

Former Schenectady Army Depot Fact Sheet

Schenectady, New York



Corps Cleans Up One Area and Proposes Actions at Three More

Introduction

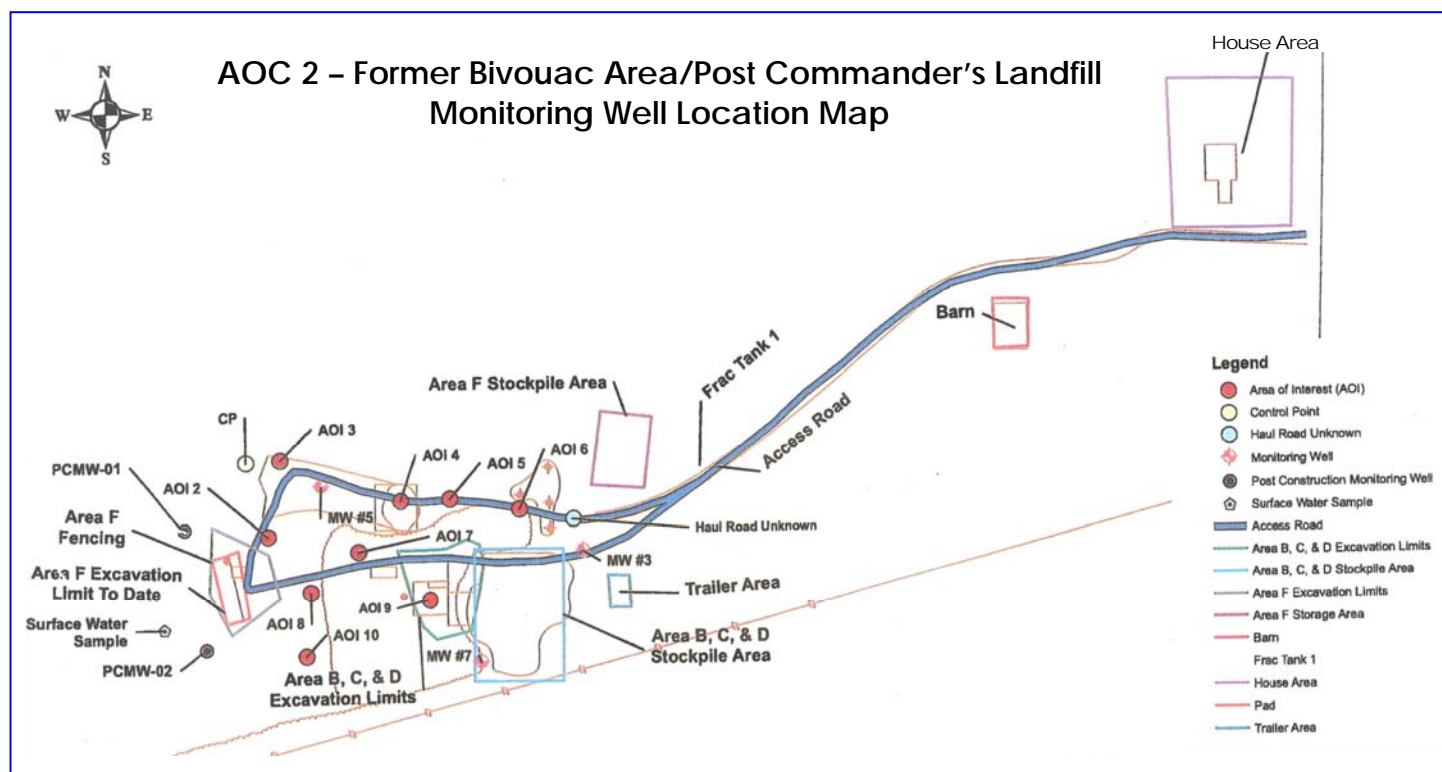
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has cleaned up Area of Concern (AOC) 2 for the Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area (FSADVA) project and proposes cleanup alternatives for AOCs 1, 7, and 8. The Corps prepared a Proposed Plan for AOC 2 that explained the site's wastes, summarized cleanup accomplished, and proposed no further actions except for closing monitoring wells.

The Corps combined AOCs 1 and 7 and prepared a Focused Feasibility Study. A feasibility study examines the pros and cons of alternative methods to address contamination at a hazardous waste site. The feasibility study usually recommends a certain alternative. The Corps also prepared a Focused Feasibility Study for AOC 8. The complete Proposed Plan and Focused Feasibility Studies are available in the FSADVA information repositories (see back page for locations) and the project Website: www.fsadva.com. This fact sheet provides a brief overview of the four AOCs technical documents.

AOC 2 – Former Bivouac Area/Post Commander's Landfill

This 40.6-acre landfill is located west of County Route 201. The parcel was used as a transit troop bivouac area and officer family housing area in the 1950s and 1960s. The new owners of the parcel noticed a disposal area and reported it to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Drums and other wastes were disposed of in the Bivouac Area and that area has since been backfilled and covered with grass and thick brush.

Surface water, sediment, groundwater, surface soil, and subsurface soil have been impacted by disposal activities at this location. In 2005, the Corps removed and disposed of off-site drums, soils, and glass pill bottles. The bottles contained salt and iodine tablets. The Corps also disposed of 204,000 gallons of collected stormwater and sampled the wells. Because of the removal and disposal activities, follow-up tests show AOC 2 is not a risk to human health and no further action will be proposed by the Corps.



AOC 1 – U.S. Army Southern Landfill

The landfill is located in the southeast portion of the depot. It contains construction and demolition debris, industrial and domestic wastes, and wastes from the former burn pit area. Surface soil, subsurface soil, and groundwater have been impacted by disposal activities at this location.

AOC 7 – Triangular Disposal Area

AOC 7 is located at the south end of the site. Aerial photographs from the early 1940s indicate possible dumping activities in this area; however, no documentation has been found to confirm a disposal area or indicate what may have been dumped there. Geophysical surveys conducted in the 1990s suggest disposal areas or fill material may be present.

Subsurface soil and groundwater have been impacted by disposal activities at this location. However, the risk assessment concluded there is no soil risk at AOC 7; the groundwater risk was primarily related to volatile organic compounds at AOC 1 and there is no risk associated with groundwater from wells at AOC 7

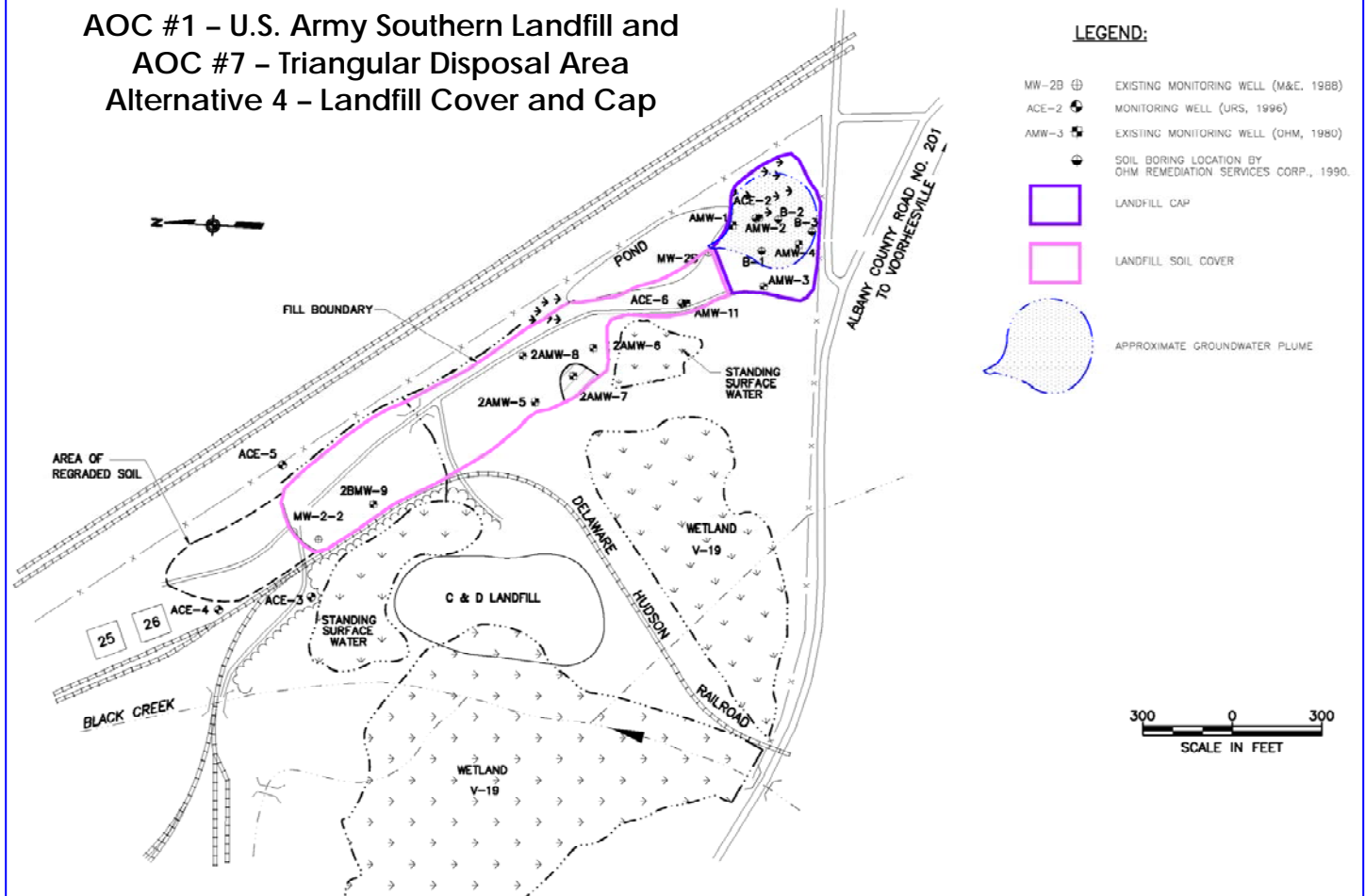
Focused Feasibility Study for AOCs 1 and 7

The Focused Feasibility Study for AOCs 1 and 7 evaluated four remedial alternatives and recommended Alternative 4 – Landfill Cap/Cover, Chemical Oxidation

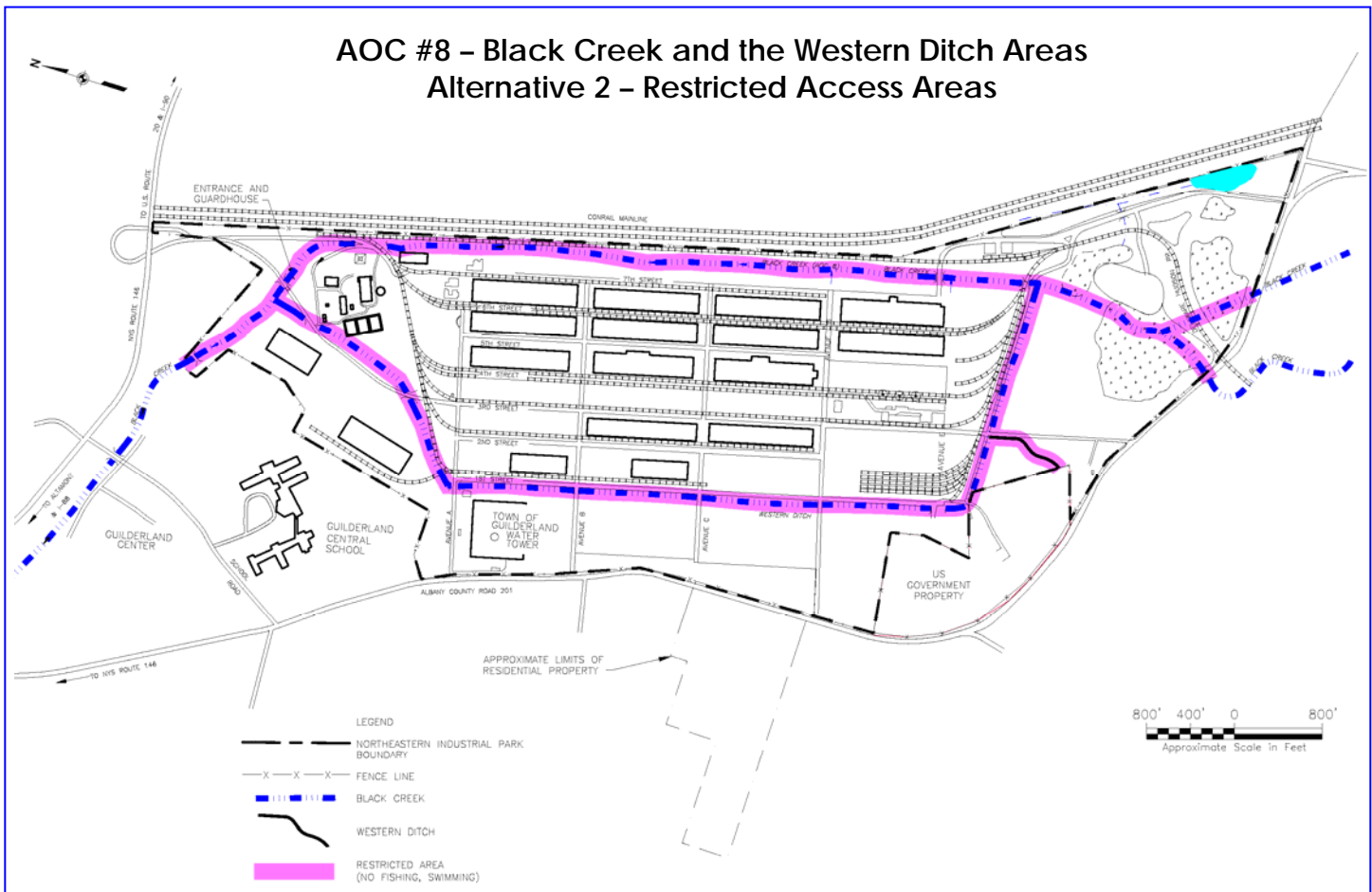
of Groundwater, Carbon Treatment of Surface Water, and Land Use Controls. Below is a brief explanation of the recommended remedial action alternative for AOCs 1 and 7.

- **Landfill cap and soil cover**
 - Install cap over 2.5-acre area containing materials that are potentially hazardous to minimize water infiltration through the most contaminated areas.
 - Construct a soil cover over remaining 8 acres of the landfill at AOC 1.
- **Chemical Oxidation Treatment of Groundwater**
 - Conduct a pilot demonstration to ensure chemical oxidation can be applied at the landfill.
 - Inject reagents into subsurface to create a chemical reaction.
 - Monitor pilot demonstration by testing groundwater samples.
 - Design and conduct a full-scale program based on pilot demonstration
 - It is anticipated only one injection would be needed at the landfill.
- **Carbon Treatment of Surface Water**
 - Extract water from one side of the pond and pump to a settling tank to remove solids.
 - Once solids have settled to the bottom of the tank, water would flow through two carbon activation vessels to remove hazardous chemicals.

AOC #1 – U.S. Army Southern Landfill and AOC #7 – Triangular Disposal Area Alternative 4 – Landfill Cover and Cap



AOC #8 – Black Creek and the Western Ditch Areas Alternative 2 – Restricted Access Areas



- Pump treated water back into the pond.
- Test pond water for chemicals once the treatment is complete.
- Because treated water would be pumped back in the pond while continuing to remove untreated water, it is estimated that two pond volumes (2.7 million gallons) will be treated to achieve the remediation goals.

• Land Use Controls

- Require vapor intrusion controls are provided as needed around any structure built at AOC 1.
- Restrict site to industrial/commercial use and prohibit use of site groundwater for drinking purposes.
- Prohibit construction of buildings on landfill areas.
- Post “no trespassing” signs to minimize unauthorized access to the site.
- Maintain land use controls.

Total estimated cost for Alternative 4 is \$3 million.

AOC 8 – Black Creek

Black Creek is an AOC because past investigations showed the presence of contamination in the water and sediment. Waters in Black Creek flow into Watervliet Reservoir, which is the local drinking water supply source. It is important to note that not all of the sediment impacts can be linked to operations at the depot. In some cases, because of locations

of the samples collected, the impacts may be attributed to vehicle traffic and exhaust on Route 146.

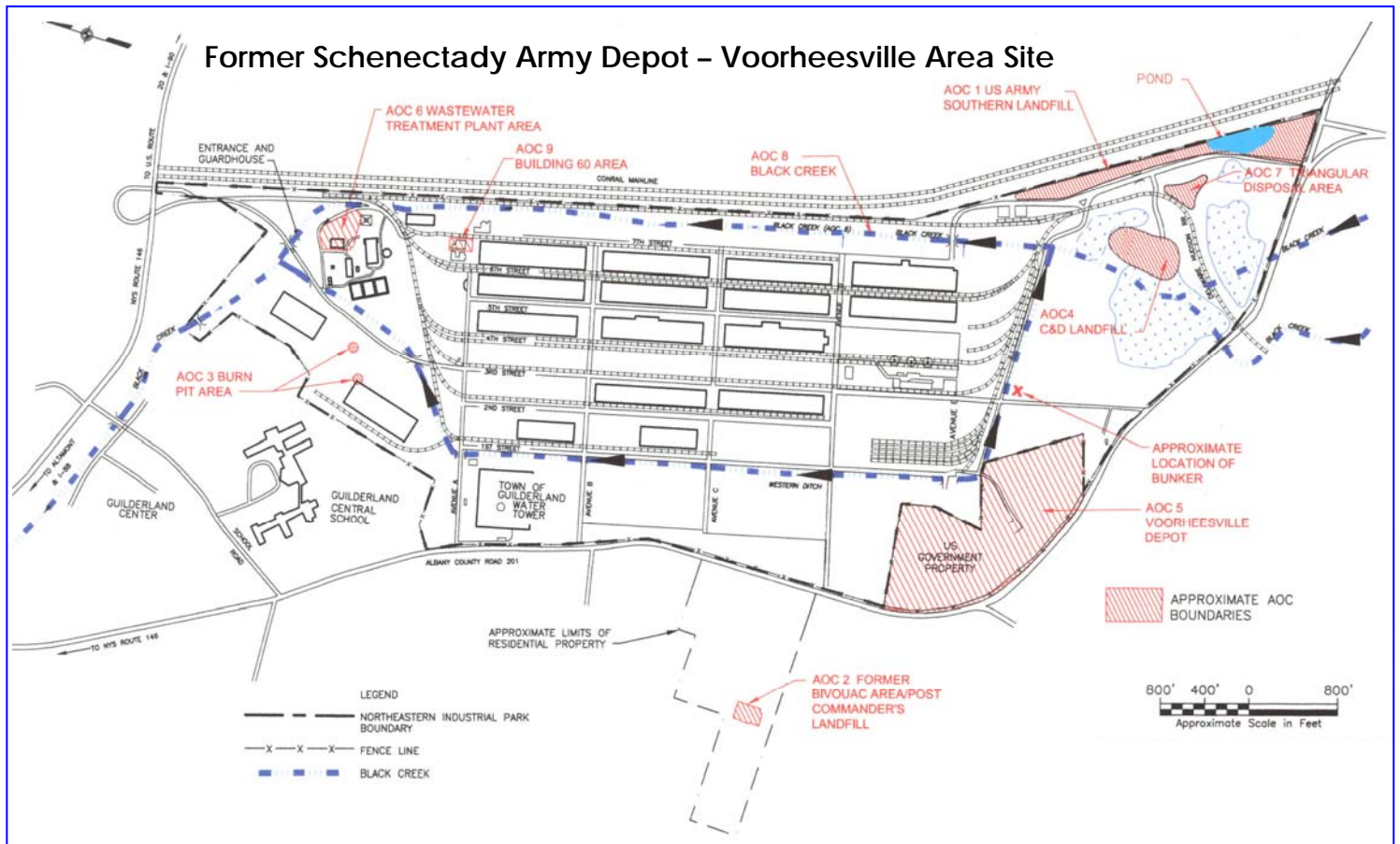
Calculations for human health risks associated with AOC 8 show there is no unacceptable threat for potential exposure to surface water and sediment. It is important to note that the Watervliet Reservoir is tested regularly by the New York State Department of Health and City of Watervliet to ensure safe drinking water. In the close vicinity of FSADVA, Black Creek is not used as a drinking water source.

The Focused Feasibility Study for AOC 8 evaluated four alternatives and recommended Alternative 2 – Land Use Controls. Below is a brief explanation of the recommended remedial action alternative for AOC 8.

• Land Use Controls

- Eliminate or minimize, as needed, the exposure route hazards posed by impacted sediment and surface water at the site.
- Minimize off-site migration of contaminants from the former depot.
- Restrict access to the AOC 8 site to prevent recreational or other use of Black Creek (including fishing) and the Western Ditch. Access would be restricted only within the present Northeast Industrial Park fence line.
- Post “no trespassing” signs to minimize/prevent unauthorized access to the site.

Total estimated cost for Alternative 2 is \$75,000.



Site History

Originally, the site was agricultural land. The Department of Defense owned the FSADVA 650-acre property from 1941 to 1969. The site was originally a regulating station to control movements of personnel and supplies into or out of the area. Later it was depot for the receipt, storage, maintenance, and distribution of supply items for the Army.

In 1963, approximately 40 acres (now referred to as AOC 2) were sold to a private party and was used as a private residence. In 1969, the depot closed and 35.5 acres (AOC 5) were transferred to the U.S. General Services Administration. The rest of the FSADVA property was sold to the Town of Guilderland Urban Renewal Agency, which leased the property to the Galesi Group, Inc. Galesi established the Northeast Industrial Park in 1969 and took ownership of the property in 1993. Industrial park tenants have used the leased space for storage of goods and manufacturing operations.

The site has been studied since 1988. Initially, the Corps focused on the two landfills, and in 1991 removed drums from the surface of the landfills. In 1997, contamination was found in AOC 1 and, therefore, eight other areas were studied.

Restoration Advisory Board

Since 1999, the FSADVA project has sponsored a community-based Restoration Advisory Board to maintain public participation in the environmental restoration

process at the depot. The board provides a forum for discussing the investigation and clean up of any environmental and human health hazards encountered at the former depot. Board members include area residents, state and local government representatives, and the Corps.

FSADVA Project Information Available

Information and documents related to the Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area are available on the Internet at www.fsadva.com. In addition, many technical and non-technical documents are housed at the project repositories. The locations of the repositories are:

Guilderland Public Library	Voorheesville Public Library
2228 Western Avenue	51 School Road
(Route 20)	Voorheesville, New York
Guilderland, New York	

For Additional Information

For information regarding the FSADVA project and its Restoration Advisory Board, please contact:

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