

Headquarters, Department of the Army



**Umatilla Chemical
Depot, OR
Conveyance Progress Report**



As of 1 October 2019

Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9

Operations Directorate, Base Realignment and Closure Division

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West Area

BRAC 2005 Recommendation

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendation directing the closure of Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD), OR was conditional on completion of the chemical demilitarization (demil) mission in accordance with Treaty obligations. In September 2011, OSD made the determination that, since the demil mission would not be complete by the 15 September 2011 statutory end date for BRAC 2005, Umatilla would not close under BRAC. Subsequent to the end of BRAC 2005, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2012 was enacted and included language directing the Secretary of the Army to close Umatilla Chemical Depot, OR under the BRAC Statute not later than one year after the completion of chemical demilitarization activities required under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Section 126 of the 2012 Consolidated Appropriations Act further stated that the SECARMY could retain minimum essential ranges, facilities, and training areas at Umatilla Chemical Depot as a training enclave for the reserve components of the Armed Forces to permit the conduct of individual and annual training. The demil mission was completed in October 2011, and the Depot closed effective 1 August 2012.

History

In 1940, the Army selected a 16,000-acre plot of northeastern Oregon sage land for a new depot for munitions and general supply storage. Construction work began in January 1941, and 10 months later, on 14 October 1941, officials opened the U.S. Army Umatilla Ordnance Depot, named for the Umatilla Indian Tribe. Workers transformed the prairie site into a complex of warehouses, munitions magazines, shops, and office buildings connected by a web of paved roads and railroad tracks – essential elements for shipping and receiving. The first ordnance shipment arrived on 27 October 1941. During its more than 70 years in operation, Umatilla grew to almost 20,000 acres and continued to support other war efforts, including the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and Desert Storm. In addition to its conventional ammunition and general supply missions, the depot received a new mission in 1962 – receiving and storing chemical ammunition. Between 1962 and 1969, the depot received various types of chemical ammunition. In 1988, the Depot was identified for realignment under BRAC, which relocated the depot's conventional ammunition and general supplies missions to other U.S. depots and installations.

Current Status

UCMD is a closed installation, under the command authority of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, with a caretaker workforce overseeing on-site activities. On 27 November 2017, Army assigned a 7,500-acre land tract to the National Guard Bureau (NGB) for future readiness training. This property was withdrawn from Federal Surplus on 16 June 2017. Upon completion of the assignment to the NGB, the applicable acreage was removed from the overall BRAC excess and conveyed acreage totals.

Property Description

The Depot is located in Umatilla and Morrow Counties in northeastern Oregon, approximately three miles south of the Columbia River and 180 miles east of Portland. At the time of closure, the installation had approximately 1,347 structures of which 1,001 are Ammunition storage igloos. Many of the old World War II-era buildings and facilities are in disrepair and unusable. The UMCDF incinerator complex was built in 1997-2004 and is a modern industrial complex of buildings on the installation. The main incinerator buildings in this complex have been razed IAW the RCRA permits, but the remaining infrastructure of the site and buildings remain for future development. There are over 194 miles of paved roads and 51 miles of light rail (no longer usable). The installation consists of an admin area, the ammunition maintenance and storage areas, general commodities warehouses, the Ammunition Demolition Area, and a range complex.

Caretaking Status

One Federal employee remains on UMCD to provide oversight of environmental cleanup, caretaker services, property accountability, and natural resources management. Current caretaker operations are performed by the ORNG's caretaker contractor.

Environmental Cleanup

Environmental remediation at the Umatilla Chemical Depot is being conducted under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Corrective Action with oversight from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. All but two of the environmental contamination sites have reached response complete status with the two remaining sites being the Ammunition Demolition Area and Groundwater Contamination. Contaminants of concern include petroleum, volatile chemicals, toxic chemicals, hazardous waste, and TNT and RDX explosives. The Army has completed removal and remediation of underground and above-ground storage tanks, deactivation furnace soils, the depot landfill, and smaller miscellaneous sites.

Ammunition Demolition Area (ADA)

On 2 November 2015, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality issued the Army a Civil Penalty Assessment and Order for failing to submit the required draft final Remedial Action Completion Report in accordance with the February 2014 Remedial Action Workplan. The report was not submitted because the contractor doing the remedial work was terminated for failing to complete the work in the specified time. The contract was rebid and awarded in June 2016. In the Settlement Agreement reached in June 2016, EPA determined that the stipulated penalty, to be paid to the Hazardous Substances Response Trust Fund, was \$125,000. The Army agreed to pay the penalty but the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for the UMCD provides that any stipulated penalty assessed by the EPA may only be paid after specific authorization by law. In addition, 10 U.S.C 2703(f) specifically requires such authorization by law. The FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law on 12 December 2017. Within this legislation, Section 313 "Payment to Environmental Protection Agency of Stipulated Penalty in Connection with Umatilla Chemical Depot, Oregon" provided the Army authorization to pay the EPA penalty and the BRAC Division transferred the penalty payment from the Base Closure Account to the EPA.



The pump and treat facility continues to clean groundwater contaminated as a result of munitions activities in the washout plant. It has been modified to add bioremediation to improve effectiveness.

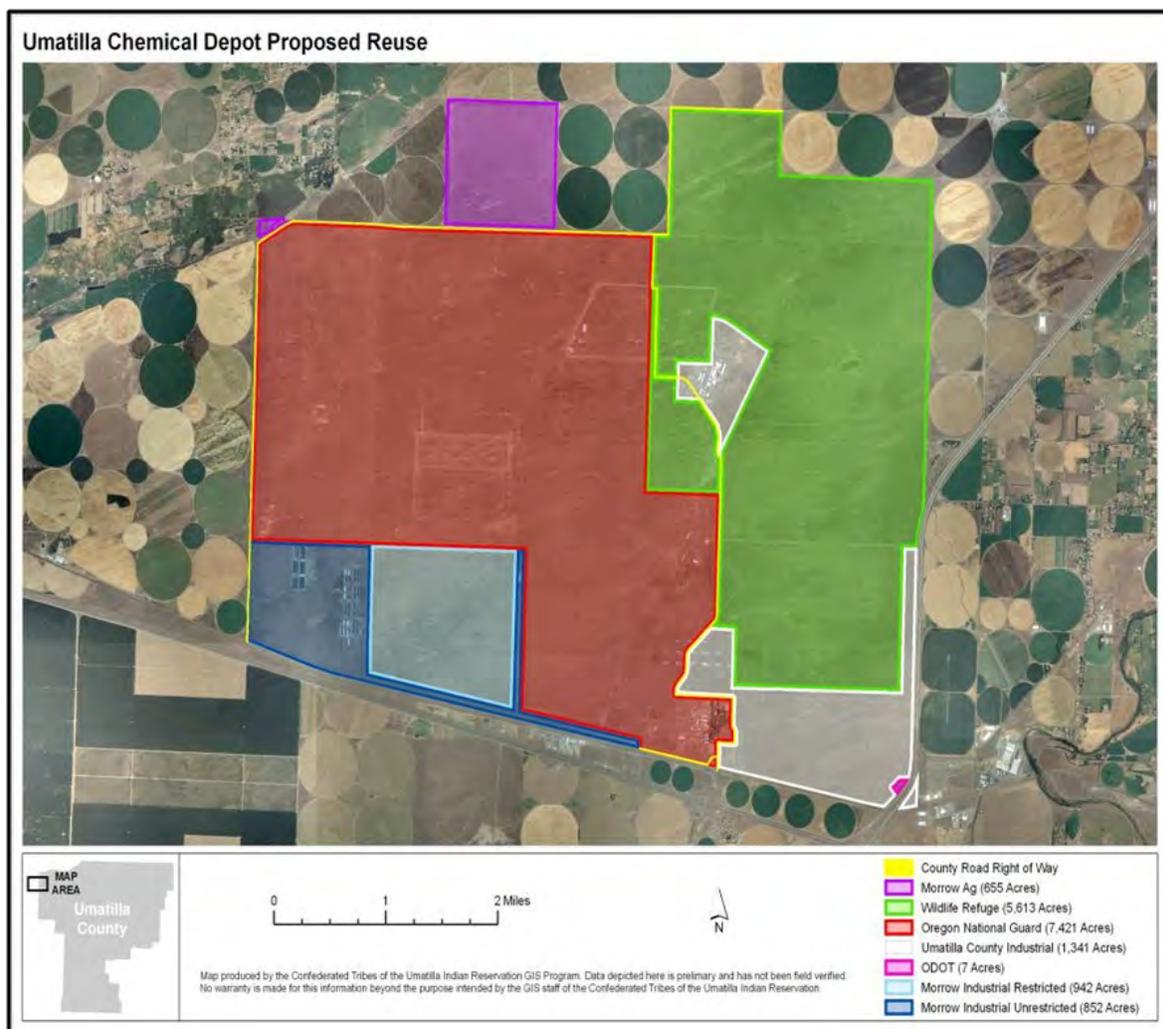
Reuse Plan

The original local redevelopment authority, the Umatilla Army Depot Reuse Authority (UMADRA), was officially recognized by the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) as the planning local redevelopment authority (LRA) in January 2009. The LRA's reuse plan and homeless assistance submission for the property was approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in October 2010. On 17 September 2014, the LRA was reorganized and renamed the Columbia Development Authority (CDA).

The LRA's redevelopment plan represents a broad-based consensus among local, regional, and state interests and utilizes three principal land-use categories and one small parcel transfer in the Redevelopment Plan:

- a major training area for the Oregon National Guard,
- habitat protection through the creation of a wildlife conservation refuge,
- industrial zoning to aid in off-setting the economic impact of base closure to the community, and
- small parcel transfer to the State of Oregon Department of Transportation (Interstate I-82 easement).

DoD/HUD accepted the plan and the DoD has subsequently accepted the LRA request for transfer of property under the Economic Development Conveyance Authority.



Programmatic Agreement, Section 106

The Programmatic Agreement (PA) under the Section 106 requirement of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for UMCD was completed on 30 December 2013. A subsequent pedestrian survey of 4,165 previously unsurveyed acres was completed in December 2017. A draft amendment to the PA is currently under review within Army. Army and SHPO have identified a portion of the South Trail (35UM497), the North Trail (35UM498), Coyote Coulee, and the 1944 UMCD Igloo Accident site as Properties of Religious and Cultural Significance (PRCS) and eligible for listing in the National Register for Historic Places (NRHP). Additional review and coordination of the draft PA amendment with consulting parties (CDA, CTUIR, SHPO, and ACHP) will follow prior to final execution.

A historic buildings and structures study conducted by Department of the Army Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM) in 1984. The study designated Headquarters Bldg. No. 1 and Firehouse Bldg. No. 2 as Category III historic properties of minor importance, but important locally as works of architectural design. Category III properties are eligible for nomination to the National Register but not listed and must nonetheless be maintained and preserved in accordance with Section 106 and 110(f) of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended in 1980, and the regulations of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) as outlined in the "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR 800). Since the DARCOM study, there have been no additional inventories conducted. In 1988, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) found that the Depot itself met Criterion A for its association with national defense efforts and Criterion C for architectural merit but, by itself, is no longer considered eligible for listing in the National Register as a Historic District.

In 2000, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, completed a national historic context for World War II-era Army ammunition storage magazines (*Geo-Marine 2000, Army Ammunition and Explosives Storage in the United States, 1775-1945*). The objective of the document was to present the themes and events that influenced the construction, modification, and use of ammunition storage magazines during World War II and during the mobilization effort prior to this war. In addition to context, the document also presents a classification system for all ammunition storage magazines and a discussion of National Register eligibility requirements. The study recommends that those installations with the most comprehensive array of the various magazine designs may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register. While the former UMCD was not considered to be eligible for listing in the National Register, it should be noted that the report indicated that, in rare instances, an installation may have had such an exceptional impact on a state or locality that it could be eligible for inclusion in the National Register under other state or local themes.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The Army has completed the NEPA process and is preparing a Finding of No Significant Impact for approval.



Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

Key Milestones Achieved

- UMCD Title report completed in August 2008.
- UMADRA recognized and active in January 2009.
- Reuse plan completed by UMADRA and approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in August 2010.
- Environmental Condition of Property Report (ECP) completed in June 2010 and updated in December 2012
- General Order of Closure issued and executed at the installation effective 1 August 2012. Caretaker operations at UMCD commenced.
- LRA renamed as the CDA in September 2014.
- Water Rights Memorandum of Agreement between CDA and Oregon Military Department signed 26 July 2016.
- MOA between the Army BRAC Division and the NGB signed 3 August 2016
- On 16 June 2017, 7,500 acres were withdrawn from Federal Surplus for future assignment to the National Guard Bureau (NGB) for readiness training.
- On 27 November 2017, Army assigned a 7,500-acre land tract to the NGB. Upon completion of the assignment the applicable acreage was removed from the overall BRAC excess and conveyed acres totals.



Headquarters, Bldg 1



A chemical operations crew separates rocket motor and warhead sections on nine M55 rockets sent to an Army lab in Picatinny, N.J., for propellant sampling and analysis.



Workers in Umatilla prepare to deliver the final Enhanced On-site Container which was part of the "final campaign" of HD Mustard Ton Containers.