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Inside this Issue

- 1** Weldon Spring Ordnance Works
- 2** Environmental Conditions at WSOW
- 2** Current Activities
- 3** Future of WSOW
- 3** Additional Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Kansas City District
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WELDON SPRING ORDNANCE WORKS

Weldon Spring Ordnance Works

The former Weldon Spring Ordnance Works (WSOW) consists of approximately 17,232 acres of land in western St. Charles County, Missouri just southwest of the town of Weldon Spring. The facility was used to produce explosives for the Army during World War II. Most of the explosive production facilities were located on the 1,655 acres known as the Weldon Spring Training Area. Explosive production began in late December 1941 with six trinitrotoluene (TNT) production lines. By the end of 1942, 12 additional TNT

Open Invitation

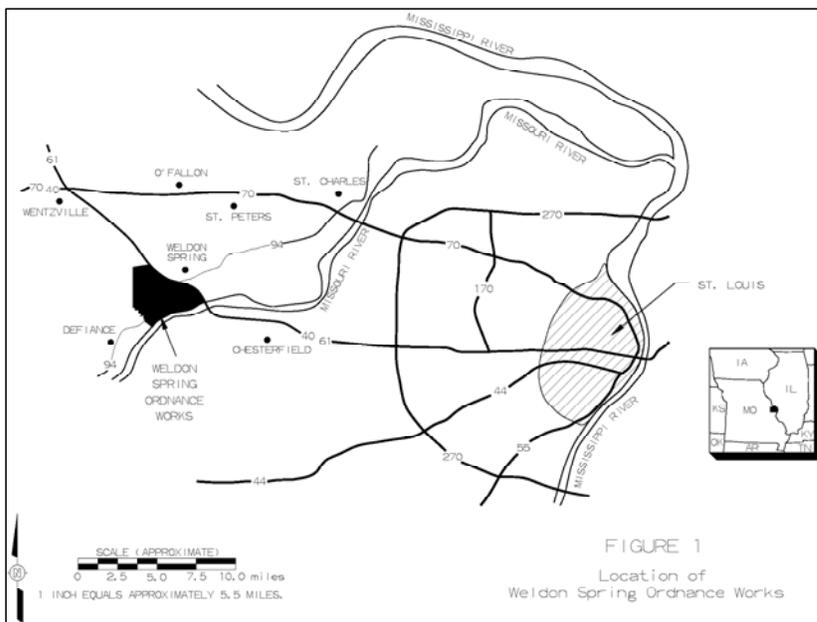
The public is invited to attend a meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). RAB members have the opportunity to review and comment on environmental cleanup documents associated with the WSOW. For information regarding the next RAB meeting, see Page 3.

and two dinitrotoluene (DNT) production lines were completed and put into operation.

In the 1940's, WSOW had more than 1,038 buildings and 5,200 employees. Industrially, the facility was composed of eighteen TNT production lines, two DNT production lines; four sulfuric acid concentration plants, four nitric acid concentration plants, 100 earth covered igloos, two water treatment plants, two coal fired power plants, and three wastewater treatment plants. Administratively, the facility was composed of an office complex, hospital, telephone center, military barracks, family quarters, and numerous other support facilities.

TNT was not loaded into shells or casings at WSOW.

Instead, purified TNT powder was shipped to off-site plants for munitions production. It is estimated, from old records, that during the operation of the



plant 710,402,850 pounds of TNT and 31,499,125 pounds of DNT were produced. Termination of production was ordered on V-J Day in August 1945.

Environmental Conditions at WSOW

In the years since production of explosives at the WSOW was terminated, contamination at the site, primarily with TNT and DNT was discovered. Lead was also found in the soil above natural background levels. These areas have been cleaned up.

Clean up of an area of contamination identified during a site inspection conducted during the Summer of 2002 was initiated in 2003. Clean up of this area is nearing completion. This contaminated material was located on the Weldon Spring Training Area, which is still owned by the Army. Shown below is the area after excavation of contaminated material and the placement of clean backfill material was completed. This effort



was the first of two stages of excavation completed at this location. The Army has taken the lead for cleaning up the contamination and is operating in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the

Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

As part of the process for addressing groundwater contamination, the Army has recently completed environmental investigations to determine the nature and extent of contamination in groundwater. Groundwater has been found to contain low levels of TNT and DNT. Groundwater is also observed to contain the compounds that are the result of TNT and DNT breaking down due to their exposure to the environment.



Current Activities

The initial focus of the Army's clean up at WSOW was the soil. Contamination in the groundwater resulted from migration of the TNT and DNT in the soil to the groundwater. As the clean up of contaminated soil is nearly completed, the focus of the environmental restoration is now directed toward the groundwater.

Currently, there are no St. Charles County water production wells affected by the groundwater contamination at WSOW. Based on the data collected to date, it is unlikely that these wells will become contaminated in the future. The groundwater and springs at WSOW have been monitored since 1988.

A *Groundwater Monitoring Assessment Report, Supplemental Feasibility Study for Remedial Action*, and *Proposed Plan for Remedial Action* for the Groundwater Operable Unit, Operable Unit 2 have been completed. The documents have been developed as part of efforts for determining the nature

and extent of the contamination as well as identifying potential clean up processes for the groundwater. These documents, and other supporting documents, are available at the St. Charles City/County Library District

Middendorf-Kredell Branch
2750 Hwy K
O'Fallon, Missouri 63366

The Proposed Plan was made available to the public on June 11, 2004 for a 30-day public comment period. The purpose of the public comment period is to offer members of the public an opportunity to provide their views on the Proposed Plan and the preferred alternative. The public comment period ends July 12, 2004.

A notice was published in the St. Peters Suburban Journal on May 28, 2004 announcing both the availability of the Proposed Plan on June 11, 2004 and the Public Meeting on June 24, 2004. A public meeting was held on June 24, 2004 for the purpose of receiving written or oral comments from the public on the Proposed Plan. The Army, EPA, and MDNR had representatives in attendance at this meeting.

The Army, EPA, and MDNR encourage the public to comment on the Proposed Plan. For those that were unable to attend the Public Meeting, comments may also be provided to the following address (postmarked by July 12, 2004):

WSOW Project Manager
U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City
700 Federal Building
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City MO 64106-2896

Future of WSOW

The Weldon Spring Training Area is within the boundaries of the WSOW and is currently occupied by the 89th Army Reserve Support Command. The Army continues to use the property as a training area.



The Army will continue to address the groundwater contamination in cooperation with the EPA and MDNR. Following the completion of the public comment period for the Proposed Plan, the Army will review and address those comments as part of the Record of Decision for the groundwater operable unit, Operable Unit 2. The Record of Decision is a document that identifies the clean up method that will be used to address the groundwater contamination and sets the goals for the clean up.

Additional Information

A meeting of the WSOW Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) occurs approximately once every three months. The RAB is made up of members of the community, EPA and MDNR personnel. Other interested parties are also welcome to attend RAB meetings. Future topics include, but are not limited to, current information about the

completion of the soil clean up activities, and progress toward identifying a clean up process for groundwater.

If you are interested in participating in the activities of the RAB, please contact the WSOW project manager at the address and/or phone numbers listed at

the end of this newsletter. The next WSOW RAB is scheduled for August 12, 2004 at 7pm at the St. Charles Community College Student Center (Room 205/206). St. Charles Community College is located at 4601 Mid Rivers Mall Drive in St. Peters, Missouri. Please contact the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works Project Manager for

directions to the RAB if you are not familiar with the area.

There is also a project webpage that is maintained by the Army. The website contains background information on the project, a points of contact page, notice of the next RAB meeting, and copies of newsletters and other documents.

The WSOW webpage is located at:

http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/weldon/weldon_home.htm

If you have other questions about the Army's work you can write or call the US Army Corps of Engineers Weldon Spring Ordnance Works Project Manager:

WSOW Project Manager
U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City
700 Federal Building
601 E .12th Street
Kansas City MO 64106-2896

Or contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (816)-983-3486.