

EPA PROPOSES TO DELETE PORTIONS OF THE FORMER FORT ORD FROM SUPERFUND NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

What is proposed?

On November 20, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Federal Register notice announcing its proposal to delete 11,934 acres of the 27,827 acre Fort Ord Superfund site, located in Monterey County, California, from the National Priorities List (NPL), also known as the “Superfund list.” This proposed deletion:

- is a “partial deletion” (meaning it only includes a part of the cleanup at a portion of the site where cleanup is finished); and
- only covers cleanup work for military munitions and soil pollution.

EPA policy allows for these cleaned up soil areas to be deleted separately from contaminated water and soil gas below the ground. The proposed partial deletion includes the completed cleanup of military munitions (such as artillery projectiles, rockets, hand grenades, practice land mines, pyrotechnics, demolition materials and other munitions used by the Army) and soil contamination from base operations, on those 11,934 acres. Groundwater and soil gas contamination cleanup is still underway for these 11,934 acres, and that contamination remains in the Superfund program and on the NPL. The remaining 15,893 acres of the site, and all contamination associated with those acres, including potential per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination, remain in the Superfund program and on the NPL. See page 3 map. The cleanup work required will be conducted by the Army with EPA and State oversight.

Type of Contamination	Deleted from NPL	Remain on NPL
Military Munitions	11,934 acres	15,893 acres
Soil	11,934 acres	15,893 acres
Soil Gas	0 acres	27,827 acres
Groundwater	0 acres	27,827 acres

The cleanup goals achieved were decided by a site reuse evaluation that looked into potential uses of the land. The reuse options are identified in the Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan (<https://www.fora.org/BRP.html>). Much of this property has been transferred from the Army to local jurisdictions. In some cases, the property has already been redeveloped to benefit the community as part of economic recovery from the closure of the Fort Ord Army base in 1994.

How was the Fort Ord Superfund site contaminated?

The former Fort Ord Army base is adjacent to Monterey Bay in northwestern Monterey County, California, bordering the cities of Seaside, Sand City, Monterey, and Del Rey Oaks to the south and Marina to the north. Fort Ord served primarily as a base for infantry troops (foot soldiers) beginning in 1917 until closure in 1994. When it was in use, Fort Ord operated like a small city. Military training and base facilities (base landfill, sewage treatment plant, vehicle maintenance shops, etc.) resulted in the release of hazardous substances and pollutants into the soil and groundwater and munitions and explosives of concern in former training areas. The Army has been conducting investigation and cleanup activities at the former Fort Ord under the

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (also known as CERCLA or Superfund) since 1990, with the oversight of EPA and the State of California.

Does the State approve of the proposed deletion?

The State of California approved the proposed deletion through letters sent by the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in July 2020. They agree with the EPA's proposed decision to delete these parcels at the Fort Ord Superfund Site from the NPL, and EPA's assessment that cleanup is complete on military munitions and soil contamination on 11,934 acres of the site.

Is my drinking water safe?

Fort Ord drinking water is safe and protected from contamination plumes. The Marina Coast Water District supplies drinking water to the City of Marina and former Fort Ord. Fort Ord drinking water meets all Federal and State regulatory standards. Drinking water quality is regularly tested and results are reported in an annual Consumer Confidence Report found at: https://www.mcwd.org/gsa_ccr.html. Groundwater contamination site-wide will remain on the NPL. All groundwater remedies are operational and effective, but cleanup levels have not been met.

What about PFAS?

The Army is investigating potential releases of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. PFAS contamination at Fort Ord is not included in the proposed partial deletion. These substances may be present in soil and/or groundwater at Army facilities from PFAS-containing aqueous film forming foam or from other sources. These chemicals may enter the environment through landfills and wastewater due to their presence in consumer products or as runoff to soil and water from other uses. The Army is conducting a Preliminary Assessment (PA) as required by CERCLA. A PA is an initial review and analysis of available information (historical records, sampling data, etc.) to determine whether a release may have occurred and the potential sources and type of release(s). If the PA results indicate further investigation is needed, the Army will conduct additional soil and groundwater sampling.

Where can I find more information?

To view the notice and supporting documentation (detailed cleanup descriptions, maps), and submit comments online, visit the website <http://www.regulations.gov> and type EPA-HQ-SFUND-1990-0010 in the Search bar. (For easier access, sort results by "Posted, Newer – Older.") A 30-day public comment period for the deletion started on November 20, 2020 and ends December 21, 2020.

Additional site information and documents are available online at:

<https://www.fortordcleanup.com/> and <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0902783>.

If you have questions, contact Maeve Clancy EPA Project Manager at clancy.maeve@epa.gov or by phone at 415-947-4105; or Gavin Pauley EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at pauley.gavin@epa.gov or by phone at 415-535-3725.

