

FACT SHEET

Forest Glen Annex Environmental Restoration Activities

Regulatory Drivers – TSCA

Fort Detrick

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The Installation Restoration Program (IRP) at Fort Detrick's Forest Glen Annex includes one site that is being investigated under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA): FTGL-06 (PCB Contamination North of Linden Lane).

TSCA, passed in 1976, provides the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) with the authority to establish reporting, record-keeping and testing requirements and restrictions relating to chemical substances and/or mixtures. TSCA addresses the production, importation, use and disposal of such chemicals as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), asbestos, radon and lead-based paints. Certain substances are excluded from TSCA, however, including, among others, food, drugs, cosmetics and pesticides.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are regulated under Section 6 of TSCA and the regulations found at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 761. These requirements impact facilities that use, store or dispose of PCBs and PCB items (e.g. articles, containers, equipment). The facilities must properly manage the PCBs through prescribed handling, marking and storage and disposal methods. In addition, the facilities are required to promptly clean up any spills occurring during use or storage.



Electrical transformers are a common source of PCB contamination

The regulations at 40 CFR §761.61 provides several options for cleaning up and disposing of PCB remediation wastes: 40 CFR §761.61(a) establishes requirements for self-implementing cleanups and disposal; 40 CFR §761.61(b) establishes requirements for performance-based disposal; and 40 CFR §761.61(c) establishes a procedure for applying for a risk-based cleanup or disposal approval when an individual or organization wishes to conduct PCB cleanup or disposal in a manner other than is prescribed in either 40 CFR §761.61(a) or (b).

The extent of cleanup required for a property contaminated with PCBs depends primarily upon two factors: 1) the use of the property (characterized by the length of occupancy) and 2) the type of waste material that is contaminated with the PCBs. The self-implementing procedures may not be used to clean up the following: surface or ground waters; sediments in marine and fresh water ecosystems; sewers or sewage treatment systems; any private or public drinking water sources or distribution systems; grazing lands; and vegetable gardens (40 CFR §761.61 (a)(1)(i)). The required cleanup level for self-implementing cleanups is determined by the type of occupancy after the cleanup is completed. Section 761.61(c) requires individuals to submit to the Regional Administrator an application which provides a risk-based demonstration that other procedures or cleanup standards will result in a commensurate level of protection for human health and the environment.

For more information about ongoing environmental investigations at the Forest Glen Annex, please contact the Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office (see contact information at the top of this fact sheet).