



# Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network, Inc.

## “Balancing People With The Environment”

Volume 2 P. O. Box 361...Marina, CA. 93933...www.foejn.org..(831) 582-0803

### How Clean is Clean?

The failure to date to implement Superfund adequately by any imaginable standard lends itself to many different explanations. In overview fashion, we have tried to shed light on each one. Some of these are the way Congress designed the cleanup process in the initial 1980 Superfund legislation and then in its amendments of 1986; the resistance of the Reagan administration throughout the all-important initial years of implementation of the law; the failure of EPA and state administrative agencies to coordinate properly and carry out expeditiously the provisions of CERCLA and SARA; and the recalcitrance on the part of both of those responsible for the hazardous wastes in the first place and of those who owned and operated the hazardous waste landfills, the parties the legislation said must be made to pay for the cleanups.

Another explanation is the ignorance on the part of all about the nature and breadth of the problem of *hazardous waste sites* and what it would take in both dollars and know-how to clean them up. Still another is the differing expectations of what “cleanup” or “cost-effective” meant to those ordinary citizens who found themselves living adjacent to the now-identified Superfund sites. These were all contributing factors. Yet, too, beneath the aggregate figures—how many sites are on the National Priority List, the technologies selected for remediation, the dollars spent (though not as yet on cleanups) lie hundreds of tales about disagreements and misunderstandings over what is best for a given site.

***These reveal the drama of human lives and people fearful for their health, property, and well-being and are equally important to our understanding.***

No two cleanup efforts have ever been the same; thus no single instance can suffice as prototypical.



The Fort Ord Army base has been around since 1917. Hundreds of soldiers have trained here with virtually every kind of weapon used for war.

1) A hospital or medical facility was documented as early as 1940, thus, Medical Waste had to be disposed of.

2) Parts of Fort Ord was used as a dump sites for waste that could not be disposed of in a Municipal, or household waste dump site. Thus we have a combination dump sites that equal a one hundred and fifty acres toxic landfill. Toxic soup that has accumulated in the landfill, has contaminated Fort Ord's groundwater. Especially on the Marina side of Fort Ord.

3)The Beach ranges have hundreds of spent bullets and shells. Chemicals and lead in the soil are cause for serious health concerns for local community residents. 4) Directly adjacent to the City of Seaside, you will find 8,000 acres of impact ranges. This is an area of much

stress and controversy for local Seaside, Fort Ord, Marina, and Salinas residents. Approximately 2,000 acres have been burned, causing anger, fear, Asthma attacks, and lasting health affects.

Cleanup has been hampered further by considerable distrust and by a lack of communication among the principal actors involved, compounded by the difficulty of communicating health risks.

much of the actual cleanup processes was and continues to be slow, frustrating both to local residents and EPA officials. Controversies like Fort Ord's continue to be repeated time and again as Superfund implementation proceeds across the country.

### Where Are Our Elected Representatives?

Fort Ord residents and their families worry that if the cost of living keeps on rising, with no increase in pay. Good Health Insurance is not affordable, rents and home ownership is outrageous. What happens to us, will we continually be put in the streets if we cannot pay or get Section 8 housing?



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### Opinion Column

#### Voice of an impacted community member:

*The Army needs to recognize that environmental justice issues are of serious concern of the community, and that many residents are concerned that they will not get adequate health care, due to the high cost of health insurance, most economic benefits do not include this section of the population. They are not privileged to the benefits that developing Fort Ord might bring. The current Community Relations Plan does not adequately address these very real community concerns. Listening is important, but action is extremely important.*



*The Army's current Community Relations Plan methods are not effectively reaching the general public, especially communities of color and the low-income communities. The processes and procedures of clean-up and economic recovery are not respectful of the local, impacted residents. This is blatantly demonstrated by the low community attendance at cleanup related events. The Army must consider advertising in media other than locally-oriented daily newspapers. Too, churches and schools are among locations to be considered at which community members might be effectively reached and contacted to give information or to receive feedback. Door to door contact within locally impacted community members is an effective manner in which to involve disenfranchised, minority and low income residents.*

*Further, community members respond when their voices are heard, when the subjects are relevant, when the residents are notified well in advance with regard to the date and time of scheduled meetings, and when these meetings are held in a location convenient to concerned residents. I and other community members have repeatedly voiced concerns about health effects from smoke and toxins; and, at the same time having to deal with severe economic hardships. High cost housing, low wages, no meaningful job training, no good affordable health care.*

*A Peninsula Resident*

#### Health Alert:

Vaccines and Autism

Until about 1989 pre-school children got only 3 vaccines (polio, DPT, MMR). By 1999 the CDC

Recommended a total of 22 vaccines to be given before children reach the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, including Hepatiits B, which is given to newborns within the first 24 hours of birth. Many of these vaccines contained mercury. In the 1990s approximately 40 million children were injected with mercury-containing vaccines. The cumulative amount of mercury being given to children in this number of vaccines would be an amount 187 times the EPA daily exposure limit. Between 1989 and 2003, there has been an explosion of autism. According to the National Autism Foundation the incidence of autism went from about 1 in 2,500 children to an alarming 1 in every 166. Currently there are more than a half million children in the U.S. that have autism. As a precautionary measure the American Academy of Pediatrics and U.S. Public Health Service in 1999 recommended the removal of thimerosal from most childhood vaccines.

#### Making the Most of the Community Meetings

##### How to Verbalize Your Needs/Concerns

The regulators are there to serve you. You will get a quicker and more direct response if you pose a suggestion or comment rather than a question. Commenting is not a conversation. Rather, you are telling the recipient of your comments what to do. If you want to be nice, say please, and then tell them what to do.

##### Why You Should Avoid Asking Questions

When you ask a question, you give the recipient an out. Recipients want to make as few changes as possible. They either ignore questions completely or answer them in their head. Sometimes you can see their lips silently forming the answer. It is almost impossible to get anything on paper. When you have a question, it really means that either **(1)** the text is unclear, or **(2)** you have a problem with something that is or is not stated.

Be Respectful – These suggestions apply to both Regulators and Local community residents

Your comments should always be respectful, even if the statements are ill-conceived, unintelligible gibberish, someone worked to prepare it. It is not the intent of community members to alienate anyone, but



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highly technical information need to be presented in laymans language. Those getting paid to represent the impacted community residents should always take the high road on paper and in e-mail. In addition to showing civility, always assume (even if you do not really believe this) that the author’s heart is in the right place and that he or she simply needs more information and explanations to understand what you are actually saying or doing. You can then supply the information and, if possible, some immediate actions. Never call anyone’s integrity or motives into question. When the impacted residents have to live with real health threats that harm them, their children and other family members, and to look at economic impacts that are putting them in the streets; they need assistance and reasurace that they have a future in their own communities, & that they will be removed out of harms way.

## ACT NOW !

Fortunately, the EPA is required to hear what the public thinks.

Help us make sure that the EPA knows that Californians want stronger standards to clean up our air, water and other waste, by sending us your written testimony. We’ll provide you with talking points and hand deliver your comments to EPA. Ask your friends and family to send in comments as well by forwarding this information.

Take action by visiting the following links:

<http://www.foejn.org> - Go here to the “suggestion page”; plus, to the link below to register your comments and concerns:

- <http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/action/clean-air/testimony>.
- <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov>.
- <http://www.mbuapcd.org>

### Army Community Participation Meeting

The Army announced two community participation meetings without discussion with FOEJN, which does not give the community ample time to respond or make arrangements to attend. One community meeting is on Carbon Tetrachloride, which is a chemical that is contaminating our groundwater. This chemical was banned because it was found to cause cancer. The Army stored this chemical in drums

which were buried in the ground at Fort Ord. Cleanup efforts are underway and the public should be very concerned that this contaminant is not completely removed and the public is not continually exposed to these toxic vapors. Please call if you need more time to prepare comments and acquire additional information. A public meeting will be held on **June 14, 2006** at 6:00 pm at Stilwell Community Center. The usual public meeting for July 12 was canceled and instead, the Army is proposing a public comment meeting to take place **July 19, 2006** at 6:00 pm at the Stilwell Community Center on Fort Ord.

Coming this fall to a city near YOU!

**TOUR '06**  
Click here for a brief description of the Tour and the three Tour '06 routes

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL**  
TOUR '06 ★ SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 1

This fall, environmental justice and health groups from all over the country are hosting a national tour of communities directly impacted by unfair industrial contamination problems. The tour will bring together multi-racial and multi-regional grassroots community activists to promote safe solutions to toxic contamination.

**WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION:**  
Please come back soon to view full details of this groundbreaking event!

tour06@EnvironmentalJusticeForAll.org • Webmaster

Join FOEJN in September 24, 2006 for a Community Meeting with Other Environmental Justice Groups, & Media who will be Touring the Country  
LeVonne Stone, Executive Director FOEJN,  
P.O. Box 361, Marina, CA 93933  
Office: 831-582-0803 - Cell: 277-5241

### Special Announcement

Evan. LeVonne Stone, Exec. Director and staff, Barbara Connolly, Assistant Executive Director, along with Jana, our intern, and Dr. Peter de Fur, FOEJN’s Technical Advisor, along with his assistant, Kyle Newman shall make a poster presentation at the 2006 Environmental Protection Agency National Community Involvement Conference and Training event to be held June 27-30, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



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### Army Plans to Clean Up Carbon Tetrachloride at Fort Ord

Prepared by Environmental Stewardship Concepts  
June 5, 2006

When Fort Ord was operating, the chemical carbon tetrachloride was widely used as a solvent to clean machinery and electronics. Improper disposal over the course of decades led to extensive soil and groundwater contamination at the base. The plume of contamination flows from under Preston Court towards the city of Marina. Since the discovery of the plume several years ago, the Army has installed a number of monitoring wells to evaluate both the extent of contamination and its movements.

The proposed plan provides both a summary and recommendations regarding cleanup alternatives for the Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume at the former Fort Ord. These alternatives were first evaluated in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study released late last year. Cleanup of the carbon tetrachloride plume will be technically difficult, as the contamination is spread through 3 different aquifers at varying depths. The largest plume is contained within the “A-Aquifer,” and is the source of greatest concern. The other two plumes are contained in the Upper and Lower 180-Foot Aquifers respectively. Four treatment alternatives were evaluated:

#### Option #1: No Action with Monitored Natural Attenuation (all aquifers)

This option is included primarily for comparative purposes, and as the name implies does nothing to actively treat contamination. Over several decades, natural processes will eventually break down the carbon tetrachloride and dilute its toxicity.

#### Option #2: In Situ Enhanced Biodegradation (A-Aquifer), Extraction and Treatment Within the Operable Unit 2

#### Treatment System (Upper 180-Foot Aquifer), and Monitored Natural Attenuation (Lower 180-Foot Aquifer)

The Army will inject lactate into the A-Aquifer, which will promote the growth of bacteria that breakdown carbon tetrachloride. Water from the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer will be pumped to the Operable Unit 2 groundwater treatment system and then back into the aquifer. Natural attenuation will contingencies for drinking water use will be implemented for the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer.

#### Option #3: In Situ Permeable Reactive Barrier (A-Aquifer), Extraction and Treatment Within the Operable Unit 2 Treatment System (Upper 180-Foot Aquifer), and Monitored Natural Attenuation (Lower 180-Foot Aquifer)

A reactive barrier that selectively removes contaminants from water passing through it will be placed across the plume of carbon tetrachloride in the A-Aquifer. Treatment of the 180-Foot Aquifers is the same as Option #2.

#### Option #4: Groundwater Extraction and Treatment (A-Aquifer), Extraction and Treatment Within the Operable Unit 2 Treatment System (Upper 180-Foot Aquifer), and Monitored Natural Attenuation (Lower 180-Foot Aquifer)

This option involves the creation of a new groundwater treatment system for the A-Aquifer over the carbon tetrachloride plume. Treatment of the two 180-Foot Aquifers is the same as Options 2 and 3.

Of these four alternatives, Option #2 is the most preferred by both the Army and FOEJN’s Technical Advisor. It is likely to be the most effective and fastest method to clean up the carbon tetrachloride contaminated groundwater. FOEJN and its Technical Advisor do not agree with this alternative completely, as the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer will be left untreated. However, it is encouraging to see the Army embracing new cleanup technologies such as bioremediation.

The Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network  
conducts meetings open to the public on  
**Mondays**

Please call - **831-582-0803** for more information,  
Or **831-277-5241**. Email us at [ejjustice@mbay.net](mailto:ejjustice@mbay.net),  
and take a look at our website at [www.foejn.org](http://www.foejn.org)  
We are conducting workshops on identifying Toxins  
in the Air, your Water, your home and Work place.  
Call or email us if you are interested in signing up  
For this educational workshop  
**Mailing address P.O. Box 361...Marina, CA. 93933**

