

Ridgewood Army Weapons Plant

Site Number: G05OH0156

The 125 acre installation is located in eastern Cincinnati, Ohio. Historically, 50 acres were buildings, storage tanks and fuel distribution lines. Industrial operations were located at this site since the early 1900's. The property, now owned by the City of Cincinnati, was originally acquired in 1942 from Ridgewood Steel Company. At this time the Cincinnati Gun Plant, known as the Ridgewood Forge Plant, was established. The plant was declared surplus on October 29, 1945, and was designated as part of the National Industrial Reserve. The site was reacquired by the Army as the Ridgewood Ordnance Plant in 1962. At this point the mission of the plant was production of gun tubes and shells. From 1974 through 1981, the property was conveyed in portions to the City of Cincinnati. Since 1981, the mission of the plant shifted to compliance and restoration. Buildings were demolished in 1983 and contractors were permitted by the City to place clean demolition fill. The fuel storage tanks were removed by the Army and the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation (BUSTR) accepted closure of the USTs in 1996.

An Environmental Site Assessment conducted in 1994 included a review of past studies, delineation of fuel oil contamination plume, records search to determine former activities at the weapons plant, analysis of soil/ground water, and a report on the recommended alternative for cleanup. The report concluded that the USTs and distribution line contents may have contributed to soil and water contamination. This contamination includes known and suspected releases of fuel oil, benzene, ethyl benzene, xylenes, lead, arsenic, nickel and other organic and inorganic chemicals into the ground water. Known and suspected releases to the Mill Creek and area soils include: benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylene, beryllium, nickel, petroleum hydrocarbons and other organic and inorganic chemicals. A Removal Action Plan proposed the use of a bioventing system installed by the City as a means to treat any residual petroleum contamination. However, ground water wells were sampled before the treatment system was started, and results demonstrated that cleanup criteria had already been met. The Army Corps then met with both the City and Ohio EPA, and all parties agreed that the treatment system was no longer necessary. The Corps then abandoned the monitoring wells and decommissioned the bioventing system. They also reached a settlement with the City of Cincinnati concerning reimbursement of the costs from installation of the bioventing system.

Related link: [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

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