

Former Schenectady Army Depot Fact Sheet

Schenectady, New York



Corps Finalizes Remedial Investigation Report

Remedial Investigation Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has finalized the remedial investigation report for the nine areas of concern (AOCs) for the Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area (FSADVA) project. The purpose of this remedial investigation is to assess the presence or absence of contamination, and if present, determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess risk to human health and the environment, and establish the necessity for further action.

The complete remedial investigation report, dated September 2007, is available in the FSADVA information repositories located at the Guilderland and Voorheesville public libraries (see back page for addresses) and the project Website: www.fsadva.com. This fact sheet provides a brief overview of the remedial investigation report for each AOC.

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 became a general Army 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, the other areas were studied.

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. The recommendations for AOC 1 are to complete a feasibility study and assess remedial alternatives. (*A feasibility study is the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of remedial alternatives.*)

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. 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 3 – Former Burn Pit Area

Located at the north end of the site, AOC 3 – Former Burn Pit Area is less than 10 acres in size. The area was used for disposal and burning of wastes. Subsurface soil, surface soil, and groundwater were impacted by disposal activities at this location. From September to November 2002, the Corps conducted a cleanup of contaminated soils and (*Continued on page 2*)

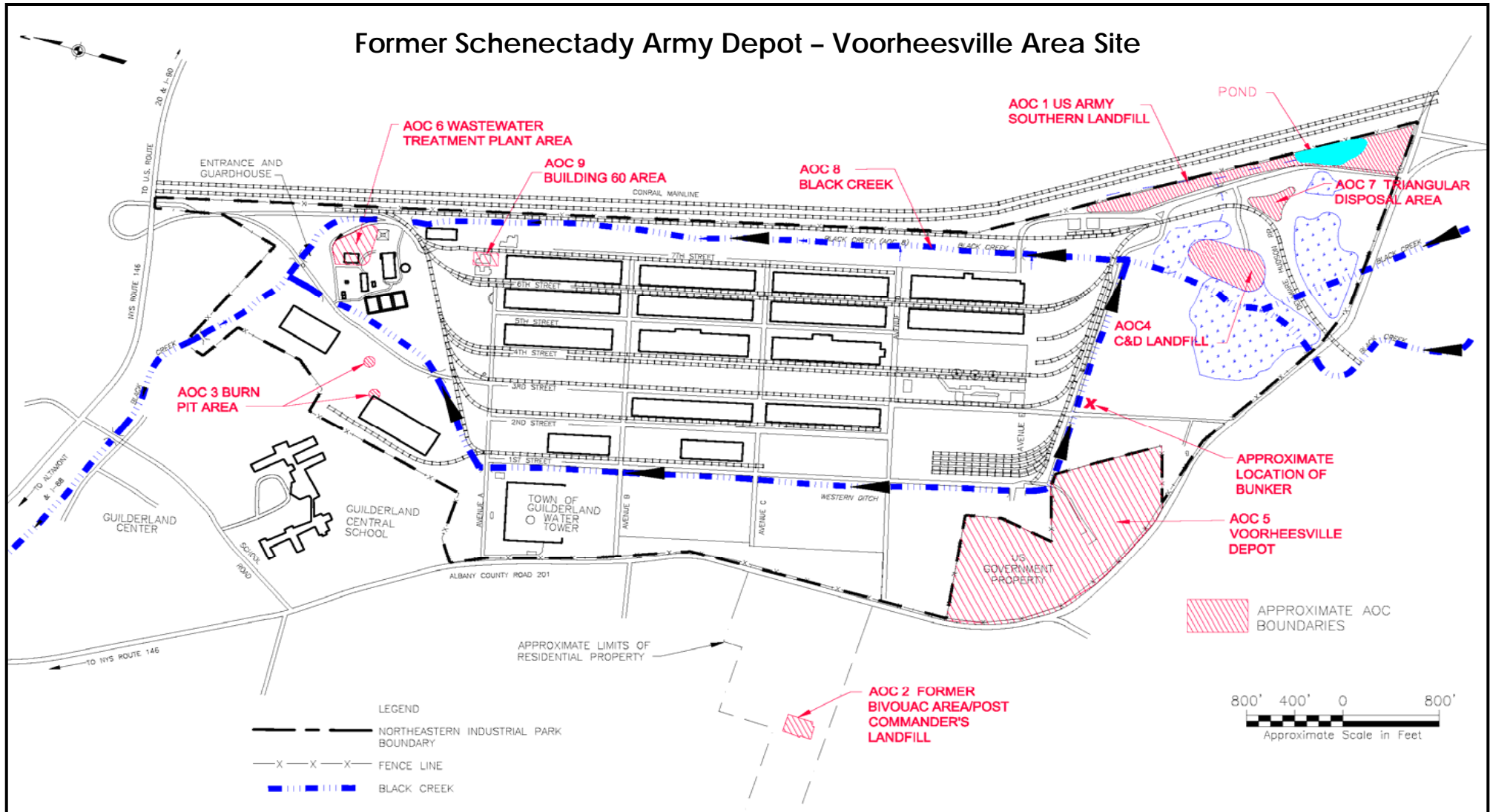
AOC 3 – Former Burn Pit Area

(Continued from page 1) buried wastes. From August 2002 through July 2003, the Corps removed and disposed of soils from the construction site of the Guilderland School District's new bus garage. The contaminated soils were disposed of at licensed landfills. From August 2002 through July 2003, the Corps removed and disposed of soils from the burn pit area within the current fence line of the Northeast Industrial Park. Follow-up groundwater sampling is underway which thus far has indicated the actions taken were effective.

AOC 4 – Signal Building S-69 and Construction and Demolition Landfill

AOC 4 is located at the south end of the site. Landfilling activities began in the late 1960s/early 1970s after the Department of Defense sold the property. However, there was speculation that some of the wastes were from depot operations. The use of Signal Building S-69 is not well documented. The results of soil, surface water, sediment, and groundwater samples did not show high levels of contamination or direct connection with former Army operations. No further action is recommended at AOC 4.

Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area Site



AOC 5 – Voorheesville Depot

The Voorheesville Depot is located in the southwest corner of the site. It was operated under the National Stockpile Program for the purpose of storing metals and materials for manufacturing defense products. AOC 5 is the only area that is currently owned by the federal government. The Defense Logistics Agency/Defense National Stockpile Center investigated AOC 5 and reconstructed its storm water retention ponds to reduce runoff.

AOC 6 – Wastewater Treatment Plant

AOC 6 is located in the northeastern section of the site. The FSADVA wastewater treatment plant was used by the Town of Guilderland until the town built a new plant from 1993 to 1995. During construction of the wastewater plant, buried bottles containing iodine tablets were found and disposed of.

Additional field investigations focused on a small dumping area. Metals were detected slightly above state criteria and background ranges; however, no obvious signs of waste sources were found. No further action is recommended at AOC 6.

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. Sources of contamination in the groundwater are unknown, and the samples and groundwater flow suggest the source is off-site from the east and northeast.

A feasibility study will be completed for AOC 7 to assess the need for further actions.

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. A feasibility study will be completed for AOC 8 to assess the need, if any, for future actions.

AOC 9 – Building 60 Area

This area is located in the northeast corner of the site. AOC 9 was used by the Army for vehicle maintenance and at one time contained seven large underground storage tanks. The tanks, an oil/water separator, and a storm sewer pipeline from the separator to Black Creek had been removed before the Corps began its investigation.

The potential source of contamination was from leaks in the pipeline. Contamination above state standards was found in only one sediment sample location. Groundwater, surface water, and soils were sampled and showed no quality impacts. The sediment impacts in the vicinity of AOC 9 will be addressed along with the feasibility study to be conducted for AOC 8.

Ecological Risk Assessment

A screening-level ecological risk assessment was conducted to evaluate potential adverse impacts to plants and animals due to the presence of contamination in soil, sediment, and surface water at the site. Plants, animals, birds, fish, and other aquatic life (e.g., frogs and turtles) at or near the site were studied. Information used in this assessment was taken from the Generic Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the industrial park owners in 2005.

The ecological risk assessment concluded that in light of contamination present in soil, sediment, and surface water, that may pose a risk to animals and aquatic wildlife, the FSADVA site appears to support wildlife typical for the area and for the commercial/industrial setting that the site has retained for over 60 years. This conclusion is reinforced by two additional ecological assessments conducted at AOC 1.

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 listed below:

Guilderland Public Library

2228 Western Avenue (Route 20)
Guilderland, New York

Voorheesville Public Library

51 School Road
Voorheesville, New York

For Additional Information

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

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