

# Closing the Loop

This has been prepared to outline and respond to comments and questions made during the Community Involvement Workshop held Saturday, March 1, 2014.

## **Comments and Questions from a Comment Card Handed-in at the Community Involvement Workshop**

**Groundwater Cleanup: Great explanation of how bugs help digest Carbon Tet. Got a private explanation of how they eat toxic substances and not die. Maybe that should be included?**

*Army response: In the A-aquifer, enhanced in situ bioremediation is used as a treatment. Bioremediation allows natural processes to clean up harmful chemicals in the environment. Microscopic “bugs” or microbes that live in groundwater “eat” the carbon tetrachloride to get energy to live. When microbes completely digest the carbon tetrachloride, they change the carbon tetrachloride into water and harmless gases such as carbon dioxide. When we explain the process of bioremediation, we’ll emphasize that the naturally occurring microbes do not die as a result of digesting the Carbon Tetrachloride.*

**Soil Cleanup: Very clear and easy-to-understand.**

*Army response: Thank you for joining us on the bus tour and for your feedback on our Open House activities.*

**Landfill: Nice to have the pieces of the protective liner passed around. I do wonder how many hundreds of years it will last.**

*Army response: Ultimately, we do not know how long the cover will last; however, studies by the companies that develop and test these materials suggest that the lifespan can vary from 200 to 750 years under certain conditions. For example, if the cover is not exposed to sunlight and does not come into contact with chemicals, the life span tends to be longer.*

*The 60-millimeter linear low-density polyethylene geomembrane cover was placed over the Fort Ord landfills in 1997. Since that time, an unusually significant rainfall and earthquakes have occurred and no major damage has resulted from these events—the cover has maintained its integrity. We can’t predict exactly how long it will last, but we continue to frequently check to make sure it is working as designed.*

*To ensure that the cover is still working properly and does not have any damage, the Army conducts a regular maintenance program to make sure that the groundwater and gas treatment systems are efficiently operating and that the cover remains intact. The cover is inspected routinely by both the Army and the Monterey County Health Department to ensure that it remains protective. Repairs are made to any minor damage caused by erosion and animals. There is also a manufacturer’s warranty for the landfill cover.*

*The Army is required by State of California Law (Title 27 Code of California Regulations, Division 2, Subdivision 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 4, Sections 21769 – 21900) to monitor and maintain the landfill in accordance with applicable performance standards.*