



# Former Frankford Arsenal Area 1 Soils

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## Introduction

The former Frankford Arsenal consists of 109 acres located at 5601 Tacony Street in Philadelphia. The property currently has four owners: Arsenal Business Associates, a limited partnership, the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation, Dietz and Watson, and PIDC (Philadelphia's public-private economic development corporation). The site has been divided into four active projects to improve efficiency for the clean-up efforts (Area 1, Area 2, Area 3 and Groundwater). Since 1996, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has performed several investigations for munitions and residual chemicals.



Work at the arsenal included the manufacturing of small arms and ammunition.

## Site History

Operation as an arsenal began in 1816. During that time, a wide variety of ordnance-related activities took place over the years, including the development of artillery and infantry equipment, proving and testing of musket and rifle powder, development and manufacturing of small arms and ammunition, and many other research and development initiatives.

In 1976, Frankford Arsenal was declared excess and was closed on Sept. 30, 1977. A decontamination and clean-up program was completed in 1980. The work included remediation of radiological contamination, explosive residues, and heavy metal residues.

## Area 1 Soils

Several investigations and removal actions have taken place at Area 1 since 1999. Work included removing 7,320 cubic yards of soil. The soil was contaminated with chlorinated solvents, petroleum, metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). After crews removed the contaminated soil, they backfilled the areas with clean soil.

In addition to removing the contaminated soil, crews closed several underground storage tanks and removed nickel-cadmium batteries from buildings at the site. After completion of these removals, the Corps of Engineers determined that there are no remaining unacceptable risks to human health or the environment, and recommends no further action for Area 1 Soils. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approved the Remedial Investigation Report, which summarized these findings.



Crews remove one of buildings in Area 1 as part of the clean-up work.

## Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

The Corps of Engineers is conducting the work using the processes under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), which was enacted by Congress in 1980. This law provides broad federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment.



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## **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (continued)**

Area 1 Soils is currently in the Proposed Plan phase, which is one of the last phases of CERCLA. After the public comment period ends, the Corps of Engineers will finalize the Proposed Plan and prepare a Decision Document, which will outline the selected plan.

## **Status of the Other Areas**

The draft final Area II Soil Remedial Investigation Report was finalized in December 2014 and identifies a few sites that will require a Feasibility Study. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation is to collect data to determine the nature and extent of contamination and to assess risk to human health and the environment. When unacceptable risks are identified in the Remedial Investigation, a Feasibility Study is completed which develops, screens, and evaluates alternatives for addressing the risk identified in the Remedial Investigation.

The Area III Soil Remedial Investigation field effort was completed in fall 2014, and the report is expected to be final by September 2015. The Groundwater Remedial Investigation Report is expected to be finalized in 2016.

## **Administrative Record File**

The Corps of Engineers has made a file of the existing technical documents and additional project materials available for public review. Additional documents will be added to the file as work progresses.

Some of the documents also can be found on the project's website:

<https://nab.usace.afpims.mil/Missions/Environmental/FormerlyUsedDefenseSites/FrankfordArsenal.aspx>

The Administrative Record file is available for review during normal business hours at the Tacony Branch Library, located at 6742 Torresdale Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19135. The library's phone number is (215) 685-8755.

**For More Information:** If you have questions, please contact Andrea Takash, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Corporate Communication, 410-962-2626 or [andrea.m.takash@usace.army.mil](mailto:andrea.m.takash@usace.army.mil).



**Several investigation methods are used during the Remedial Investigation, including geophysical surveys, which is pictured here.**