

**PHOENIX MILITARY RESERVATION  
FIRE CONTROL AREA**

Phoenix, Baltimore County, Maryland  
(Federal Facility)

**Site Location**

The Phoenix Military Reservation (PMR) is comprised of two parcels of land: the Fire Control Area (FCA) and the Launch Control Area. This fact sheet provides information regarding the FCA only. The FCA is located in north central Baltimore County, one-half mile west of Jacksonville, Maryland. The facility is located atop a local topographic high point, nested in a residential area. Site drainage is primarily to the north, into Green Branch. Green Branch flows along the northern perimeter of the property. Its terminal discharge point is the Loch Raven reservoir, three miles west of PMR. The FCA occupies approximately 17 acres.

**Site History**

The PMR served as a battery (BA-03) of the Baltimore-Washington air defense system. The facility housed Nike surface to air missiles. PMR was constructed, operated, and deactivated between 1954 and 1966. Following the cessation of Nike operations, all missile-related equipment was removed from the site, and PMR remained largely inactive until 1974. At that time, the Maryland National Guard (MDNG) signed a five-year lease with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The MDNG used the property for field training activities. At the end of the effective lease period, the term of the lease was extended another five years. In 1981, the MDNG requested termination of the lease. Since 1981, no further military operations have been conducted at the site.

**Environmental Investigations**

In 1983, the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency (USTHAMA) conducted a contamination assessment of the Phoenix FCA. This investigation included the installation of 12 monitoring wells: six shallow and six deep, and biased soil sampling. Samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds and inorganics. A septic system was identified as a source for trichloroethene (TCE) groundwater contamination. In 1986, the septic system and all other buildings and improvements to the property were removed.

In 1985, a remedial action alternatives assessment was conducted by USATHAMA. Based on the nature of the fractured bedrock aquifer contamination, the Army determined that groundwater pump and treat was not feasible.

To address contamination in residential wells, the Army installed a community well system in 1991. The well system, which consists of an extraction well and conveyance piping to the affected homes, draws groundwater that is not impacted by the TCE contamination. The system remains in place.

**Current Activity**

In 1999, the Federal Facilities Section of the Maryland Department of the Environment began oversight of the project. The Federal Facilities Section has reviewed a field-sampling plan for groundwater monitoring, and the field activities described in this plan have been completed. The Army is currently in the process of obtaining right of entry permits to place wells adjacent to the Phoenix Nike Site property. This is part of an overall effort to characterize the extent of TCE contamination in groundwater. Based on the results of the forthcoming investigation, the Army will determine the appropriate course of action.

**Future Activity**

The Army has expressed its intention to dispose of the property. However, a recipient for the property has not been identified. The MDE Federal Facilities Section is working with the Army to

ensure that appropriate response action is implemented in compliance with 42 U.S.C. 9601 section 120(h). All provisions affecting and/or governing land transfers specified within this section will be addressed prior to any future property disposal.

**Facility Contacts**

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