

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Preliminary Assessment (PA) was conducted at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Burn Pit at the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) to determine if the EOD Burn Pit was releasing or had released contaminants into the environment, and if any releases required response actions. The EOD Burn Pit was one of the sites identified during preliminary environmental investigations conducted at the UTTR (Phase I - Records Search) as an area of potential contamination. Consequently, further studies were recommended for the Burn Pit in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Installation Restoration Program (IRP).

The specific goals of the PA were to:

- Collect, compile, and evaluate existing data to determine whether the site posed any threat to human health or the environment
- Identify if the site required immediate response actions
- Develop preliminary Hazard Ranking System (HRS) scores
- Set priorities for the site based on the prevalent risks to human health or the environment
- Determine whether further study (i.e., a Site Inspection [SI]) was warranted at the site.

A records search was conducted at the Base to obtain all existing data on the EOD Burn Pit. In addition, interviews were held with past and present Base personnel to obtain information regarding burn operations and waste generation and disposal activities at the Burn Pit. The results of the Phase I study for the site also were reviewed and a site reconnaissance was conducted.

The EOD Burn Pit is used to destroy waste munitions, propellants, rocket engines, and other explosive military ordnance. Strict safety maintenance and inspection procedures are employed at the Burn Pit. Prior to disposal, the

hazardous and explosive constituents of the wastes to be destroyed are identified and documented. Equipment used during the burn operations is inspected daily and preventive maintenance is performed on a monthly basis.

Results of the compilation of all available information indicate that groundwater resources are not at risk of being contaminated. This conclusion was based on the following information:

- Annual precipitation in the area is low (5 inches per year).
- Evapotranspiration potential is high (83 inches per year).
- Soil permeability at the EOD Burn Pit is low (mostly clay).
- Great distance (5 miles) from the EOD Burn Pit to the UTTR water supply wells located at the Personnel Complex. In addition, water from supply wells is treated before use to meet drinking water standards
- General direction of groundwater movement is away from the water supply wells and the Personnel Complex.
- Background water quality is poor.

Only potential risks due to direct contact with the soil and the residual material were significant. However, these risks are limited to only Base personnel involved in the operations. The Hazard Ranking System (HRS) score for the EOD Burn Pit was 1.7. The scoring was conducted without information on levels of chemicals in surface soils at the site. Therefore, the low score may not reflect the true hazards associated with direct contact with the soils at the site. No data are available on contaminants in soil at the EOD Burn Pit site. Therefore, it was recommended that surficial soil samples be collected from the Burn Pit to obtain information on the chemical characteristics of the soil and residue, which could help in better quantifying the potential health risks due to direct contact with the soil. A low priority rating was assigned to the site based on the evaluation of the data. A low priority rating indicates that the site presents an unresolved problem, but the problem is not expected to present a high risk to the environment or population. An SI should be performed as time allows.