

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Community Involvement Plan for Operations & Maintenance Phase

Prepared: August 2016
Last Updated: January 2024



List of Acronyms

CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FYR	Five-Year Review
JARDF	Joint Administrative and Records Facility
O&M	Operations & Maintenance
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RMA	Rocky Mountain Arsenal
ROD	Record of Decision

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) and Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge are located 10 miles northeast of downtown Denver, Colorado, in Adams County. A former chemical weapons and agricultural chemical production facility, the RMA shares its eastern boundary with Denver International Airport and its northern, southern and western boundaries with rapidly growing residential and business developments.

The RMA is one of the largest and most-studied environmental cleanup sites in the nation. Given the site's history and proximity to densely populated communities, the U.S. Army managed a robust community involvement program throughout the remedial investigation, remedy selection and cleanup phases of the program. Those efforts were conducted in partnership with Shell Oil Co. and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Tri-County Health Department.

Using public meetings, publications, videos, community presentations, site tours and other communication tools, the Army encouraged community involvement in the decision-making process that ultimately led to the On-Post and Off-Post Records of Decision (RODs). The RODs outlined RMA's final environmental cleanup plans. The Army formed the RMA Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the purpose of soliciting community input in the development of the RODs, informing the community about the implementation of the RODs, and listening to and addressing any concerns identified by the community about the remedy.

The Army continued to conduct public outreach and solicit community input from the RAB and the larger community throughout the surface environmental cleanup of the site's soils and structures. That work concluded in 2010. The following November, after determining that they had fulfilled their mission, the RAB members voted to disband.

Although the surface remedy work has been completed, the Army will continue its groundwater treatment program until groundwater leaving the site meets drinking water standards. In addition, the Army will permanently manage and maintain all remedy facilities, including the two on-site hazardous waste landfills and two waste consolidation areas.

The Army remains committed to informing the community about the ongoing performance of the remedy and engaging community members in the Five-Year Review (FYR) process, as required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act.

This Community Involvement Plan outlines how the Army will achieve that mission throughout the ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) phase of the program. This plan supersedes the 2008 Community Involvement Plan, which detailed community involvement activities related to the cleanup program during remedy implementation.

2. Roles & Responsibilities

As the lead agency for the remediation program, the Army will manage the community involvement program in cooperation with Shell Oil Co., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, CDPHE and Adams County Health Department. (Tri-County Health Department formally dissolved on Dec. 31, 2022, and the newly formed Adams County Health Department assumed its role for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal program.) The Army will respond to media and community inquiries and will coordinate with the above entities, as appropriate.

3. Community Information Channels

In keeping with its commitment to public involvement, the Army will maintain several channels through which the public may obtain information and ask questions about the history and performance of the remedy. Those communications channels include:

- **The Army's Rocky Mountain Arsenal website**, which is now part of the Fort Carson site and can be found at <https://home.army.mil/carson/rma>. The site includes an e-mail address through which the public can submit comments and questions. The website offers annual monitoring reports and historical information about the site, as well as details about future Five-Year Reviews and other processes through which public comment is sought. The website has been enhanced to include information in both English and Spanish to serve the growing Spanish-speaking population around RMA.
- **The RMA community information line**, which allows residents to leave contact information so RMA staff can respond to their questions.
- **A bilingual annual community report**, which informs residents about O&M activities at the site and details where they can go to learn more or contact the site with questions.
- **The Joint Administrative and Records Facility (JARDF)**, through which the public can review and request copies of documents related to the cleanup. The JARDF is located on site at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Residents can schedule an appointment by calling 303.289.0300.

RMA staff will monitor the RMA community information line and email and direct questions to appropriate Army personnel, or their designees, for response. The RMA website will be maintained and updated by the Army and/or its contractor.

4. Five-Year Review Community Involvement

In accordance with EPA FYR guidance (EPA 2001), the Army will publish public notices at the start of the FYR process in the Denver Post and local community publications, as well as on the RMA website. The notices will solicit public input about any concerns or issues residents would like addressed in the FYR.

As part of the FYR process, the Army will also conduct confidential community interviews with a diverse group of citizens who are knowledgeable about the site. The results of those interviews will be summarized and captured within the FYR report.

Another public notice will be issued when a draft report is available for review online and at the JARDF. The Army will also present a summary of the FYR findings to local elected officials and community groups upon request. The public will be invited to submit written comments on the draft report for consideration, and a response to public comments will be included in the final report. The Army will publish a third public notice when a final report, along with a fact sheet about the FYR, has been issued and posted on RMA's website.

A more detailed explanation of the FYR public involvement process, along with sample public notices and fact sheets, is available in the RMA Administrative Record in the JARDF.

5. Media Inquiries

In cooperation with the regulatory agencies, the Army will respond to questions from the media and public about historic manufacturing and remediation activities at the site and answer questions about the ongoing protectiveness of the remedy. As the lead agency, the Army will serve as the primary point of contact for questions related to past manufacturing and cleanup actions. Questions about wildlife and refuge management and programs will be directed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

6. Other Long-Term O&M Outreach Activities

Other long-term O&M community outreach activities may include the following, based upon community interest, site issues and the need to solicit community input or inform the community about O&M activities:

- Post information on the Army's RMA website, <https://home.army.mil/carson/rma>.
- Submit public notices to the dominant local community newspapers, including the Denver Post.
- Publish an annual community report to inform residents about recent or upcoming activities at the site.
- Submit news releases or articles to appropriate media outlets, including local community newspapers.
- Provide updates/presentations to elected officials and community, business and civic groups.
- Offer site tours to elected officials and community, business and civic groups.
- Hold public meetings to provide community information and receive input.
- Develop fact sheets and infographics to educate and inform the community about the environmental cleanup.
- Host special events around major program milestones.
- Provide public documents and/or records about the cleanup program through the JARDF.
- Respond to community inquiries on the RMA community information line, 303.289.0300.