

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**STATEMENT OF FRANKLIN HILL
DIRECTOR OF REGION 4 SUPERFUND DIVISION
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Introduction

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I am Franklin Hill, Director of the Superfund Division for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 (EPA). The Superfund Division oversees implementation of the Superfund program in the eight states of the Southeast and seeks recovery of any federal funds expended in the clean up. The Superfund Division oversees clean ups of private and public property that is on the National Priorities List (NPL), a list of the country's most polluted sites. Currently there are 165 private sites and 19 federal sites on the NPL in Region 4.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with an overview of EPA's involvement in the Superfund clean up actions related to environmental contamination at the Camp Lejeune Military Reservation or Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (Camp Lejeune). During the 18 years that EPA has been involved in clean up at Camp Lejeune, we have made significant progress in cleaning up contaminated soil and groundwater. To date, we have selected remedies at 30 sites within Camp Lejeune, and anticipate selection of the last remedy by 2011.

EPA Region 4 received a letter dated April 25, 1986, from the Department of Navy (Navy), which provided sampling data from water samples taken from groundwater monitoring and drinking water wells at Camp Lejeune. The letter informed EPA that the Navy had shut down ten drinking water supply wells at Camp Lejeune because 1985 sampling results showed

contamination in those wells. The State of North Carolina in a separate investigation concluded that the likely source of the contamination found in two of those wells was ABC One-Hour Cleaners (ABC Cleaners), a private business located outside the boundaries of Camp Lejeune. Subsequent investigations have revealed additional sources of groundwater contamination.

ABC One-Hour Cleaners

The ABC Cleaners site is located at 2127 Lejeune Boulevard, Jacksonville, Onslow County, North Carolina, and encompasses an area of approximately one acre. In 1984, as part of a routine water quality evaluation, the Navy collected groundwater samples and determined that volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including, dichloroethylene (DCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) were present in 10 of the 40 wells sampled. Two of the ten wells were located within the Camp Lejeune Tarawa Terrace well field in the vicinity of the ABC Cleaners. In 1985, the Wilmington Regional Office of the Division of Environmental Management, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development conducted a groundwater pollution study to define the source of PCE in wells within the Tarawa Terrace well field. The study concluded that the most likely source of groundwater contamination was ABC Cleaners. ABC One-Hour Cleaners was proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL) by EPA on June 24, 1988, which became final on March 31, 1989.

A Record of Decision (ROD) for contaminated groundwater was signed in 1993 and required remediation of VOC-contaminated groundwater by a treatment system. A second ROD was signed in 1994 to address soil contamination using a Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system. The SVE system has been operating since August 2000 to remove the source of the groundwater contamination.

ABC Cleaners site is a Private Superfund fund-lead site and is not part of Camp Lejeune; however contaminated groundwater from ABC Cleaners has migrated onto Camp Lejeune. The responsible parties have been identified by the EPA Cost Recovery Section as ABC Cleaners and their owners/operators. On July 17, 2000, EPA entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with ABC Cleaners and its owners/operators for settlement. The AOC required that if the Settling parties ever receive payment on an insurance claim, then 50% of any insurance proceeds must be paid to the EPA. At this time, the terms of the settlement have been completed and there is no evidence that the parties collected insurance money.

Camp Lejeune

Under CERCLA Section 120, the EPA has evaluated releases at this federal facility using its Hazard Ranking System criteria. The EPA conducted an initial investigation in 1988 and proposed Camp Lejeune for the NPL on June 24, 1988, which became final on October 4, 1989. The basis for the listing of Camp Lejeune on the NPL was pesticide contaminated soils at an area on the Base where pesticides were mixed and application equipment cleaned. Pursuant to CERCLA 120(e)(2), an interagency agreement (referred to as a Federal Facilities Agreement or FFA) was signed by EPA, the Navy and the State of North Carolina in February 1991. The FFA requires, among other things, that the facility prepare a Site Management Plan (SMP) for EPA approval that identifies all of the sites and OUs that require further investigation and/or a response action by the Navy. The Navy's Installation Restoration Program is responsible for implementation of the CERCLA clean up under the FFA. The SMP also includes a list of enforceable milestones related to the CERCLA clean up that are enforceable by EPA.

Overview of Camp Lejeune Clean Up

Forty-six sites have been identified for clean up at Camp Lejeune. The Navy and EPA have selected remedies for 30 of those sites, and the remaining 16 are under active investigation. The first ROD was signed in September 1992 and addressed contamination of groundwater in the Hadnot Point Area. Remedies to address groundwater contamination include groundwater “pump and treat” systems, in-situ chemical oxidation, and monitored natural attenuation. Six pilot studies are underway to evaluate treatment options for the remaining VOC-contaminated groundwater areas at Camp Lejeune.

EPA prepared Five Year Review Reports in November 1999 and February 2005 which evaluated the protectiveness of the selected remedies. Below is a summary of the clean up actions conducted since the issuance of the February 2005 Five Year Review Report:

- Eleven Pilot Studies have been completed or are underway to evaluate remediation techniques for volatile organic compound (VOC) groundwater contamination at various sites throughout the Base.
- Removal actions have been completed at two sites which resulted in disposal of 696 tons of PCB contaminated soils and source treatment of 7,500 yd³ of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) containing tetrachloroethene (PCE).
- A removal action is underway to treat VOC contaminated groundwater at depths between 20 -to- 47 feet below ground surface.
- Two RODs were signed in 2006. One ROD required treatment of contaminated groundwater underneath a half-acre area of the base. This remedy is underway. The other ROD determined that no further action was necessary.
- One Operable Unit has met its remediation goals and achieved site closure.

- Three sites have undergone site investigations with two requiring no further action and the remaining site requiring a soil removal.

At this point in time Camp Lejeune is scheduled to have the last remedy selected by 2011 and all remedies in place by 2014.

Conclusion

In the 18 years since EPA listed Camp Lejeune on the NPL, 46 sites have been investigated. To date, there are 19 signed RODs encompassing 30 sites at Camp Lejeune, which reflects a remedy selection rate greater than one ROD per year. The remaining 16 sites are undergoing active investigation. EPA anticipates that the last remedy will be in place in 2014.