use as a commercial/industrial facility. The future commercial/industrial user could be exposed to contaminants in the former disposal area, Operable Unit 1, through accidental ingestion and skin contact with surface soils as well as breathing vapors and dust, during excavation activities.

The risks associated with the potential exposures require that cleanup alternatives be evaluated.

Cleanup Alternatives					
	# 1 No Action	#2 Exposure Prevention	#3 Exposure Prevention & Source Containment	#4 Subsurface Principal Threat Waste Soil, Excavation, On-Site Treatment, Off-Site Disposal	#5 Subsurface Principal Threat Waste Soil, Excavation, Off-Site Treatment, Off-Site Disposal
<b>9 CERCLA Criteria</b>					
Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment	○	●	●	●	●
Compliance with Cleanup Alternatives	●	●	●	●	●
Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence	○	○	●	●	●
Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume Through Treatment	○	○	●	●	●
Short-Term Effectiveness	●	●	●	●	●
Implementability	●	●	●	●	●
Cost	\$0	\$1.6 million	\$3.5 million	\$11.2 million	\$9.5 million
State Acceptance	To Be Determined After Public Comment Period				
Community Acceptance	To Be Determined After Public Comment Period				
	● Meets Criteria	● Partially Meets Criteria	○ Does Not Meet Criteria		

**Department of the Army**  
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### **Former Marion Engineer Depot Environmental Investigation Timeline**

- **November 1942** Marion Engineer Depot was constructed on 640 acres during WWII. Employed 47 military personnel and over 1,400 civilians. Operated for 19 years and was best known for its ability to handle and store the heaviest type of engineering equipment.
- **1961-1962** River Valley Local School District purchases 78 acres and builds middle and high school as well as sports facilities
- **September 1997** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers begins environmental investigation on property
- **August 1998** Restoration Advisory Board is formed, consisting of community members and agency representatives
- **September 1998** Corps completes radiological survey on River Valley School property
- **April 2000** Arsenic removal from ditches on River Valley School Property, Final Closure Report completed
- **July 2000** Corps begins monthly outdoor air monitoring in Operable Unit 1 and on roof of River Valley School Middle School building
- **December 2000** Cooperative Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding signed by Department of Army, River Valley Schools, and State of Ohio to share in the costs of relocating schools
- **May 2001** Remedial Investigation Report completed on Operable Unit 1
- **December 2001** Expanded Site Inspection Report completed for River Valley School property
- **August 2003** River Valley Schools open at new location
- **October 2003** Feasibility Study finalized outlining the five cleanup alternatives for former disposal area, Operable Unit 1
- **December 2003** Decision document issued identifying selected cleanup alternative
- **Summer 2004** Environmental cleanup begins in Operable Unit 1 using selected alternative