

comment period and will address concerns presented in such comments and data. The responsiveness summary will be made available to the public at the EPA Region 8 office and the information repository listed above and will be included in the final deletion package. Members of the public are encouraged to contact EPA Region 8 to obtain a copy of the responsiveness summary. If, after review of all such comments and data, EPA determines that the partial deletion from the NPL is appropriate, EPA will publish a final notice of partial deletion in the **Federal Register**. Deletion of the Selected Perimeter Area of the RMA/NPL Site does not actually occur until a final notice of partial deletion is published in the **Federal Register**. A copy of the final partial deletion package will be placed at the EPA Region 8 office and the information repository listed above after a final document has been published in the **Federal Register**.

IV. Basis for Intended Partial Deletion

The following information provides EPA's rationale for deletion of the SPA of the RMA/NPL Site from the NPL and EPA's finding that the proposed final deletion satisfies 40 CFR 300.425(e) requirements:

RMA/NPL Site Background

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal was established in 1942 by the U.S. Army, and was used to manufacture chemical warfare agents and incendiary munitions for use in World War II. Prior to this, the area was largely undeveloped ranch and farmland. Following the war and through the early 1980s, the facilities continued to be used by the Army. Beginning in 1946, some facilities were leased to private companies to manufacture industrial and agricultural chemicals. Shell Oil Company, the principal lessee, primarily manufactured pesticides from 1952 to 1982. After 1982, the only activities at the Arsenal involved remediation.

Complaints of groundwater pollution north of the RMA/NPL Site began to surface in 1954. Common industrial and waste disposal practices used during these years resulted in contamination of structures, soil, surface water, and groundwater. As a result of this contamination, the RMA was proposed for inclusion on the NPL on October 15, 1984. The listing of RMA on the NPL, excluding Basin F, was finalized on July 22, 1987. Basin F was added to the RMA/NPL Site listing on March 13, 1989. On February 17, 1989, an interagency agreement—referred to as a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA)—

formalizing the process framework for selection and implementation of cleanup remedies at the RMA/NPL Site, became effective. The FFA was signed by the Army, Shell Oil Company, EPA, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Justice, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Prior to the selection of remedial alternatives, a remedial investigation/endangerment assessment/feasibility study (RI/EA/FS) was conducted for the On-Post OU to provide information on the type and extent of contamination, human and ecological risks, and feasibility of remedial actions suitable for application at RMA. The remedial investigation (RI) completed in January 1992 studied each of the five environmental media at the RMA/NPL Site, including soils, water, structures, air, and biota. The feasibility study (FS) was finalized in October 1995, and a proposed remedial action plan was prepared and presented to the public in October 1995.

On June 11, 1996, the Army, EPA, and the State of Colorado signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the On-Post Operable Unit. The ROD, which formally establishes the cleanup approach to be taken for the On-Post OU, specified the remedial actions to be implemented for soil, structures, and groundwater for the On-Post OU of RMA.

The On-Post OU of the RMA/NPL Site (see map, RMA Selected Perimeter Area) encompasses 25.5 square miles in southern Adams County, Colorado, approximately 8 miles northeast of downtown Denver.

Selected Perimeter Area of the On-Post OU

The SPA is an area of approximately 4,930 acres (7.7 square miles) on the perimeter of RMA. The proposed deletion of the SPA includes the surface, structures, and groundwater media of portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 19, 20, 22, 27, 28, 29, 32, and 33; and all of Sections 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12 (see map).

A remedial investigation (RI) for the On-Post OU completed in January 1992 studied each of the environmental media at the RMA/NPL Site including soil, sediment, structures, water, air, and biota. Based upon evidence gathered during the RI, areas with similar soil contamination were combined into individual projects. This resulted in four separate soil cleanup projects within the SPA. These include the Toxic Storage Yards project located in the southeastern area of the SPA; the Miscellaneous Southern Tier Soil

project located in the south-central portion of the SPA near the south lakes; the Existing (Sanitary) Landfill—Section 4 project located in the southwestern portion of the SPA; and the Burial Trenches—Part I project located in the southwestern portion of the SPA and east of the Sanitary Landfill project.

The Toxic Storage Yards project incorporated three contamination areas, one located within the SPA, considered to potentially contain chemical warfare agent based on use histories and detections of agent breakdown products. The Miscellaneous Southern Tier Soil project included eight contamination areas, four located within the SPA, contaminated with pesticides (aldrin and dieldrin), and heavy metals. The Existing (Sanitary) Landfill project incorporated five contamination areas, all within the SPA, which contained trash and debris, asbestos-containing material, and drums with high concentrations of styrene. The Burial Trenches—Part I project included 35 contamination areas, five within the SPA, considered to potentially contain ordnance or explosives, unexploded ordnance, and munition debris as well as general construction-related debris and trash.

A structures survey identified seventeen structures within the SPA. Four of these structures have no history of contamination and were designated to be retained for future use. The contaminants identified within the other thirteen structures include asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, herbicides and heavy metals.

Two groundwater plumes below the western portion of the SPA contain 1,1-dichloroethylene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, and TCE but are not attributable to the RMA/NPL Site. Because the groundwater does not meet drinking water standards, the Klein Water Treatment Facility—built in 1989, prior to completion of the RI—treats the groundwater contamination that is now known to originate from non-RMA/NPL sources.

The Irondale Containment System (ICS) was constructed during development of the RI/FS as an interim response action (IRA). The ICS was mostly located on the SPA and installed to extract and treat groundwater emanating from the Rail Yard—which is primarily contaminated with dibromochloropropane, and the Motor Pool—which is primarily contaminated with trichloroethylene. Both of these areas in the RMA/NPL Site are in close proximity to the SPA. Two additional groundwater plumes were identified beneath the northwest portion of the