

Radford Army Ammunition Plant Post-closure Care Permit

A **Post-closure Care Permit** is required 1) when owners and operators of hazardous waste disposal units, such as landfills, stop receiving hazardous waste and must close the disposal unit, or 2) when owners and operators of hazardous waste management units such as surface impoundments are unable to remove all hazardous waste and therefore cannot close without additional protection (“clean close”) and must close as landfills. Post-closure care permits are issued in 10-year increments.

Post-closure is the period after closure during which owners and operators conduct monitoring and maintenance activities to preserve the integrity of the disposal system and continue to prevent or control releases from the disposal units. Post-closure care consists of two primary responsibilities: groundwater monitoring to detect any releases of hazardous contaminants (“constituents”) and maintaining the waste containment system (e.g., covers, caps, and liners). The **post-closure care period** generally lasts for 30 years from the date of closure.

Currently, the Post-closure Care Permit for Radford Army Ammunition Plant is being renewed because post-closure care is still required at two hazardous waste units, Unit 5 and Unit 16.

Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Unit 5



Unit 5 was put into operation as an unlined surface impoundment in 1970 and was retrofitted with a liner in 1981. The impoundment was taken out of operation in 1986 and was closed with a cap and a liner. Post-closure care for the unit started in October 1989. Groundwater monitoring has been ongoing since 1985. Radford Army Ammunition Plant is currently performing corrective action at Unit 5 because concentrations of trichloroethylene (TCE) have exceeded the groundwater protection standard (GPS). The GPS sets levels of contaminants in groundwater that are protective of human health and the environment. DEQ approved a permit modification to include Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) as the corrective action program on November 9, 2009.

Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Unit 16

Unit 16 consisted of a trench landfill that received hazardous waste from 1980 until 1988. As part of the closure process, leachate drains and a cover system were installed. Hazardous waste and constituents remained in place after closure, and Radford Army Ammunition Plant started post-closure care in August 1993. Groundwater monitoring has been ongoing since 1981. Radford Army Ammunition Plant is performing compliance monitoring at Unit 16 because concentrations of some constituents are elevated above background concentrations. No GPS has been exceeded at Unit 16 to date.

Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Units 7 and 10

Units 7 and 10 were clean closed on June 26, 2013 and April 2, 2014, respectively. The units were removed from the Post-closure Care Permit because Radford Army Ammunition Plant demonstrated that there was no unacceptable risk to human health and the environment based on the soil and groundwater data collected at both units.