

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Preliminary Assessment (PA) was conducted at the Explosive Ordnance Thermal Treatment Unit (TTU) at the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) North Range to determine if the TTU was releasing or had released contaminants into the environment, and if any releases required response actions. The TTU was one of the sites identified during preliminary environmental investigations conducted at the UTTR North Range (Phase I - Records Search) as an area of potential contamination. Consequently, further studies were recommended for the TTU 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 TTU. 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 TTU. The results of the Phase I study for the site also were reviewed and a site reconnaissance was conducted.

The TTU is used to destroy waste munitions, propellants, rocket engines, and other explosives. Strict safety maintenance and inspection procedures are employed at the TTU. Before 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 (less than 10 inches).
- Evapotranspiration potential is high (83 inches per year).
- Soil permeability at the TTU is low (mostly clay).
- Distance (5 miles) from the TTU to the water supply wells located at the Oasis 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 Oasis 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 Oasis Complex personnel involved in the operations. The Hazard Ranking System (HRS) score for the TTU 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 TTU site. Therefore, it was recommended that surficial soil samples be collected from the TTU 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.