

Historic Activities

A records search conducted in 1984 identified 10 specific areas for further investigation, and three additional sites were added to the list as new information emerged. Field investigations began at the Academy in October 1987. Results of the sampling and monitoring through 1996 led to closeout of the following sites:

JP-4 Fuel Release (Site 1) - Completed: In 1983, JP-4 fuel spilled from a broken pipe located near the top of a hill behind a retaining wall. Estimates of spilled fuel ranged from 500 to as much as 6,000 gallons. The spill was cleaned up, but the actual amount of fuel involved is not known. A soil gas survey resulted in three groundwater monitoring wells installed at the bottom of the slope, and soil samples were collected. The area was included for cleanup in the Academy's underground storage tank (UST) program, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment approved closure in June 1995.

Farish Dredge Material Disposal (Site 2) - Completed: Dredge material from three lakes in the Farish area (Grace, Leo, and Sapphire Lakes) contained arsenic from herbicides used to control algae. The dredge material was disposed of at two sites in the recreation area. Arsenic was not detected in groundwater above Safe Drinking Water Standards, or in soil samples above naturally occurring concentrations. After additional sampling requested by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment was completed, the site was closed out.

Farish Landfill (Site 3) – Completed: This landfill operated in Farish from 1959 to 1960, and again from 1968 to 1971. Waste disposed of at the site included paint and paint thinner. In addition, a barrel of sodium arsenate was reported to have been placed at the landfill. Grace, Leo, and Sapphire Lakes are downgradient from the landfill, posing a contamination risk for the lakes and groundwater in the area. After sampling was completed, the site was closed out in 1996.

Fire Training Area (Site 4) – Completed: This site has been used as a fire training area since 1975. Each year, approximately 1,000 gallons of fuel are burned in the fire pit, posing a potential for groundwater contamination. Results of a soil gas analysis and groundwater sampling indicated no contaminants above Safe Drinking Water Standards, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment agreed with the no further action recommendation in 1994.

Dredge Material Disposal (Site 5) – Completed: Dredge material from the Academy's nonpotable Reservoir No. 1 and sludge from the sanitary sewage treatment plant were disposed of at this site. Mercury and selenium were the contaminants of concern. After additional sampling requested by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment was completed, the site was closed out.

Sewage Sludge Disposal Area (Site 8) – Completed: This site is divided into two areas – the smaller western area (Site 8 West) used in approximately 1980, and the larger eastern area (Site 8 East) last used in 1988. Nitrate contamination was found in Kettle Creek, warranting further investigation. After supplemental sampling was completed, the site was closed out.

Firing Range (Site 9) – Completed: The prime concern in this area was lead contamination from the impact areas of the pistol and rifle range. Sampling was conducted and the site was closed out.

Old Visitors' Center (Site 10) – Completed: Munitions-related activities were conducted in this area during World War II. This site was closed out in 1996 after supplement sampling requested by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment was completed.

Civil Engineering Maintenance Yard Runoff Area (Site 11) – Completed: Vehicles were cleaned in this area. Types and quantities of cleaners used were not known, but Perchloroethylene (PCE) and nitrates were found above Safe Drinking Water Standards in groundwater, and petroleum hydrocarbons were found in soil samples. Subsequently, the site was closed out.

Drum Disposal Site (Site 12) – Completed: In June 1991, new information suggested that barrels of unknown contents might be buried between two sets of railroad tracks and in ravines west of the tracks near Kettle Creek. During sampling of the area, a buried barrel was punctured. The barrel contained petroleum hydrocarbons and Arochlor 1242, a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). A partially buried barrel was discovered in a ravine west of the fenced areas. Subsequently, this site was closed out.

Golf Course Maintenance (Site 13) – Completed: Perchloroethylene (PCE) was detected in shallow groundwater at this site. The remedial action chosen for this site was injection of potassium permanganate. The Phase I injection was done in June 2003, and Phase II in November 2003. In August 2005, the Academy installed a gravity-fed treatment system, and injections continued through February 2006. In November 2005, all wells sampled below the 5 micrograms/liter standard. The Academy completed groundwater treatment with potassium permanganate, and the site was closed out in May 2008.