

Prepared in Cooperation with the Letterkenny Army Depot

Environmental Monitoring of Groundwater, Surface Water, and Soil at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, 2021

Open-File Report 2024–1031

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By Daniel G. Galeone and Shaun J. Donmoyer

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**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey**

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Conversion Factors

U.S. customary units to International System of Units

Multiply	By	To obtain
Length		
inch (in.)	2.54	centimeter (cm)
inch (in.)	25.4	millimeter (mm)
foot (ft)	0.3048	meter (m)
mile (mi)	1.609	kilometer (km)
Area		
acre	4,047	square meter (m ²)
acre	0.4047	hectare (ha)
acre	0.004047	square kilometer (km ²)
square mile (mi ²)	259.0	hectare (ha)
square mile (mi ²)	2.590	square kilometer (km ²)
Flow rate		
gallon per minute (gal/min)	0.06309	liter per second (L/s)
inch per year (in/yr)	25.4	millimeter per year (mm/yr)
cubic foot per second (ft ³ /s)	0.02832	cubic meter per second (m ³ /s)
Mass		
ounce, avoirdupois (oz)	28.35	gram (g)

Temperature in degrees Celsius (°C) may be converted to degrees Fahrenheit (°F) as follows:

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = (1.8 \times ^{\circ}\text{C}) + 32.$$

Datum

Vertical coordinate information is referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88).

Elevation, as used in this report, refers to distance above the vertical datum.

Supplemental Information

Specific conductance is given in microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius (μS/cm at 25 °C).

Concentrations of chemical constituents in water are given in either milligrams per liter (mg/L) or micrograms per liter (μg/L). Concentrations of chemical constituents in soil are given in either milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) or micrograms per kilogram (μg/kg).

Abbreviations

ARMD	Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DO	dissolved oxygen
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
LCS	laboratory control sample
LCSD	laboratory control sample duplicate
LEAD	Letterkenny Army Depot
MB	method blank
MCL	maximum contaminant level
MSC	medium-specific concentrations
MS	matrix-spike
MSD	matrix-spike duplicate
NTU	nephelometric turbidity unit
ORP	oxidation reduction potential
PADEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
QA/QC	quality assurance and quality control
RDL	reporting detection level
RPD	relative percent difference
SC	specific conductance
SMCL	secondary maximum contaminant level
SSL	soil screening level
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VOC	volatile organic compound
WT	water temperature

Chemical Symbols

Ag	silver
Al	aluminum
As	arsenic
Ba	barium
Bi	bismuth
Cd	cadmium
Cl	chloride
Cr	chromium
Cu	copper
F	fluoride
Fe	iron
Hg	mercury
K	potassium
Mo	molybdenum
N	nitrogen
NO ₃	nitrate
NO ₃ -NO ₂	nitrate plus nitrite
P	phosphorus
Pb	lead
S	sulfur
Se	selenium
Si	silica
Sn	tin
SO ₄	sulfate
Zr	zirconium

Environmental Monitoring of Groundwater, Surface Water, and Soil at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, 2021

By Daniel G. Galeone and Shaun J. Donmoyer

Abstract

Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, built an Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction (ARMD) Facility in 2016 to centralize rocket motor destruction and contain all waste during the destruction process. The U.S. Geological Survey has collected environmental samples from groundwater, surface water, and soils at ARMD since 2016.

During 2021, samples were collected from four groundwater wells in September, one surface-water site in October, and five soil sites in November near the facility. Samples were analyzed for nutrients, trace metals, major ions, total volatile organic compounds, and perchlorate. Perchlorate was not detected in any 2021 samples.

Groundwater results showed no constituents exceeded any U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant level (MCL). Dissolved arsenic (As) was detected in one well above the reporting detection level (RDL) of 3 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) at 5.4 $\mu\text{g/L}$ but below its MCL of 10 $\mu\text{g/L}$. Dissolved iron (Fe) was the only inorganic constituent measured above an EPA secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL). All groundwater samples collected in 2021 exceeded the Fe SMCL of 300 $\mu\text{g/L}$, with concentrations ranging from 390 $\mu\text{g/L}$ to 3,500 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

Surface-water data collected during 2021 showed no measured constituents in the surface-water sample that exceeded any EPA MCL or SMCL.

Soil samples collected from 2016 through 2021 showed all concentrations of As exceeded the EPA soil screening levels of 3 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) but did not exceed the Pennsylvania medium-specific concentrations for As of 61 mg/kg. Arsenic concentrations in 2021 ranged from 9.1 mg/kg to 12.9 mg/kg.

The 2021 results for the ARMD Facility indicate no increases in concentrations of reported compounds compared to data from 2016 to 2020. The contained burn treatment

facility for demilitarization of rocket motors during 2021 appears to have operated without elevating concentrations of target compounds compared to previous years.

Introduction

Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD), located near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, is a Federal Government facility that provides supply and maintenance support to the U.S. Armed Forces. Construction of the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction (ARMD) Facility at LEAD began in 2013 and was finished and ready for operation in late 2016. The two buildings that are considered the ARMD Facility are enclosed within a fenced area of approximately four acres. The ARMD Facility uses confined burning with emissions control to treat solid propellant rocket motors that were previously treated at uncontained outdoor grounds at LEAD. The process at the ARMD Facility includes static firing of full motors and containing and capturing the exhaust for treatment in a pollution abatement system. A confined burn system utilizes an ignition source to initiate combustion (rather than an auxiliary burner). The thermal treatment chamber is steel lined and is encased with concrete that acts as a secondary containment to prevent any leakage from the steel lined chamber (Redhorse Corporation, 2016). The byproduct of the confined burn is a non-hazardous solid waste, with no planned releases to surface water, groundwater, soils, stormwater runoff, or runoff sediment. However, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 264 (Standards for Owners and Operators of Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, And Disposal Facilities), Subpart F (Releases from Solid Waste Management Units) requires monitoring and response programs (40 CFR § 264 subpart F; Redhorse Corporation, 2016). The monitoring program is in place to detect any increased concentrations of target compounds from data collected in 2016 and the years since. Given that the facility is designed for zero emissions, the monitoring is in place to verify that no emissions to nearby waters or soils are occurring.

To meet the CFR requirements for monitoring, an environmental sampling plan was developed by Redhorse Corporation (2016) in coordination with LEAD and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with LEAD and in support of the environmental sampling plan, conducted a study of constituents in groundwater, surface water, and soil between September and December 2016 to establish baseline concentrations of indicator compounds that could result from unplanned releases from the facility before operations began in January 2017 (Galeone, 2019a, 2019b). The beginning of facility operation in January 2017 terminated the baseline characterization period. Beginning in 2017, surface water and soils were sampled annually. The groundwater wells were sampled every three months beginning in March 2017 through September 2018, and then annually beginning in 2019.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this report is to present and summarize the data collected in 2021 in the vicinity of the ARMD Facility (fig. 1) and to characterize groundwater, surface water and soils for comparison to corresponding data collected from 2016 through 2020. Changes in indicator compound concentrations relative to background values are noted and 2021 data are compared to relevant regulatory and public health-based standards. Quality-assurance and quality-control (QA/QC) sample results for 2021 are also presented to validate results. The analytical results and field data for water and soil samples collected in 2021 are available online in a data release (Galeone and Zarr, 2023; <https://doi.org/10.5066/P92YIATZ>).

Study Area

The ARMD Facility is in a remote area of LEAD that is used for a variety of purposes including missile maintenance, ammunition storage, and the Open Burning and Open Detonation grounds. The ARMD site vicinity consists of young growth forest, agricultural land, open areas, and small wetland patches. Land to the west (approximately 4,000 feet [ft] from ARMD) is primarily forested and slopes upward to Broad Mountain (Redhorse Corporation, 2016). Elevations at LEAD range from approximately 600 ft to 800 ft above the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88).

The LEAD is in the Cumberland Valley part of the Great Valley in the easternmost section of the Valley and Ridge Physiographic Province of the Appalachian Mountains (Sevon, 2000), approximately 3.5 miles (mi) southwest of Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania. Surface-water drainage from the ARMD Facility and surrounding area eventually drains to Dennis Creek to the southwest of the facility, which is part of the Potomac River basin. The Ordovician bedrock underlying the ARMD Facility and surrounding landscape varies from

west to east. The facility itself is underlain by shales of the Martinsburg Formation. Adjacent land to the west (less than 0.25 mi) is underlain by argillaceous limestone of the Chambersburg Formation, and less than 0.5 mi to the west is land underlain by the micritic and fossiliferous limestone of the St. Paul Group (fig. 2). According to LEAD, the nearest downgradient groundwater consumers are between 1.5 and 2 mi southwest of the ARMD (Redhorse Corporation, 2016).

The landscape is a mix of open fields and immature forest. Precipitation in the area averages about 42 inches per year and the mean annual temperature is about 11 degrees Celsius (°C; Pennsylvania State Climatologist, 2018). Native soils in the vicinity of the ARMD Facility are channery silt loams or silt loams, typically well drained. The soils are derived from weathered shale and siltstone (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2018). Some of the soil around the facility has been modified with fill materials used for roads and construction purposes. See Galeone (2019a) for additional information regarding the soil types around the ARMD Facility.

Study Design and Methods

The monitoring program approach for the ARMD Facility was designed to establish baseline concentrations of indicator compounds that could result from unplanned releases of either exhaust or leakage from the steel lined treatment chamber (Redhorse Corporation, 2016). An increase in indicator compound concentrations or other change from baseline concentrations or a difference from downgradient versus upgradient concentrations in groundwater, surface water, soil, or storm-water runoff could indicate an unplanned release has occurred at the ARMD Facility. The baseline characterization period was from September to December 2016. Monthly samples were collected from groundwater monitoring wells, streams, and soils during this baseline period. Beginning in 2017 when the ARMD Facility became operational, surface water and soils were sampled annually. The groundwater wells were sampled every three months beginning in March 2017 through September 2018, and then annually beginning in 2019.

Field parameters for water samples were measured using a multiparameter sonde, by direct insertion into surface waters at time of sampling, or via a flow-through cell for groundwater (U.S. Geological Survey, variously dated). The sonde was used to measure water temperature (WT), pH, specific conductance (SC), dissolved oxygen (DO), and oxidation reduction potential (ORP), measured in millivolts. A portable turbidimeter was used to measure turbidity. The sonde was calibrated each morning prior to sample collection. Calibration of the turbidimeter is checked semiannually, per manufacturer directions (Hach Company/Hach Lange GmbH, 2021).

Constituents for environmental monitoring were selected at the request of PADEP as discussed in Galeone (2019a). Samples were collected from water and soils according to standard USGS field methods (U.S. Geological Survey,

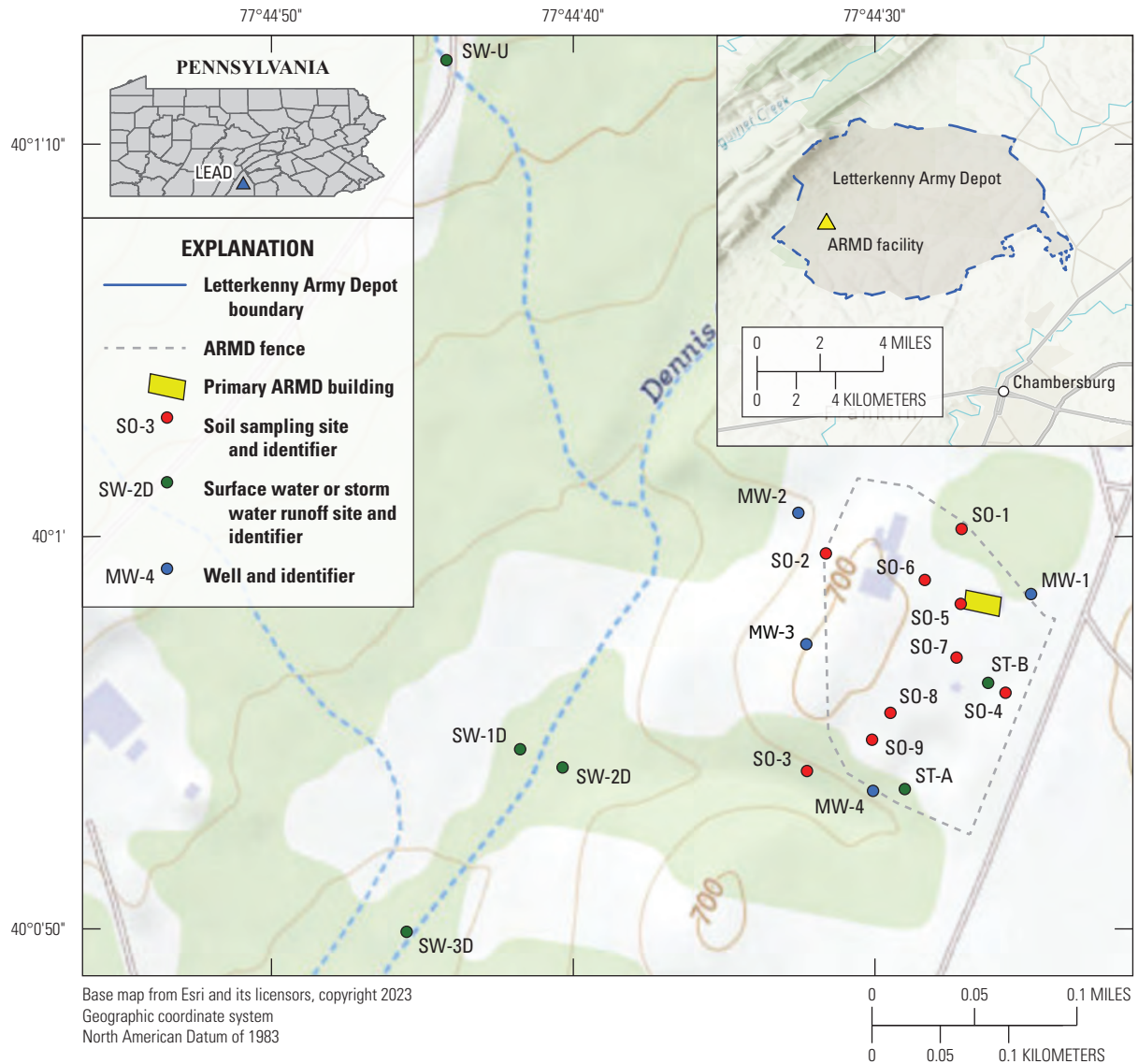
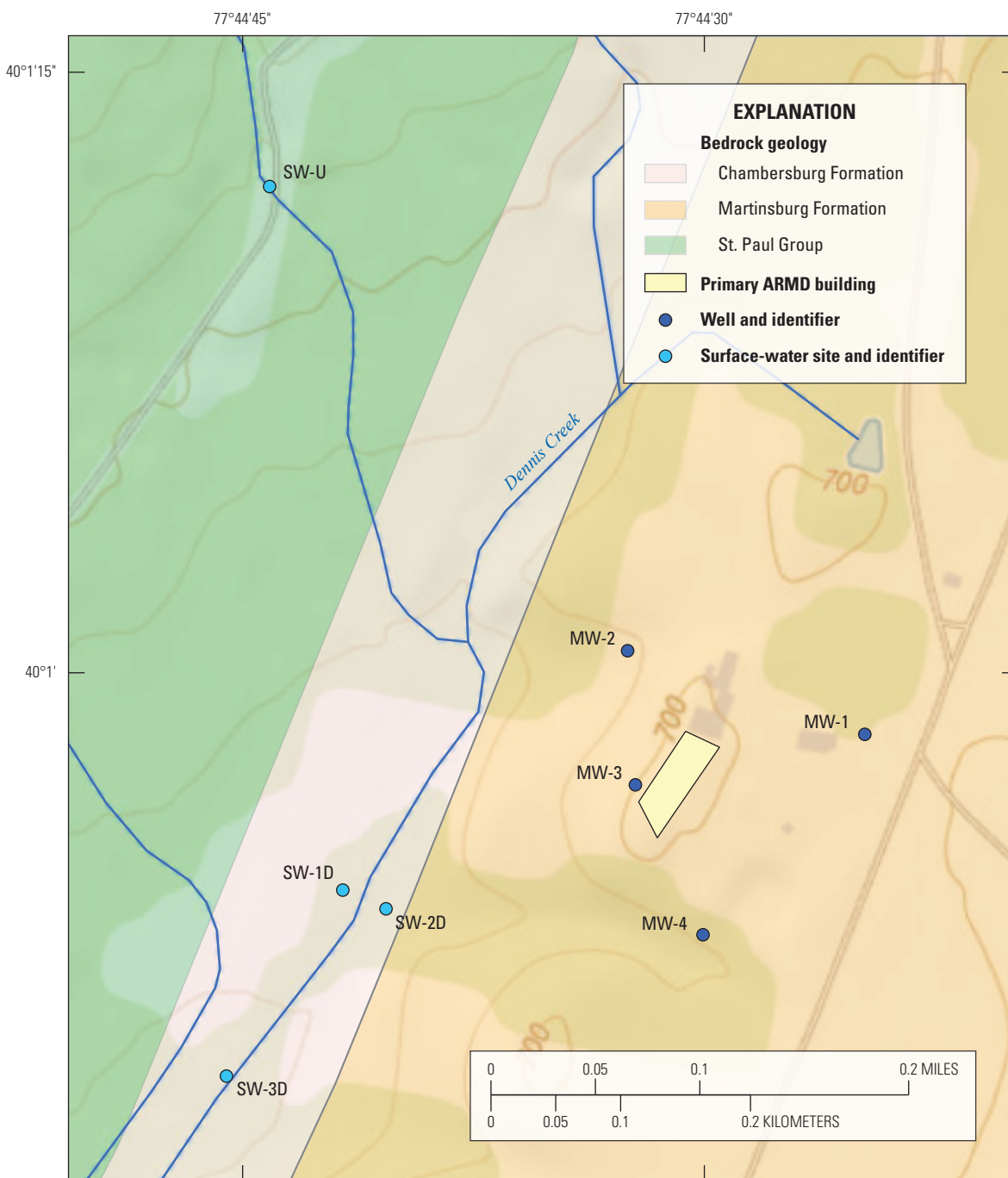


Figure 1. Maps of Pennsylvania, Letterkenny Army Depot boundary, and the historical location of surface-water, storm-runoff, and soil sampling sites and groundwater monitoring wells at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction (ARMD) Facility, Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Modified from Galeone (2019a, fig. 3).



Base map from Esri and its licensors, copyright 2022
 Streams from U.S. Geological Survey National Hydrography Data Set 1:24,000-scale digital data, 2017
 Bedrock geology from Berg and others, 1980
 Web Mercator projection
 North American Datum of 1983

Figure 2. Map of underlying geology and locations of well and surface-water sampling sites at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction (ARMD) Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Modified from Galeone (2019a, fig. 2).

variously dated), unless otherwise noted, and were analyzed for volatile organic compounds, perchlorate, major ions, nutrients, and trace metals (see [table 1](#) for a complete listing). All constituents in water samples were analyzed in total form (dissolved plus particulate) except for trace metals, which were filtered through a 0.45-micron capsule filter prior to analysis.

The sample sites ([fig. 1](#)) for this project were determined in 2016 by PADEP in collaboration with Letterkenny staff and private consultants. Surface-water sampling sites and groundwater-monitoring wells were located upgradient and downgradient from the ARMD Facility. Two storm-runoff sampling sites and nine soil-sampling sites were in the vicinity of the ARMD Facility and associated parking areas.

Four groundwater monitoring wells were completed in the study area, one upgradient (MW-1) and three downgradient (MW-2, MW-3, and MW-4) from the facility ([figs. 2](#)). The 4 monitoring wells were completed and screened into the Martinsburg Formation and range in depth from 22 ft to 81 ft ([table 2](#)). The 4 wells have 6-inch casings at depths of 3–18 ft below land surface. The 6-inch steel casing protects the inner 2-inch polyvinyl chloride casing that extends to the depth of the slotted screened interval ([table 2](#)). The Martinsburg Formation, which underlies the entire well field, is predominantly black carbonaceous shale with a thin basal unit of platy limestone (Becher and Taylor, 1982). The lithology described in driller's logs by Steven Read (Read and Associates, written commun., 2016) is representative of wells completed in the Martinsburg Formation ([table 3](#)). Well characteristics are described more thoroughly in Galeone (2019a).

Dedicated bladder pumps (and Teflon-lined tubing) were installed in each well in August 2016 and wells have been purged for sampling events since 2016 at pumping rates less than 1 gallon per minute (gal/min). Static water levels were recorded prior to purging. Pumping rates during the September 14, 2021, sampling ranged from 0.33 to 0.54 gal/min (Galeone and Zarr, 2023). Water-quality parameters (WT, pH, SC, DO, ORP, and turbidity) were monitored at 5-minute intervals during pumping. Wells were purged for a 30-minute period and field parameters had reached stabilization by the end of the 30-minute period. The number of well volumes purged in 2021 prior to sampling for analytical constituents ranged from 1.1 (MW-3) to 5.1 (MW-2). All groundwater samples were placed on ice immediately after sample collection and delivered to the ALS Environmental laboratory (under contract to the USGS) in Middletown, Pennsylvania, the day of sample collection.

The four surface-water sampling sites are located around the ARMD Facility; one is upgradient (SW-U) and three downgradient (SW-1D, SW-2D, and SW-3D) from the facility ([fig. 2](#)). SW-1D and SW-3D are both on the same stream channel (Dennis Creek) as SW-U. SW-1D is 0.4 mi downstream from SW-U in stream length, and SW-3D is 0.01 mi downstream from SW-1D. SW-2D is on a tributary of Dennis Creek draining the area surrounding the ARMD facility and is approximately 125 ft from SW-1D. Only SW-U is perennial and was the only surface-water location where flowing water

was present on October 6, 2021. The drainage area for SW-U is 0.43 square miles (mi²) of forested land ([fig. 3](#)). In addition to the field parameters, the streamflow was measured with an acoustic doppler velocity flow meter at the time of sample collection following standard USGS field methods (Turnipseed and Sauer, 2010).

The width of SW-U at the time of sample collection was approximately 3 ft. Sample bottles for total analyses (anions, phosphorus, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and perchlorate) were dipped directly into the stream. Bottles for metal analyses were filtered. The water for metal bottles was collected using a one-liter plastic bottle, with approximately three liters collected and placed in an eight-liter churn. The water was filtered from the churn into the dissolved sample bottles using polypropylene tubing and a capsule filter. All surface-water samples (a replicate sample was collected on October 6, 2021, at SW-U) were placed on ice immediately after sample collection and delivered to the ALS Environmental laboratory the day of sample collection.

Two storm-runoff sites were identified at the ARMD Facility. The two storm-runoff sites (ST-A and ST-B) drain parking areas and buildings (less than 1 acre in total surface area for either sampling site) associated with the facility ([fig. 1](#)). No runoff or sediment was evident in the culverts or the retention basin when sampling took place on October 6, 2021. Additionally, during USGS sampling events prior to 2021, including four samples from September 2016 through December 2016, and one sample per year from 2017 through 2020, there also was no evidence of sediment transport from the areas around the ARMD Facility to the culverts, and subsequently the retention basin.

Nine soil sampling sites (SO-1 to SO-9) were selected and sampled in and around the ARMD Facility in 2016 ([table 4](#); [fig. 1](#)), but only five sites (SO-1, SO-2, SO-7, SO-8, and SO-9) were required to be sampled after 2016 based on workplan specifications (Redhorse Corporation, 2016). Soil sampling sites SO-1, SO-2, SO-7, and SO-8 are located along a fence line or in an open-field setting. Initially, soil-sampling site SO-9 was sited in a parking area where samples could not be collected and was moved to the nearest area where a representative soil sample could be collected. This new location was previously modified with shale material that had been deposited to support vehicle loads.

Soil samples were collected to a depth of approximately 6 inches on November 10, 2021. A stainless-steel trowel was used to remove the top organic layer containing roots and vegetation as specified in the workplan (Redhorse Corporation, 2016). After removing the top organic layer, subsamples were collected with the trowel for all constituents except VOCs. The areas sampled ranged from 5 to 9 square feet per site, with 12 to 20 subsamples collected per site. Subsamples were placed on a plastic sheet, mixed, and then transferred to three 8-ounce glass sample jars using the trowel. Rocks of gravel size or larger were removed from the subsamples. Soil samples for VOC analyses were collected with an En Core sampler instead of a trowel. En Core samplers (25-gram capacity)

6 Environmental Monitoring at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility, 2021

Table 1. Constituents, units, reporting detection levels, and methods of analysis for water and soil samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, 2021.

[Modified from Galeone (2019a, table 1). All water parameters are for total analysis unless otherwise noted. RDL, reporting detection level; µg/L, micrograms per liter; µg/kg, micrograms per kilogram; mg/L, milligrams per liter; mg/kg, milligrams per kilogram; —, not applicable; diss, dissolved; N, nitrogen; %, percent]

Constituent	Water			Soil		
	Units	RDL	Method	Units	RDL	Method
Volatile Organic Compounds						
Acetone	µg/L	10	SW846 8260B ¹	µg/kg	11.4–12.8	SW846 8260B
Benzene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Bromochloromethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Bromodichloromethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Bromoform	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Bromomethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
2-Butanone	µg/L	10	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	11.4–12.8	SW846 8260B
Carbon Disulfide	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Carbon Tetrachloride	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Chlorobenzene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Chlorodibromomethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Chloroethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	5.7–6.4	SW846 8260B
Chloromethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Cyclohexane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,2-Dibromo-3- chloropropane	µg/L	7	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	5.7–6.4	SW846 8260B
1,2-Dibromoethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Dichlorodifluoromethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,1-Dichloroethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,2-Dichloroethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,1-Dichloroethene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,2-Dichloropropane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Ethylbenzene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Freon-113	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
2-Hexanone	µg/L	5	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	11.4–12.8	SW846 8260B
Isopropylbenzene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Methyl acetate	µg/L	2	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Methyl cyclohexane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Methyl t-Butyl Ether	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
4-Methyl-2- Pentanone (MIBK)	µg/L	5	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	11.4–12.8	SW846 8260B
Methylene Chloride	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Styrene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B

Table 1. Constituents, units, reporting detection levels, and methods of analysis for water and soil samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, 2021.—Continued

[Modified from Galeone (2019a, table 1). All water parameters are for total analysis unless otherwise noted. RDL, reporting detection level; µg/L, micrograms per liter; µg/kg, micrograms per kilogram; mg/L, milligrams per liter; mg/kg, milligrams per kilogram; —, not applicable; diss, dissolved; N, nitrogen; %, percent]

Constituent	Water			Soil		
	Units	RDL	Method	Units	RDL	Method
Volatile Organic Compounds—Continued						
Tetrachloroethene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Trichloromethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Toluene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	µg/L	2	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	5.7–6.4	SW846 8260B
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	µg/L	2	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	5.7–6.4	SW846 8260B
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Trichloroethene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Trichlorofluoromethane	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Vinyl Chloride	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Xylenes (total)	µg/L	3	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	6.8–7.7	SW846 8260B
mp-Xylene	µg/L	2	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	4.6–5.1	SW846 8260B
o-Xylene	µg/L	1	SW846 8260B	µg/kg	2.3–2.6	SW846 8260B
Semivolatile Organic Compound						
Perchlorate	µg/L	0.20	² 6850	µg/kg	1.9–2.4	6850
Major Ions						
Chloride	mg/L	1.0–2.0	³ EPA 300.0	mg/kg	24.5–26.3	EPA 300.0
Fluoride	mg/L	0.10–0.20	EPA 300.0	mg/kg	2.5–2.6	EPA 300.0
Potassium (diss-water; total-soil)	mg/L	0.11	SW846 6020A ⁴	mg/kg	57.5–65.3	SW846 6020A
Sulfate	mg/L	1.0–2.0	EPA 300.0	mg/kg	24.5–26.3	EPA 300.0
Silica (diss-water; total-soil)	mg/L	0.24	SW846 6010C ⁵	mg/kg	11.5–13.1	SW846 6010C
Sulfur	—	—	—	mg/kg	11.5–13.1	SW846 6010C
Nutrients						
Nitrate/Nitrite-N	mg/L	0.10–0.20	EPA 300.0	mg/kg	12.3–13.2	EPA 300.0
Phosphorus	mg/L	0.1	⁶ EPA 365.1	mg/kg	60.7–128	EPA 365.1
Trace Metals						
Aluminum (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	89	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	46.0–52.2	SW846 6020A
Arsenic (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	3.0	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	1.7–2.0	SW846 6020A
Barium (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	5.6	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	2.9–3.3	SW846 6020A
Bismuth (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	50	SW846 6010C	mg/kg	5.7–6.5	SW846 6010C
Cadmium (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	1.1	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	0.57–0.65	SW846 6020A
Chromium (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	2.2	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	1.1–1.3	SW846 6020A
Copper (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	5.6	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	2.9–3.3	SW846 6020A
Iron (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	56	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	28.7–32.7	SW846 6020A
Lead (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	2.2	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	1.1–1.3	SW846 6020A
Mercury (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	0.50	SW846 7470A ⁷	mg/kg	0.055–0.060	SW846 7471B ⁸
Molybdenum (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	2.2	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	1.1–1.3	SW846 6020A
Selenium (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	5.6	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	2.9–3.3	SW846 6020A
Silver (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	2.2	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	1.1–1.3	SW846 6020A

8 Environmental Monitoring at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility, 2021

Table 1. Constituents, units, reporting detection levels, and methods of analysis for water and soil samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, 2021.—Continued

[Modified from Galeone (2019a, table 1). All water parameters are for total analysis unless otherwise noted. RDL, reporting detection level; µg/L, micrograms per liter; µg/kg, micrograms per kilogram; mg/L, milligrams per liter; mg/kg, milligrams per kilogram; —, not applicable; diss, dissolved; N, nitrogen; %, percent]

Constituent	Water			Soil		
	Units	RDL	Method	Units	RDL	Method
Trace Metals—Continued						
Tin (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	5.6	SW846 6020A	mg/kg	2.9–3.3	SW846 6020A
Zirconium (diss-water; total-soil)	µg/L	52	SW846 6010C	mg/kg	5.8–6.4	SW846 6010B ⁹
Miscellaneous						
Acidity, total	mg/L	5–6	¹⁰ S2310B-97	—	—	—
Soil moisture	—	—	—	%	0.1	¹¹ S2540G-11
Total solids	—	—	—	%	0.1	S2540G-11

¹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1996a)

²U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2007a)

³Pfaff (1993)

⁴U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1998a)

⁵U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2007b)

⁶O'Dell (1993)

⁷U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1994)

⁸U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1998b)

⁹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1996b)

¹⁰Franson (1992a)

¹¹Franson (1992b)

Table 2. Description of wells drilled at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, May 16–17, 2016.

[Data are from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Modified from Galeone (2019a, table 2). Latitude and longitude given in decimal degrees. USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; ft, feet; NAVD 88, North American Vertical Datum of 1988; als, above land surface; bls, below land surface; gal/min, gallons per minute]

USGS station identifier	USGS site name	Local name	Latitude	Longitude	Ground elevation (ft above NAVD 88)	Well depth (ft)	Measuring point, height (ft als)	Six-inch casing depth (ft bls)	Slotted screen depth (ft bls)	Pump depth (ft bls)	Well yield ¹ (gal/min)
400058077442501	FR 838	MW-1	40.01624	−77.74022	697.81	41.3	1.15	18	16–41	28	5.3
400101077443201	FR 839	MW-2	40.01682	−77.74236	678.88	22	1.57	3	5–22	13	2.9
400057077443201	FR 840	MW-3	40.01589	−77.74229	702.60	81	1.24	14.5	36–81	58	1.6
400053077443001	FR 841	MW-4	40.01485	−77.74168	682.85	41	1.25	12.3	31–41	36	5.2

¹Well yields measured by Steven Read (Read and Associates, written commun., 2016)

Table 3. Lithology at four wells at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

[Modified from Steven Read, Read and Associates, written commun. (2016). Depth is feet below land surface. ft, feet; →, to bottom of the; —, no data]

Wells							
MW-1		MW-2		MW-3		MW-4	
Depth (ft)	Lithology	Depth (ft)	Lithology	Depth (ft)	Lithology	Depth (ft)	Lithology
0–3	Topsoil → subsoil	0–6	Topsoil → subsoil	0–0.5	Topsoil → subsoil	0–3	Topsoil → subsoil
3–15	Grayish-black silty shale	6–10	Mudstone	0.5–27	Dark-gray silty limestone	3–21	Dark-gray silty shale
15–22	Dark-gray silty shale grades to siltstone	10–20	Carbonaceous, black shale with platy quartz fragments	27–32	Dark-gray siltstone	21–41	Dark-gray siltstone
22–35	Dark-gray siltstone grades to shale	20–22	Dark-gray limestone	32–81	Dark-gray silty limestone	41	Bottom of well
35–41.3	Grayish-black shale	22	Bottom of well	81	Bottom of well	—	—
41.3	Bottom of well	—	—	—	—	—	—

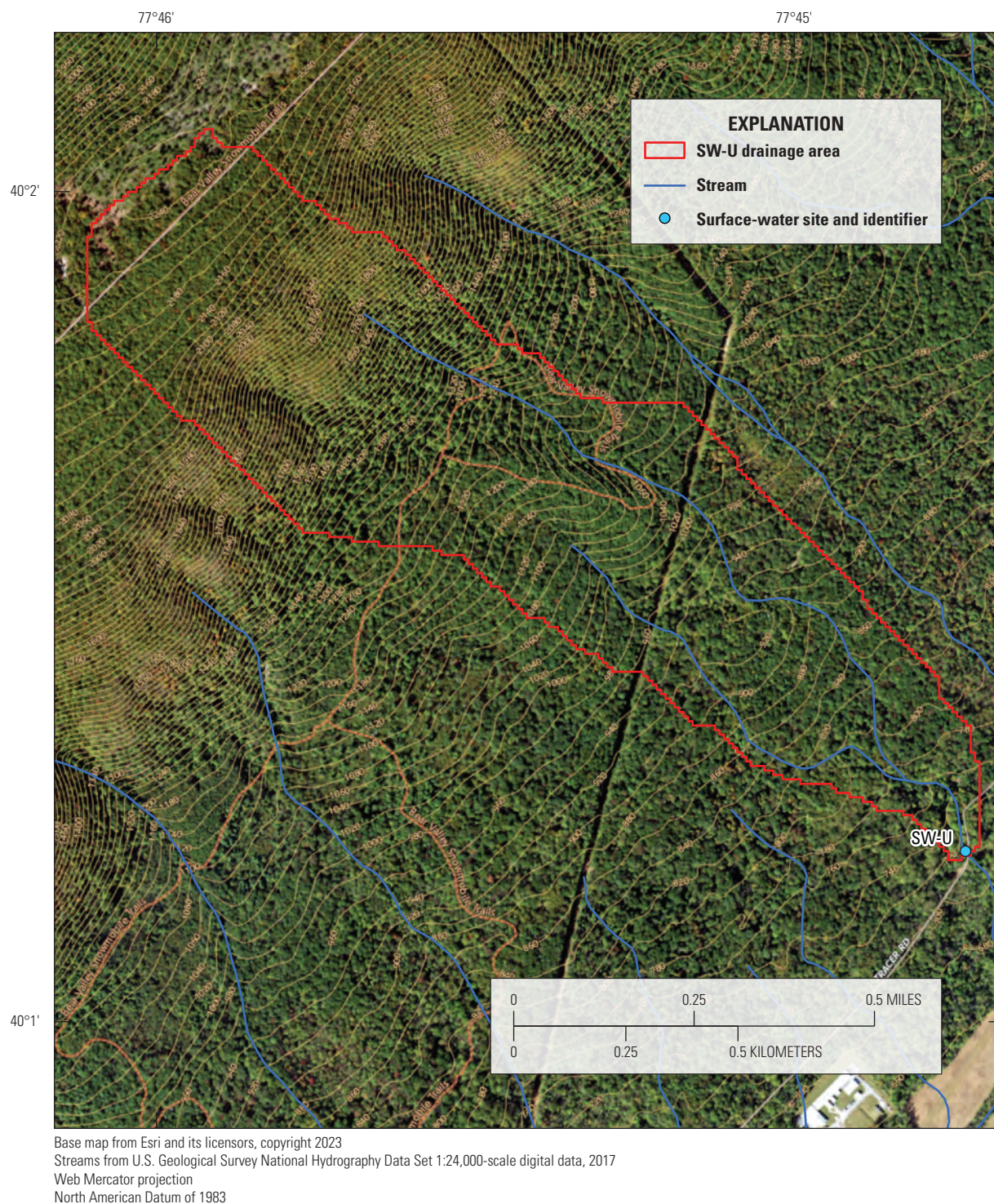


Figure 3. Map of drainage area for surface-water site SW-U at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Modified from Galeone (2019a, fig. 14).

Table 4. Descriptions of nine historic soil sampling sites at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

[Modified from Galeone (2019a, table 4). Data from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Latitude and longitude given in decimal degrees. USGS, U.S. Geological Survey]

USGS station identifier	Local name	Latitude	Longitude	Description
400100077442701	SO-1	40.01671	-77.74086	Fence line, typical A horizon
400060077443201	SO-2	40.01654	-77.74211	Fence line, typical A horizon
400054077443201	SO-3	40.015	-77.74229	Fence line, typical A horizon
400056077442601	SO-4	40.01555	-77.74046	Open field, typical A horizon
400058077442701	SO-5	40.01618	-77.74087	Paved area, compact shale layer at surface
400059077442901	SO-6	40.01628	-77.74139	Paved area, compact shale layer at surface
400057077442701	SO-7	40.0158	-77.74091	Open field, typical A horizon
400055077442901	SO-8	40.01541	-77.74152	Open field, typical A horizon
400055077443101	SO-9	40.01531	-77.74207	Paved area, compact shale layer at surface

are constructed from an inert composite polymer and are sealed after extraction from soil profile, immediately becoming an air-tight transportation vessel (EQUIPCO, 2016). Three En Core samples were collected at each sample location for each sampling event. Once the organic soil layer (grass and roots) was removed, the En Core sampler was used to collect cores from a depth that did not exceed 6 inches below the original elevation of the ground. The sampler was inserted vertically into the ground, perpendicular to the horizontal soil surface. The depths varied by 1–3 inches at each site based on soil conditions and the amount of shale that was present. The En Core samples cannot be collected in gravelly soil or soil with shale fragments. All soil samples were placed on ice immediately after sample collection and delivered to the ALS Environmental laboratory in Middletown, Pennsylvania, the day of sample collection.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control

QA/QC samples were collected for each sampling event and sample media. USGS personnel submitted replicate and blank samples for groundwater and replicates for surface-water and soil samples for analysis. The ALS Environmental laboratory also analyzed matrix-spike (MS) and matrix-spike duplicate (MSD) samples for all sampling events and sample media. Two types of blank samples were analyzed at the ALS Environmental laboratory: equipment blanks submitted by the USGS and internal laboratory blanks. An equipment blank was used to determine potential contamination from equipment and supplies used to collect samples in the field (Francy and others, 1998). Internal laboratory blanks were used to quantify any laboratory bias from contamination. Replicate

samples were used to determine the precision and variability of sample collection and processing (Francy and others, 1998). MS and MSD samples are environmental samples spiked in the laboratory to verify recovery efficiency and to evaluate potential sample matrix interferences. The MS/MSD samples that fall outside the acceptable range for a constituent could indicate a negative (recovering less than the acceptable range) or positive (recovery greater than the acceptable range) bias. Laboratory control samples (LCSs) are similar to matrix-spike samples in that they are used to determine percent recoveries, but the spike is applied to a media with zero concentration for that particular constituent.

Groundwater

One equipment blank (derived from field equipment and supplies) and multiple internal laboratory blanks were analyzed for groundwater samples submitted on September 14, 2021. A suite of 52 VOCs was analyzed in each water sample. Two VOCs, acetone and bromomethane, were detected below the reporting detection levels (RDLs) in the equipment blank, at concentrations of 3.5 and 0.99 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), respectively. The RDLs for acetone and bromomethane were 10 and 1.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$, respectively, so both constituents were flagged as estimated values. Three dissolved metals (chromium [Cr], iron [Fe], and molybdenum [Mo]) were also detected below the RDLs (RDLs were 2.2, 56, and 2.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$, respectively) in the equipment blank, with estimated values of 0.89, 20, and 1.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$, respectively (Galeone and Zarr, 2023).

Internal laboratory blanks (method blanks [MBs]) for groundwater samples submitted in 2021 were analyzed by the ALS Environmental laboratory for all analytical constituents. Only two constituents were detected in any MBs: total forms

of bromomethane and phosphorus (P). Bromomethane was detected at 0.90 µg/L, below the RDL of 1.0 µg/L. Total P was detected in two MBs at concentrations (0.023 mg/L and 0.078 mg/L) below the RDL of 0.10 mg/L. Twelve other MBs for P showed no detections.

One replicate well sample (from well MW-3) was submitted for analyses on September 14, 2021. Only one constituent had a relative percent difference (RPD) greater than 10 percent. The RPD for total P was 80 percent (Galeone and Zarr, 2023). The ALS Environmental laboratory in Middletown, Pennsylvania, also conducted internal replicate analyses, and, similar to the field replicate, the RPD for total P (13 percent) exceeded 10 percent (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021). These results indicate that individual analyses of indicator compounds in groundwater samples, except for total P, can be conducted with precision, reliably reflecting *in situ* environmental conditions.

The MS/MSD samples and LCSs were analyzed by the ALS Environmental laboratory for the September 14, 2021, groundwater samples. The only inorganic constituent to fall outside the acceptable range for groundwater MS/MSD samples or LCSs was total P; all other exceedances occurred for VOCs. The acceptable MS recovery range for P was 90–110 percent, and the MS recovery was 123 percent (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021).

Four VOCs showed results outside the acceptable range for both MS/MSD samples and LCSs: chloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane (freon-113), 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, and 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene. Chloroethane, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, and 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene all showed MS/MSD and LCS results with recoveries below the acceptable range. The MS/MSD results for chloroethane, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, and 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene showed recoveries of 37.2/40.3 percent, 22.8/19.8 percent, and 36.9/27.9 percent, respectively, outside of their ranges of acceptable values: 51–142 percent, 61–126 percent, and 67–123 percent. The MS/MSD results for 1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane showed percent recoveries of 148/136 percent, with an acceptable range of 50–130 percent. The LCS results followed a similar pattern to measured MS/MSDs for these four VOCs. The LCS results for chloroethane, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, and 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene showed percent recoveries of 37.5 percent, 53.9 percent, and 51.2 percent, respectively. The LCS results for 1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane showed a percent recovery of 135 percent. Acceptance criteria for LCSs are equivalent to MS/MSD criteria mentioned above (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021).

Two other VOCs showed slightly higher percent recoveries than acceptable for MS/MSD results. The MS/MSD results for 1,1-Dichloroethene and trichlorofluoromethane showed recoveries of 133/126 percent and 126/125 percent, respectively, with acceptable ranges of 63–128 percent

and 38–123 percent, respectively. The MSD result for 1,1-Dichloroethene was within the acceptable range, but not the MS result (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021). Results for MS/MSD samples and (or) LCSs lower than criteria indicate that recoveries are biased low and that analytical results might underestimate the concentrations of those constituents; whereas results higher than criteria would indicate analytical results might overestimate the concentrations of those constituents. The routine samples for 1,1-Dichloroethene and trichlorofluoromethane all showed non detects (less than 1 µg/L; Galeone and Zarr, 2023). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant level (MCL) for 1,1-Dichloroethene is 7 µg/L and there is no EPA MCL for trichlorofluoromethane (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2018).

Surface Water

Multiple internal laboratory MBs were analyzed by the ALS Environmental laboratory for the surface-water sample submitted on October 6, 2021. Five constituents were detected, all at concentrations less than the RDLs for MBs. Three VOCs (all with an RDL equal to 1.0 µg/L), bromomethane, carbon disulfide, and chloromethane, were detected at concentrations of 0.62 µg/L, 0.40 µg/L, and 0.31 µg/L, respectively. The other two constituents that were detected in MBs were total P and total sulfate (SO₄). Thirteen MBs were analyzed for total P, with twelve of these non-detects and one showed a detection for P (0.021 mg/L) below the RDL of 0.10 mg/L. Total SO₄ (RDL equal to 1.0 mg/L) was detected in two MBs at concentrations of 0.22 mg/L and 0.23 mg/L. Five other MBs for total SO₄ showed no detections (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021).

One replicate sample was collected on October 6, 2021. Three constituents showed RPDs greater than 10 percent between the routine and replicate samples: total SO₄, total nitrate plus nitrite (NO₃-NO₂), and dissolved sulfur (S). Total NO₃-NO₂ showed an RPD of 149 percent, exceeding the 10 percent criteria. Total SO₄ and dissolved S showed RPDs of 37 percent and 28 percent, respectively (Galeone and Zarr, 2023). The ALS Environmental laboratory in Middletown Pennsylvania, also conducted internal replicate analyses, with three constituents exceeding the laboratory's criteria for replicate samples. The only internal replicate for dissolved S showed an RPD of 24.8 percent, exceeding the ALS Environmental laboratory's criteria of 20 percent. For two internal replicates for total P, one did exceed the internal laboratory's criteria of 10 percent, with a RPD of 12.6 percent. Three internal replicates for acidity showed RPD results of 20.7 percent, 40 percent, and 31.6 percent, all exceeding the internal laboratory criteria of 20 percent (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021). These results indicate that individual measurement of indicator compounds in surface-water samples, except for the

constituents listed above in this paragraph, can be conducted with precision, reliably capturing ambient environmental conditions.

The MS/MSD samples and LCSs were analyzed by the ALS Environmental laboratory for the surface-water sample collected October 6, 2021. Six constituents showed results that exceeded either MS/MSD or LCS criteria. Acetone was the only constituent that exceeded MS/MSD and LCS criteria. The acceptable range of MS/MSD samples and LCSs for acetone was 40–151 percent. The MS/MSD results for acetone were 157/160 percent, and the LCS result was 152 percent, indicating that recovery for acetone was biased high for surface-water samples. The MS/MSD results for 1,1-Dichloroethene of 129/116 percent showed that only the MS sample recovery exceeded the acceptable criteria range (63–128 percent). The other three constituents that were outside of MS/MSD acceptable ranges were chloride (Cl), fluoride (F), and SO_4 . Only MS samples were analyzed for F. The MS results for F were highly variable, with recoveries well outside the acceptable range of 80–120 percent. The two MS samples for F showed recoveries of 192 percent and –4 percent. For Cl and SO_4 , MS samples were run with and without replicates. The MS/MSD results for Cl and SO_4 showed recoveries below the acceptable criteria. Two MS/MSD samples were run for Cl, with only one sample falling below the acceptable range of 80–120 percent for Cl (SO_4 has same range). The Cl MS/MSD results for the one sample outside the acceptable range were 101/74.7 percent, indicating the replicate for this sample was below the acceptable criteria. For strictly MS analyses, recoveries for Cl were above the acceptable range, with two MS recoveries of 164 percent and 247 percent. The MS/MSD results for Cl indicate that the precision of measurement was poor and MSs for Cl were either inside or outside of the acceptable range of recoveries. Only one MS/MSD sample was run for SO_4 , and the MS/MSD recoveries were 96.9/74.6 percent, again indicating only the replicate for this sample was below the acceptable criteria. For strictly MS analyses, recoveries for SO_4 were above the acceptable range, with two MS recoveries of 202 percent and 836 percent. All LCSs analyses for Cl, F, and SO_4 were within the acceptable range (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021). Even though LCS results for Cl, F, and SO_4 were acceptable, matrix effects in the environmental samples complicated interpretation of monitoring results for Cl, F, and SO_4 .

Soil

Internal laboratory MBs were analyzed by the ALS Environmental laboratory for the soil samples submitted on November 10, 2021. Only three constituents were detected in MBs, all below the RDLs. Two sets of MBs were run for VOCs in soil. Methylene chloride was detected

in one set at 1.2 micrograms per kilogram ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$), below the RDL of 2.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. P and Cl were detected at concentrations of 7.5 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) and 5.6 mg/kg , respectively, below their respective RDLs of 9.4 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg . P was detected in one of two MBs, whereas only one MB was analyzed for Cl (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021).

One replicate soil sample was submitted with the November 10, 2021, soil samples. No VOCs were detected in either the routine or replicate samples. Results for $\text{NO}_3\text{-NO}_2$ and 5 metals exceeded the 10 percent RPD criteria for replicate samples. The RPD for $\text{NO}_3\text{-NO}_2$ was 39 percent and the five metals that had a higher RPD than 10 percent were aluminum (Al; 12 percent), barium (Ba; 14 percent), copper (Cu; 16 percent), mercury (Hg; 23 percent), and potassium (K; 16 percent) (Galeone and Zarr, 2023). These results indicate that individual measurements of indicator compounds in soil samples, except for the constituents listed above in this paragraph, can be conducted with precision, reliably representing environmental conditions.

The MS samples and LCSs (and LCS duplicates [LCSDs]) were analyzed for the soil samples collected November 10, 2021. The MS results showed most VOCs did not fall within the acceptable range. Forty VOCs were analyzed, with results for 34 VOCs below the acceptable range and only 6 VOCs within the acceptable range. The only VOC that showed an MS recovery over 100 percent was acetone at 121 percent. The range of MS percent recoveries for VOCs below 100 percent recovery was 25.0 percent for bromomethane to 67.6 percent for 1,1-Dichloroethene (table 5). The MS recoveries indicated that VOC concentrations (except for acetone) could be underestimated in the routine soil samples. For example, a 25 percent MS recovery for bromomethane could underestimate the actual concentration in a routine sample by as much as 75 percent.

The LCS/LCSD results for VOCs showed that all VOCs except 1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane (freon-113) had recoveries that met criteria. Two LCS/LCSDs for 1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane had recoveries of 119/122 percent and 112/111 percent, above the acceptable range of 40–109 percent. These results for 1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane showed that the recovery from routine samples might be overestimated in the routine soil samples, contrary to the MS results for 1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane. One LCS (and no MS sample) was analyzed for Cl, F, and SO_4 , with percent recoveries of 83.2 percent, 49 percent, and 80.9 percent, respectively, which were below the acceptable range (90–110 percent) for all three constituents. MS and LCS samples were analyzed for P. The MS recovery for P met criteria, but the LCS recovery

Table 5. Matrix-spike results from the ALS Environmental laboratory in Middletown, Pennsylvania, for volatile organic compounds analyzed for the soil samples collected November 10, 2021, at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

[The original result for all analytes was 0 micrograms per kilogram (µg/kg). QC, quality control]

Analyte	Spike added (µg/kg)	Spike measured (µg/kg)	Spike recovery (percent)	QC limits (percent recovery)
Acetone	89.0	107.439	121	58–146
Benzene ¹	17.8	10.6522	59.9	75–132
Bromochloromethane ¹	17.8	10.0975	56.7	71–120
Bromodichloromethane ¹	17.8	9.39471	52.8	74–127
Bromoform ¹	17.8	6.47889	36.4	68–131
Bromomethane ¹	17.8	4.44841	25.0	43–148
2-Butanone	89.0	59.3879	66.8	64–148
Carbon Disulfide	17.8	10.3682	58.3	47–144
Carbon Tetrachloride ¹	17.8	9.68745	54.4	64–136
Chlorobenzene ¹	17.8	6.30712	35.4	76–125
Chlorodibromomethane ¹	17.8	7.7475	43.5	75–124
Chloroethane	17.8	8.33331	46.8	1–141
Chloroform ¹	17.8	10.0899	56.7	73–126
Chloromethane	17.8	7.99982	45.0	44–139
1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane ¹	17.8	4.65347	26.2	52–151
1,2-Dibromoethane ¹	17.8	7.76129	43.6	76–127
1,1-Dichloroethane ¹	17.8	11.5214	64.8	74–131
1,2-Dichloroethane ¹	17.8	10.2119	57.4	69–132
1,1-Dichloroethene	17.8	12.0344	67.6	59–139
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene ¹	17.8	10.5842	59.5	75–128
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene ¹	17.8	10.0822	56.7	66–133
1,2-Dichloropropane ¹	17.8	10.2326	57.5	78–131
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene ¹	17.8	7.3536	41.3	76–123
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene ¹	17.8	6.5667	36.9	77–123
Ethylbenzene ¹	17.8	6.2687	35.2	73–133
2-Hexanone ¹	89.0	46.7071	52.5	62–147
Isopropylbenzene ¹	17.8	6.8397	38.4	71–137
4-Methyl-2-Pentanone (MIBK) ¹	89.0	46.5734	52.3	64–143
Methylene Chloride ¹	17.8	11.2218	63.1	68–133
Styrene ¹	17.8	6.1945	34.8	77–130
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane ¹	17.8	7.3179	41.1	72–134
Tetrachloroethene ¹	17.8	6.7341	37.8	58–137
Toluene ¹	17.8	8.6147	48.4	73–129
Total Xylenes ¹	53.4	20.3133	38.1	73–130
1,1,1-Trichloroethane ¹	17.8	9.9864	56.1	68–131
1,1,2-Trichloroethane ¹	17.8	8.5007	47.8	79–123
Trichloroethene ¹	17.8	8.9538	50.3	72–129
Vinyl Chloride ¹	17.8	8.0879	45.5	53–141
o-Xylene ¹	17.8	6.1999	34.8	75–129
mp-Xylene ¹	35.6	14.1134	39.7	72–130

¹Matrix-spike results in gray are outside range of the laboratory acceptable criteria (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021)

(74.9 percent) was below acceptable criteria (90–110 percent; ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021).

2021 Characterization Data

The following sections characterize data for groundwater, surface water, and soil samples that were collected in 2021 at the ARMD Facility and compare data to previous results for 2016–20. The baseline period for data collected at and near the ARMD Facility was 2016. After the baseline period, data were collected from 2017 through 2021. QA/QC results were incorporated into the discussion for pertinent constituents.

Groundwater

Groundwater samples from the four monitoring wells around the ARMD Facility were collected September 14, 2021. Static water levels prior to pumping the wells ranged from 2.10 ft below land surface at well MW-2 to 24.25 ft below land surface at well MW-3 (Galeone and Zarr, 2023). The range in groundwater elevations above NAVD 88 for 2021 was 676.78 ft at well MW-2 to 687.54 ft at well MW-1 (table 6). The mean groundwater elevations for 2016–2020 data ranged from 675.27 ft for MW-2 to 686.32 ft for MW-1. The standard deviation for groundwater elevations for 2016–2020 data ranged from 1.28 ft for MW-4 to 3.11 ft for MW-3. The measured groundwater elevations for 2021 were above the 2016–2020 mean of measured values for each well by 0.8 ft to 1.6 ft, but the measured 2021 elevations did fall within the range of natural variability based on the 2016–2020 standard deviations.

Water-quality parameters measured in the groundwater in 2021 differed somewhat to those measured in previous years. DO concentrations for all the 2021 groundwater samples were below 0.1 mg/L, which is below any concentration recorded in previous years in any well. The range of DO values from 2016 to 2020 for all wells was 0.12 mg/L to 2.57 mg/L (table 6). Turbidity values for 2021 ranged from 3.6 nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs) for well MW-3 to 99 NTUs for well MW-1 (table 6), with the turbidity values in 2021 generally higher than for previous samples. The mean turbidity values for 2016–20 data ranged from 0.88 NTUs for MW-3 to 12.6 NTUs for MW-4. Similar to previous years, field data for 2021 showed that well MW-3 had the highest SC measured at 635 microsiemens per centimeter ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) followed by MW-2 (480 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$), with lowest measured SC at well MW-1 (182 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$). All the wells were completed in the Martinsburg Formation (shale rock type); however, the western edge of the well field where MW-2 and MW-3 are sited is near the contact between the Martinsburg Formation and the Chambersburg Formation, which is composed of argillaceous limestone (Berg and others, 1980) (fig. 2). Their proximity to the limestone formation could contribute dissolved ions to the water that

flows through them (Freeze and Cherry, 1979). Though, in general, water in deeper wells has more time to interact with rock (older groundwater) and dissolve more ions (Freeze and Cherry, 1979). MW-3 is 59 ft deeper than MW-2 (table 2), and it is likely that groundwater in MW-3 primarily taps the Chambersburg Formation than groundwater in the shallower MW-2. The lithology described in table 3 shows that well MW-3 has limestone characteristics at 0.5–27 ft and 32–81 ft below land surface (well depth is 81 ft), whereas well MW-2 only shows limestone characteristics at 20–22 ft (well depth is 22 ft). Similar to previous years, field data for 2021 showed that the WT was highest at well MW-2 (14.0 °C), the shallowest well in the well network, and lowest at well MW-3 (12.2 °C), the deepest well in the well network (see table 2 for well depths). The pH values in 2021 ranged from 6.19 at well MW-1 to 7.10 at MW-4.

Inorganic analytical results for 2021 groundwater samples showed no inorganic constituents that exceeded any EPA MCLs (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2018). Dissolved arsenic (As) was only detected in samples from two wells, MW-1 and MW-2, at concentrations of 1.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ (estimated value below the RDL) and 5.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, respectively. In previous years, As has been detected at elevated concentrations in well MW-2 in comparison to the other monitoring wells with concentrations ranging from 3.1 to 6.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ (table 7). For reference, the MCL for As is 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2018). Total $\text{NO}_3\text{-NO}_2$ (RDL 0.2 mg/L) was not detected in any groundwater sample (Galeone and Zarr, 2023). Similar to previous years, total Cl and total SO_4 concentrations for MW-3 (22.4 mg/L and 76.0 mg/L, respectively) were higher than for the other wells for 2021 groundwater samples. The second highest concentrations of total Cl and SO_4 for 2021 samples were 4.2 mg/L and 43.6 mg/L, respectively, for well MW-2 (table 6). The higher concentrations of total Cl and total SO_4 for MW-3 coincide with the higher SC for this well. This is indicative that higher dissolved ion concentrations typically are expected in deeper wells compared to more shallow wells completed in the same recharge area (Freeze and Cherry, 1979, p. 241).

Dissolved Fe was the only inorganic constituent measured at greater than a secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL). All groundwater samples collected in 2021 exceeded the Fe SMCL of 300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2018) with concentrations ranging from 390 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ (well MW-3) to 3,500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ (well MW-1; table 7). All previous samples collected for wells MW-1, MW-2, and MW-4 also exceeded the SMCL for Fe; however, the 2021 result for well MW-3 was the first instance of an Fe SMCL exceedance for this well. The DO concentration for MW-3 for the 2021 sample was 0.08 mg/L, the lowest DO concentration for any sample collected at MW-3 (table 6). Lower DO concentrations inhibit precipitation of iron from the dissolved phase (Hem, 1985). Exceedance of the SMCL for Fe can cause discoloration of materials along with taste and odor issues. No health effects are associated with an Fe SMCL exceedance (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2024). Similar to all

Table 6. Minimum, maximum, and mean values of water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, static water-level elevation, turbidity, dissolved barium, dissolved potassium, dissolved silica, total chloride, total fluoride, and total sulfate measured in well samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, between 2016 and 2021.

[Data for 2016–20 are from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Data for 2021 are from Galeone and Zarr (2023). Min, minimum; Max, maximum; °C, degrees Celsius; —, not applicable; mg/L, milligrams per liter; µS/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius; NAVD 88, North American Vertical Datum of 1988; NTUs, nephelometric turbidity units; µg/L, micrograms per liter; E, estimated value below the reporting detection level]

Parameter	Period	Wells											
		MW-1			MW-2			MW-3			MW-4		
		Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean
Water temperature (°C)	2016 ¹	12.5	12.9	12.7	14.2	15.1	14.7	11.8	12.4	12.1	12.5	12.7	12.6
	2017–20 ²	11.7	12.9	12.3	10.2	14.9	12.7	11.9	12.6	12.1	12.3	13.0	12.6
	2021 ³	—	—	12.7	—	—	14.0	—	—	12.2	—	—	13.1
Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)	2016 ¹	0.18	1.76	0.95	0.15	0.65	0.42	0.34	0.97	0.63	0.33	2.57	1.67
	2017–20 ²	0.17	0.38	0.24	0.12	0.68	0.36	0.17	0.41	0.27	0.10	1.27	0.61
	2021 ³	—	—	0.00	—	—	0.03	—	—	0.08	—	—	0.00
pH	2016 ¹	6.34	6.65	6.44	6.63	6.79	6.71	6.84	7.15	6.94	6.86	7.09	6.94
	2017–20 ²	6.08	6.35	6.23	6.75	7.08	6.95	6.90	7.18	7.08	6.92	7.26	7.15
	2021 ³	—	—	6.19	—	—	6.83	—	—	6.91	—	—	7.10
Specific conductance (µS/cm)	2016 ¹	215	224	220	457	474	465	752	805	771	350	357	354
	2017–20 ²	172	196	183	472	478	474	612	677	638	344	356	351
	2021 ³	—	—	182	—	—	480	—	—	635	—	—	349
Water level elevation, in feet above NAVD 88	2016 ¹	683.95	685.72	684.79	671.87	673.23	672.52	671.91	674.19	672.77	674.43	675.47	675.01
	2017–20 ²	684.61	688.77	687.00	673.00	678.36	676.50	673.31	680.47	677.47	674.30	677.91	676.44
	2021 ³	—	—	687.54	—	—	676.78	—	—	678.35	—	—	676.89
Turbidity (NTUs)	2016 ¹	0.67	3.6	1.5	0.72	0.83	0.75	0.45	0.74	0.56	0.41	1.7	0.98
	2017–2020 ²	2.1	43	17.9	0.75	19	7.3	0.3	2.9	1.0	3.7	45	18
	2021 ³	—	—	99	—	—	15	—	—	3.6	—	—	24
Dissolved barium (µg/L)	2016 ¹	68	71	70	61	68	64	40	42	41	79	83	81
	2017–2020 ²	65	74	69	50	60	54	38	51	42	67	85	78
	2021 ³	—	—	76	—	—	58	—	—	53	—	—	84
Dissolved potassium (mg/L)	2016 ¹	1.2	1.6	1.3	0.86	0.89	0.87	0.82	0.87	0.85	1.1	1.1	1.1
	2017–2020 ²	0.92	1.2	1.1	0.66	0.93	0.76	0.71	0.86	0.77	0.93	1.1	1.0
	2021 ³	—	—	1.2	—	—	0.86	—	—	0.87	—	—	1.1
Dissolved silica (mg/L)	2016 ¹	29.4	31.0	30.0	22.3	24.0	23.0	14.1	15.0	14.6	25.4	27.4	26.1
	2017–2020 ²	26.1	32.4	28.5	19.9	23.5	21.9	12.0	17.2	14.3	23.8	26.9	25.2
	2021 ³	—	—	29.7	—	—	21.7	—	—	18.5	—	—	25.2

Table 6. Minimum, maximum, and mean values of water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, static water-level elevation, turbidity, dissolved barium, dissolved potassium, dissolved silica, total chloride, total fluoride, and total sulfate measured in well samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, between 2016 and 2021.—Continued

[Data for 2016–20 are from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Data for 2021 are from Galeone and Zarr (2023). Min, minimum; Max, maximum; °C, degrees Celsius; —, not applicable; mg/L, milligrams per liter; µS/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius; NAVD 88, North American Vertical Datum of 1988; NTUs, nephelometric turbidity units; µg/L, micrograms per liter; E, estimated value below the reporting detection level]

Parameter	Period	Wells											
		MW-1			MW-2			MW-3			MW-4		
		Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean
Total chloride (mg/L)	2016 ¹	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.9	4.2	3.5	50.7	67.8	56.0	3.6	4.0	3.8
	2017–2020 ²	1.6	2.9	2.0	2.2	4.8	2.9	15.8	31.5	21.7	2.6	3.8	3.2
	2021 ³	—	—	2.9	—	—	4.2	—	—	22.4	—	—	3.7
Total fluoride (mg/L)	2016 ¹	0.24	0.42	0.34	E0.16	0.34	0.28	E0.18	0.30	0.26	E0.14	0.34	0.26
	2017–2020 ²	0.22	0.30	0.27	E0.16	0.24	0.20	E0.16	0.28	0.23	0.20	0.26	0.22
	2021 ³	—	—	0.26	—	—	E0.18	—	—	E0.14	—	—	0.22
Total sulfate (mg/L)	2016 ¹	34.1	36.0	35.3	39.4	46.4	41.7	79.0	94.8	86.6	37.5	38.2	37.8
	2017–2020 ²	21.7	32.7	27.6	39.6	45.6	42.1	69.5	77.3	72.9	33.3	38.9	36.1
	2021 ³	—	—	29.1	—	—	43.6	—	—	76.0	—	—	36.2

¹Samples were collected monthly from September through December 2016 (4 per constituent)

²Samples were collected quarterly from March 2017 through September 2018, then annually in September of 2019 and 2020 (9 per constituent, except for dissolved silica for which only 7 of the 9 samples were analyzed)

³Samples were collected on September 14, 2021 (1 per constituent). The value shown for each constituent is not a mean value, but the actual concentration or constituent measurement in one sample from each well.

Table 7. Minimum and maximum values, the number of non-detect values, and the reporting detection levels for dissolved arsenic, dissolved bismuth, dissolved chromium, dissolved iron, dissolved molybdenum, and total phosphorus in well samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, between 2016 and 2021.

[Data for 2016–20 are from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Data for 2021 are from Galeone and Zarr (2023). Min, minimum; Max, maximum; #ND, number of non-detects (values reported as less than the reporting detection level); RDL, reporting detection level; µg/L, micrograms per liter; —, not applicable; mg/L, milligrams per liter; E, estimated value below the reporting detection level; <, less than]

Parameter	Period	Wells							
		MW-1				MW-2			
		Min	Max	#ND	RDL	Min	Max	#ND	RDL
Dissolved arsenic (µg/L)	2016 ¹	E2.3	3.5	0	3.0	4.4	6.5	0	3.0
	2017–20 ²	E1.2	E2.0	1	3.0	3.1	6.1	0	3.0
	2021 ³	—	E1.4	0	3.0	—	5.4	0	3.0
Dissolved bismuth (µg/L)	2016 ¹	—	—	4	50	—	E49 ⁴	3	50
	2017–20 ²	—	—	9	50	—	—	9	50
	2021 ³	—	<50	1	50	—	E34	0	50
Dissolved chromium (µg/L)	2016 ¹	E1.2	E1.3	1	2.0	2.7	3.0	1	2.0
	2017–20 ²	E0.82	E1.4	6	2.2	E0.96	E1.2	6	2.2
	2021 ³	—	<2.2	1	2.2	—	<2.2	1	2.2
Dissolved iron (µg/L)	2016 ¹	2,500	2,600	0	50	810	1,300	0	50
	2017–20 ²	620	3,600	0	56	1,200	1,800	1	56
	2021 ³	—	3,500	0	56	—	1,500	0	56
Dissolved molybdenum (µg/L)	2016 ¹	—	E0.82 ⁴	3	2.0	E1.4	E1.6	0	2.0
	2017–20 ²	—	E0.16 ⁴	8	2.2	E0.26	E1.8	0	2.2
	2021 ³	—	<2.2	1	2.2	—	E2.1	0	2.2
Total phosphorus (mg/L)	2016 ¹	E0.074	0.15	0	0.10	E0.033	0.13	0	0.10
	2017–20 ²	E0.031	0.25	0	0.10	E0.075	0.43	2	0.10
	2021 ³	—	0.34	0	0.10	—	E0.082	0	0.10

¹Samples were collected monthly from September 2016 through December 2016 (4 per constituent)

²Samples were collected quarterly from March 2017 through September 2018, then annually in September of 2019 and 2020 (9 per constituent)

³Samples were collected on September 14, 2021 (1 per constituent). The value shown for each constituent is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration or constituent measurement in one sample from each well.

⁴The value shown is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration in one sample that was not a non-detect result.

Table 7. Minimum and maximum values, the number of non-detect values, and the reporting detection levels for dissolved arsenic, dissolved bismuth, dissolved chromium, dissolved iron, dissolved molybdenum, and total phosphorus in well samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, between 2016 and 2021.—Continued

[Data for 2016–20 are from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Data for 2021 are from Galeone and Zarr (2023). Min, minimum; Max, maximum; #ND, number of non-detects (value reported as less than the reporting detection level); RDL, reporting detection level; µg/L, micrograms per liter; —, not applicable; mg/L, milligrams per liter; E, estimated value below the reporting detection level; <, less than]

Wells							
MW-3				MW-4			
Min	Max	#ND	RDL	Min	Max	#ND	RDL
—	—	4	3.0	—	—	4	3.0
—	E1.6 ⁴	8	3.0	—	E1.0 ⁴	8	3.0
—	<3.0	1	3.0	—	<3.0	1	3.0
—	74 ⁴	3	50	—	E29 ⁴	3	50
—	—	9	50	—	—	9	50
—	E45	0	50	—	<50	1	50
E0.78	3.4	1	2.0	E1.3	2.1	1	2.0
E0.75	E1.1	7	2.2	E0.80	E1.1	6	2.2
—	<2.2	1	2.2	—	<2.2	1	2.2
92	110	0	50	1,300	1,400	0	50
E21	260	4	56	1,200	1,300	1	56
—	390	0	56	—	1,300	0	56
—	—	4	2.0	—	3.2 ⁴	3	2.0
—	E0.88 ⁴	8	2.2	—	E2.1 ⁴	8	2.2
—	<2.2	1	2.2	—	< 2.2	1	2.2
E0.071	E0.072	2	0.10	E0.098	0.14	0	0.10
E0.022	E0.079	2	0.10	0.20	0.70	0	0.10
—	<0.10	1	0.10	—	0.55	0	0.10

¹Samples were collected monthly from September 2016 through December 2016 (4 per constituent)

²Samples were collected quarterly from March 2017 through September 2018, then annually in September of 2019 and 2020 (9 per constituent)

³Samples were collected on September 14, 2021 (1 per constituent). The value shown for each constituent is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration or constituent measurement in one sample from each well.

⁴The value shown is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration in one sample that was not a non-detect result.

previous samples collected for the groundwater wells, in 2021 there were no detections of dissolved Al, dissolved cadmium (Cd), dissolved Cu, dissolved lead (Pb), dissolved Hg, dissolved silver (Ag), dissolved selenium (Se), dissolved tin (Sn), dissolved zirconium (Zr), or total perchlorate (see [table 1](#) for RDLs; Galeone and Zarr, 2023).

Only two VOCs were detected in groundwater samples collected on September 14, 2021. In well MW-1, acetone was detected at 3.5 µg/L, a concentration below the RDL of 10 µg/L. Bromomethane was detected in each well at concentrations below the RDL of 1 µg/L, ranging from 0.53 µg/L at well MW-1 to 0.87 µg/L at well MW-3. Acetone was also detected in the equipment blank submitted with the groundwater samples at a concentration of 3.5 µg/L. Bromomethane was detected in the equipment blank at 0.99 µg/L (Galeone and Zarr, 2023), and in the internal laboratory blank at 0.90 µg/L (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021). Both constituents were detected in field and laboratory QA/QC procedures, and the results for bromomethane and acetone are not likely representative of groundwater conditions for this sampling event.

Surface Water

Only the surface-water site (SW-U) upgradient of the ARMD Facility was sampled in 2021 because the other three surface-water sites were dry at the time of sample collection. Streamflow measured on October 6, 2021, at site SW-U was 0.177 cubic feet per second (ft³/s) and the SC was 235 µS/cm. The highest SC measured at SW-U was in 2016 at 315 µS/cm at a streamflow of 0.03 ft³/s. The lowest SC measured at SW-U was 100 µS/cm at a streamflow of 2.78 ft³/s ([table 8](#)). SC decreased with increasing discharge, indicating that the baseflow component derived from the underlying limestone was being diluted by surface water runoff. The pH measured on October 6, 2021, was 7.37, which is consistent with data from 2016–2020; and this slightly alkaline pH is also reflective of the underlying limestone formation. The turbidity measured at 9 NTUs on October 6, 2021, was consistent with other baseflow samples collected at site SW-U.

Similar to previous years, there were no EPA MCL or SMCL exceedances for any constituent at SW-U for the samples collected on October 6, 2021. The MCL for nitrate (NO₃)-nitrogen (N) is 10 mg/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2018), while the measured concentration of total NO₃-NO₂ for site SW-U was 2.2 mg/L of N. This concentration was higher than previously measured concentrations of total NO₃-NO₂ at site SW-U, which ranged from an estimated value of 0.14 mg/L of N to 0.52 mg/L of N ([table 8](#)). The dissolved Fe concentration was estimated at 19 µg/L ([table 8](#)), well below the SMCL for Fe of 300 µg/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2018). Total Cl and total SO₄ concentrations were 2.9 mg/L and 10.2 mg/L, respectively, which were similar in magnitude to previous measurements at the site ([table 8](#)). There were no detections of any dissolved forms of

Al, As, bismuth (Bi), Cd, Cu, Pb, Hg, Ag, Se, Sn, or Zr (see [table 1](#) for RDLs; Galeone and Zarr, 2023). These results were consistent with previous analyses of samples collected at site SW-U. There was no detection of total perchlorate, which had an RDL of 0.2 µg/L. Total perchlorate was detected at SW-U in previous years at estimated values below the RDL ranging from 0.06 µg/L to 0.09 µg/L ([table 8](#)).

The only two VOCs detected for the sample collected at site SW-U on October 6, 2021, were bromomethane and carbon disulfide, both below the RDLs of 1 µg/L. Estimated concentrations of bromomethane and carbon disulfide were 0.45 µg/L and 0.32 µg/L, respectively (Galeone and Zarr, 2023). Both bromomethane and carbon disulfide were detected below the RDLs in MBs analyzed by ALS Environmental laboratory for the surface-water samples submitted on October 6, 2021. Estimated concentrations of bromomethane and carbon disulfide in the MBs were 0.62 µg/L and 0.40 µg/L, respectively.

Soil

Soil samples from five soil-sampling sites (SO-1, SO-2, SO-7, SO-8, and SO-9) were collected on November 10, 2021 ([table 4](#) and [fig. 1](#)). Both A and E horizons are mineral dominant zones where all parent rock material has been obliterated ([fig. 4](#); Soil Science Division Staff, 2017). In a typical soil profile, the A horizons are below the organic layer (O horizon) of roots and organic debris and contain only some organic matter followed by the E horizon which contains only limited organic matter. Three sites (SO-1, SO-7, and SO-8) had typical A grading into E horizons. The other soil sites (SO-2 and SO-9) sampled did not show typical gradation of the A to E horizons and appear to have been altered by activities at LEAD. SO-2 had fill material near the surface, but it did not have significant shale fragments. Site SO-9 had shale fill at the surface down to a depth of 6 inches. The shale was interspersed with finer particles of sand and silt.

The inorganic constituents with the highest concentrations in soil samples near the ARMD Facility were Fe and Al. For samples collected in 2021, Fe concentrations ranged from 39,200 mg/kg for site SO-2 to 47,400 mg/kg for site SO-8, and Al concentrations ranged from 19,500 mg/kg for sites SO-2 and SO-8 to 24,600 mg/kg for SO-7. The 2021 Fe concentrations for SO-1 (41,900 mg/kg) and SO-8 were higher than any concentrations measured from 2016 to 2020 for those two sites ([table 9](#)). Other elements detected at relatively high concentrations in soils were K and silica (Si). For 2021, K concentrations ranged from 1,810 mg/kg for site SO-8 to 2,590 mg/kg for site SO-9, while Si concentrations ranged from 880 mg/kg for site SO-8 to 2,950 mg/kg for site SO-2. K concentrations for 2021 were between the 50th and 90th percentile of the concentrations measured from 2016 to 2020, but Si concentrations in 2021 for sites SO-2 and SO-7 were over 1,000 mg/kg higher in 2021 than any previous samples collected ([table 9](#)). The results for Al, Fe, K, and Si were consistent with data

Table 8. Minimum and maximum values, the number of non-detect values, and the range of reporting detection levels for selected constituents in surface-water samples collected at site SW-U near the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, between 2016 and 2021.

[Data for 2016–20 are from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Data for 2021 are from Galeone and Zarr (2023). Min, minimum; Max, maximum; #ND, number of non-detects (values reported as less than the reporting detection level); RDL, reporting detection level; ft³/s, cubic feet per second; —, not applicable; mg/L, milligrams per liter; µS/cm, microsiemens per centimeter; °C, degrees Celsius; NTU, nephelometric turbidity units; µg/L, micrograms per liter; <, less than; E, estimated value below reporting detection level; NO₃-NO₂, nitrate plus nitrite; N, nitrogen]

Parameter	2016 ¹				2017–20 ²				2018 ³ (storm)	2021 ⁴
	Min	Max	#ND	RDL	Min	Max	#ND	RDL		
Streamflow (ft ³ /s)	0.03	0.08	—	—	0.034	0.065	—	—	2.78	0.177
Water temperature (°C)	7.0	16.7	—	—	15.9	16.1	—	—	16.2	15.2
Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)	8.38	11.5	—	—	9.0	9.6	—	—	10.4	9.46
pH	7.15	8.08	—	—	7.81	7.90	—	—	7.01	7.37
Specific conductance (µS/cm)	232	315	—	—	289	306	—	—	100	235
Turbidity (NTU)	3	23	—	—	4	21	—	—	27	9
Dissolved barium (µg/L)	51	72	0	5.0	69	73	0	5.6	37	62
Dissolved chromium (µg/L)	E1.2	2.5	1	2.0	—	E1.3 ⁵	2	2.2	E0.94	<2.2
Dissolved iron (µg/L)	—	—	4	50	—	—	3	56	E36	E19
Dissolved molybdenum (µg/L)	E0.73	E1.7	1	2.0	—	—	3	2.2	<2.2	<2.2
Dissolved potassium (mg/L)	0.84	2.2	0	0.10	0.76	0.94	0	0.11	0.89	0.93
Total chloride (mg/L)	E1.6	2.1	0	1.0–2.0	E1.6	5.9	0	2.0	E1.1	2.9
Total fluoride (mg/L)	E0.04	E0.10	0	0.10–0.20	—	E0.10 ⁵	2	0.20	<0.1	<0.2
Total sulfate (mg/L)	6.8	11.4	0	1.0–2.0	6.0	6.5	0	2.0	5.8	10.2
Total NO ₃ -NO ₂ (mg/L as N)	E0.14	0.20	2	0.10–0.20	0.24	0.28	1	0.20	0.52	2.2
Total phosphorus (mg/L)	—	—	4	0.10	E0.028	E0.083	0	0.10	E0.045	E0.026
Total perchlorate (µg/L)	E0.06	E0.09	0	0.20	—	E0.061 ⁵	2	0.20–1.0	<0.20	<0.20

¹Monthly samples were collected from September 2016 through December 2016 (4 per constituent)

²One sample was collected in 2017, 2019, and 2020 in September of each year (3 per constituent)

³Stormflow samples were collected on September 13, 2018 (1 per constituent)

⁴Samples were collected on October 6, 2021 (1 per constituent).

⁵The value shown is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration in one sample that was not a non-detect result.

for silt loams reported by Brady (1974) for other areas in the United States. Brady (1974) showed that four of the five most abundant elements in the silt loams he presented were Si, Al, Fe, and K.

Several trace metals were detected in soil samples collected in 2021 near the ARMD Facility. Cu, Pb, and Cr were detected at all soil sample sites and at relatively similar concentrations. Cu concentrations ranged from 38.0 mg/kg for site SO-1 to 42.7 mg/kg at site SO-8. Cu concentrations at sites SO-1, SO-7, and SO-8 were slightly higher than detected concentrations in previous years; site SO-2 and SO-9 showed consistent results with samples collected in previous years. Pb concentrations ranged from 28.9 mg/kg at site SO-9 to 36.8 mg/kg at site SO-1, and the Pb concentration at site SO-1 was 12.5 mg/kg higher than any previous sample result for site SO-1. Pb concentrations at sites SO-7 and SO-8 were slightly higher than sample results for previous years at these sites; SO-2 and SO-9 showed consistent Pb concentrations to previous samples collected. Cr concentrations ranged from 23.4 mg/kg at site SO-8 to 29.1 mg/kg at site SO-7, and all Cr concentrations were consistent with previous sample results at all the sites (table 10).

Other trace metals results for 2021 with detections above the RDLs for most, if not all soil sites, were As, Hg, and Mo. Arsenic concentrations, all above the RDLs in 2021, ranged from 9.1 mg/kg at site SO-9 to 12.9 mg/kg at site SO-1. Hg concentrations ranged from 0.047 mg/kg at site SO-9 (the only result below the RDL) to 0.083 mg/kg at site SO-1. Mo concentrations in 2021 were all above the RDLs, ranging from 1.5 mg/kg at sites SO-1 and SO-7 to 4.3 mg/kg at site SO-2 (table 10).

Trace metals that were detected at estimated concentrations below RDLs at all soil sites for 2021 samples were Bi, Cd, and Se. Bi concentrations in 2021 were lower at all sites than any previous samples collected, ranging from 2.3 mg/kg at sites SO-2 and SO-9 to 3.2 mg/kg at site SO-8. Cd concentrations ranged from 0.20 mg/kg at site SO-1 to 0.30 mg/kg at site SO-2. Se concentrations ranged from 1.6 mg/kg at sites SO-7 and SO-8 to 2.1 mg/kg at site SO-9 (table 10). There were no detections of Ag or Sn at any soil sites in 2021 (Galione and Zarr, 2023). There were no detections of Ag at the five soil sites from 2016 to 2020. The RDL range for Sn in 2021 was 2.9–3.3 mg/kg (table 1). At the five soil sites, only site SO-1 had a Sn concentration above the RDL between 2016 and 2020, with a 3.8 mg/kg concentration in 2019. Twelve samples for Sn from 2016 to 2020 at the five sites were detected below the RDLs (RDLs ranged from 2.2 to 3.3 mg/kg) at concentrations from 0.79 to 2.0 mg/kg.

Analytical results for soils were compared to acceptable limits established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2023) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2023a) (table 11). The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has established medium-specific concentrations (MSCs) that vary depending on the method used in calculating the MSC for soil. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania calculates MSCs based on health concerns caused by direct contact with the soil. The

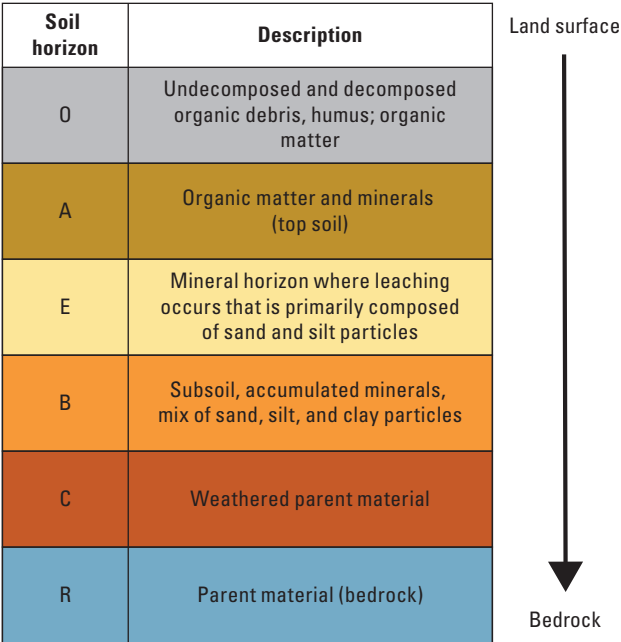


Figure 4. Schematic of typical soil profile.

EPA derives acceptable concentrations of constituents in soil (referred to as soil screening levels [SSLs]) based on standardized equations combining exposure information assumptions with EPA toxicity data. The EPA calculates SSLs for residential and industrial sites (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2023b). The soils at the ARMD site were considered “industrial” for comparative purposes.

Soil test results from 2016 through 2021 showed that only one constituent, As, exceeded acceptable limits for either MSCs or SSLs. All As concentrations in soil samples collected from 2016 through 2021 exceeded the EPA SSL for As of 3 mg/kg (table 10; table 11). However, none of the As concentrations in soil exceeded the Pennsylvania MSC. According to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2023), the surface soil (0–2 ft) nonresidential MSC for As is 61 mg/kg. The Pennsylvania MSC for As is based on direct human contact, whereas the EPA SSL is based on assumptions made for exposure and toxicity. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2023b; sec. 3.2) notes that some SSL values may be less than background concentrations because the SSLs are purely risk based, and that “arsenic, aluminum, iron and manganese are common elements in soils that have background levels that may exceed risk-based SSLs. This does not mean that these metals cannot be site-related, or that these metals should automatically be attributed to background.”

Other inorganic constituents that were detected in 2021 with estimated concentrations below RDLs were F and NO₃-NO₂. F concentrations ranged from 1.2 mg/kg at site SO-9 to 2.0 mg/kg at site SO-7. NO₃-NO₂ concentrations

Table 9. Minimum and maximum values for aluminum, barium, iron, potassium, silica, sulfur, and phosphorus for soil samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania, between 2016 and 2021.

. [Data for 2016–20 are from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Data for 2021 are from Galeone and Zarr (2023). Min, minimum; Max, maximum; mg/kg, milligrams per kilogram; —, not applicable]

Parameter	Period	Soil Sampling Sites									
		S0-1		S0-2		S0-7		S0-8		S0-9	
		Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Aluminum (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	10,200	13,200	10,500	28,000	8,430	11,900	9,860	14,600	10,700	37,800
	2017–20 ²	11,800	28,700	13,500	33,200	13,800	27,000	13,000	35,100	13,400	22,400
	2021 ³	—	19,800	—	19,500	—	24,600	—	19,500	—	24,300
Barium (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	91.3	194	211	504	219	267	189	303	150	556
	2017–20 ²	183	318	278	545	337	402	248	488	237	471
	2021 ³	—	214	—	386	—	368	—	332	—	385
Iron (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	31,900	41,000	31,100	99,500	22,200	31,900	27,000	41,900	27,100	102,000
	2017–20 ²	29,300	40,900	36,500	43,200	33,000	43,600	40,000	43,700	37,300	47,900
	2021 ³	—	41,900	—	39,200	—	43,600	—	47,400	—	44,700
Potassium (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	738	970	702	1,510	411	684	418	770	557	1,600
	2017–20 ²	986	5,060	1,080	7,140	774	4,140	762	7,800	718	2,930
	2021 ³	—	2,160	—	2,280	—	1,930	—	1,810	—	2,590
Silica (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	435	2,710	506	1,220	517	1,340	428	1,530	436	3,230
	2017–20 ²	739	1,930	467	1,610	970	1,210	1,150	1,590	387	1,620
	2021 ³	—	2,510	—	2,950	—	2,580	—	880	—	2,530
Sulfur (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	104	400	248	675	164	217	182	233	88.2	276
	2017–20 ²	224	457	201	375	228	277	237	273	107	204
	2021 ³	—	243	—	326	—	207	—	194	—	228
Phosphorus (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	535	1,380	422	909	437	734	375	862	375	564
	2017–20 ²	610	947	539	820	719	838	761	1,010	681	861
	2021 ³	—	243	—	930	—	1,130	—	823	—	1,220

¹Samples were collected monthly from September 2016 through December 2016 (4 per constituent)

²Samples were collected once in September 2017, 2018, and 2019, and October 2020 (4 per constituent)

³The samples collected on November 10, 2021 (1 per constituent). The value shown for each constituent is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration in each soil sample.

Table 10. Minimum and maximum values, the number of non-detect values, and the range of reporting detection levels for arsenic, bismuth, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, selenium, zirconium, fluoride, nitrate plus nitrite, and perchlorate for soil samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania, between 2016 and 2021.

[Data for 2016–20 are from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Data for 2021 are from Galeone and Zarr (2023). Min, minimum; Max, maximum; #ND, number of non-detects (values reported as less than the reporting detection level); RDL, reporting detection level; mg/kg, milligrams per kilogram; —, not applicable; µg/kg, micrograms per kilogram; E, estimated value below reporting detection level; <, less than]

Parameter	Period	Soil Sampling Sites							
		SO-1				SO-2			
		Min	Max	#ND	RDL	Min	Max	#ND	RDL
Arsenic (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	6.5	10.5	0	1.6–2.0	8.4	20.8	0	1.6–2.0
	2017–20 ²	5.7	11.0	0	1.6–1.7	8.7	10.2	0	1.4–1.9
	2021 ³	—	12.9	0	1.7	—	11.4	0	2.0
Bismuth (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	E3.3	16.3	1	5.4–6.5	E3.3	29.9	1	5.5–13.1
	2017–20 ²	E4.6	11.3	1	5.2–5.7	E5.3	10.6	1	4.7–6.3
	2021 ³	—	E2.9	0	5.8	—	E2.3	0	6.5
Cadmium (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	—	—	4	0.54–0.65	E0.24	E0.40	2	0.55–0.66
	2017–20 ²	E0.24	0.56	1	0.52–0.57	E0.20	E0.23	0	0.47–0.63
	2021 ³	—	E0.20	0	0.58	—	E0.30	0	0.65
Chromium (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	16.2	19.4	0	1.1–1.3	15.3	34.7	0	1.1–1.3
	2017–20 ²	14.5	32.8	0	1.0–1.1	18.3	38.3	0	0.94–1.3
	2021 ³	—	26.8	0	1.2	—	24.6	0	1.3
Copper (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	26.7	34.7	0	2.7–3.3	32.9	68.5	0	2.7–3.3
	2017–20 ²	22.2	34.4	0	2.6–2.9	32.4	35.9	0	2.4–3.2
	2021 ³	—	38.0	0	2.9	—	39.0	0	3.3
Lead (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	13.2	21.5	0	1.1–1.3	21.6	52.9	0	1.1–1.3
	2017–20 ²	16.4	24.3	0	1.0–1.1	21.6	28.1	0	0.94–1.3
	2021 ³	—	36.8	0	1.2	—	30.1	0	1.3
Mercury (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	E0.043	0.092	0	0.050–0.060	E0.035	E0.050	0	0.053–0.063
	2017–20 ²	E0.050	0.080	0	0.053–0.064	E0.035	E0.053	0	0.051–0.063
	2021 ³	—	0.083	0	0.057	—	0.062	0	0.057
Molybdenum (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	E0.80	1.4	0	1.1–1.3	1.7	3.9	0	1.1–1.3
	2017–20 ²	E0.83	1.5	0	1.0–1.1	2.9	9.0	0	0.94–1.3
	2021 ³	—	1.5	0	1.2	—	4.3	0	1.3
Selenium (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	E1.1	E1.4	1	2.7–3.3	E1.1	E2.5	1	2.7–3.3
	2017–20 ²	E1.4	E2.6	0	2.6–2.9	E1.2	E2.9	0	2.4–3.2
	2021 ³	—	E1.7	0	2.9	—	E1.8	0	3.3
Zirconium (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	E2.39	E4.78	0	— ⁴	E2.61	E5.14	0	— ⁴
	2017–20 ²	E3.10	E4.66	0	4.16–6.30	E2.59	E4.96	0	4.09–6.20
	2021 ³	—	6.5	0	5.80	—	E5.6	0	6.40
Fluoride (mg/kg)	2016 ¹	E1.6	E2.1	0	2.3–2.6	E1.7	2.7	1	2.2–2.6
	2017–20 ²	E2.0	3.4	1	2.2–2.6	E1.8	3.6	1	2.1–2.6
	2021 ³	—	E1.5	0	2.5	—	E1.3	0	2.6
Nitrate plus nitrite (mg/kg as N)	2016 ¹	E4.2	E4.7	1	11.5–13.0	E3.4	E4.2	2	11.2–13.1
	2017–20 ²	E2.5	36.9	0	11.1–12.8	—	E2.7 ⁵	3	10.7–13.1
	2021 ³	—	E5.7	0	12.3	—	E4.2	0	13.2
Perchlorate (µg/kg)	2016 ¹	E0.49	E0.90	1	2.3–2.6	E0.50	E0.79	1	2.1–3.1
	2017–20 ²	—	E0.62 ⁵	3	2.1–5.0	—	—	4	2.0–5.5
	2021 ³	—	—	1	2.3	—	—	1	2.4

¹Samples were collected monthly from September 2016 through December 2016 (4 per constituent)

²Samples were collected in September 2017, 2018, and 2019, and October 2020 (4 per constituent)

³Samples were collected on November 10, 2021 (1 per parameter). The value shown for each constituent is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration in each soil sample.

⁴Reporting detection limits not available for 2016.

⁵The value shown is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration in one sample that was not a non-detect result.

Table 10. Minimum and maximum values, the number of non-detect values, and the range of reporting detection levels for arsenic, bismuth, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, selenium, zirconium, fluoride, nitrate plus nitrite, and perchlorate for soil samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania, between 2016 and 2021.—Continued

[Data for 2016–20 are from U.S. Geological Survey (undated). Data for 2021 are from Galeone and Zarr (2023). Min, minimum; Max, maximum; #ND, number of non-detects (values reported as less than the reporting detection level); RDL, reporting detection level; mg/kg, milligrams per kilogram; —, not applicable, µg/kg, micrograms per kilogram; E, estimated value below reporting detection level; <, less than]

Soil Sampling Sites											
SO-7				SO-8				SO-9			
Min	Max	#ND	RDL	Min	Max	#ND	RDL	Min	Max	#ND	RDL
5.4	7.6	0	1.5–1.9	6.0	8.9	0	1.6–1.8	6.1	10	0	1.5–1.8
7.7	12.1	0	1.5–1.7	8.6	10.2	0	1.5–1.9	6.1	8.3	0	1.3–1.8
—	10.8	0	1.8	—	11.0	0	1.8	—	9.1	0	1.7
E4.4	11.4	1	4.9–6.3	E4.8	10.0	1	5.3–5.8	6.1	31.5	1	5.1–12.1
E4.5	12.7	1	4.9–5.5	5.1	11.8	1	4.9–6.2	E4.5	10.7	1	4.4–6.1
—	E2.9	0	6.1	—	E3.2	0	6.0	—	E2.3	0	5.7
—	E0.21 ⁵	3	0.49–0.63	E0.19	E0.20	2	0.53–0.58	—	E0.24 ⁵	3	0.51–0.60
E0.20	E0.25	0	0.49–0.55	E0.18	E0.24	0	0.49–0.62	E0.18	E0.22	1	0.44–0.61
—	E0.25	0	0.61	—	E0.23	0	0.60	—	E0.23	0	0.57
11.6	16.5	0	0.99–1.3	12.2	19.9	0	1.1–1.2	15.3	37.2	0	1.0–1.2
17.5	29.6	0	0.99–1.1	17.0	33.6	0	0.98–1.2	18.3	26.1	0	0.88–1.2
—	29.1	0	1.2	—	23.4	0	1.2	—	28.1	0	1.1
20.0	34.6	0	2.5–3.2	23.2	37.0	0	2.7–2.9	26.8	58.3	0	2.6–3.0
29.9	36.1	0	2.5–2.8	32.9	40.0	0	2.4–3.1	28.4	35.9	0	2.2–3.1
—	38.8	0	3.1	—	42.7	0	3.0	—	41.5	0	2.9
17.0	23.3	0	0.99–1.3	18.3	28.1	0	1.1–1.2	14.2	42.6	0	1.0–1.2
21.8	27.8	0	0.99–1.1	24.1	26.3	0	0.98–1.2	19.8	27.5	0	0.88–1.2
—	29.3	0	1.2	—	33.5	0	1.2	—	28.9	0	1.1
0.059	0.073	0	0.053–0.058	0.052	0.070	0	0.050–0.064	E0.033	E0.048	0	0.050–0.054
0.052	0.084	0	0.049–0.059	E0.040	0.070	0	0.050–0.063	E0.039	0.058	0	0.047–0.060
—	0.072	0	0.060	—	0.064	0	0.060	—	E0.047	0	0.055
E0.73	1.5	0	0.99–1.3	E0.96	1.4	0	1.1–1.2	E0.78	1.8	0	1.0–1.2
1.2	1.5	0	0.99–1.1	1.3	2.0	0	0.98–1.2	E0.81	1.3	0	0.88–1.2
—	1.5	0	1.2	—	1.9	0	1.2	—	1.7	0	1.1
E1.2	E1.5	1	2.5–3.2	E1.1	E1.6	0	2.7–2.9	E2.0	E2.8	2	2.6–3.0
E1.5	3.5	0	2.5–2.8	E1.3	E2.5	0	2.4–3.1	E1.6	E2.9	0	2.2–3.1
—	E1.6	0	3.1	—	E1.6	0	3.0	—	E2.1	0	2.9
E2.12	E5.04	0	— ⁴	E2.34	4.67	0	— ⁴	E3.28	4.80	0	— ⁴
E3.20	E4.93	1	4.57–6.40	E3.61	E5.07	0	4.25–5.34	E2.62	E4.36	0	4.49–5.30
—	E4.1	0	6.10	—	E5.5	0	5.80	—	E5.0	0	5.80
3.0	6.5	0	2.2–2.5	E2.1	3.7	0	2.2–2.6	E1.6	E2.2	0	2.3–2.4
2.4	2.9	1	2.2–2.5	2.1	3.3	1	2.1–2.5	E1.2	2.5	1	2.1–2.5
—	E2.0	0	2.5	—	E1.7	0	2.5	—	E1.2	0	2.5
E5.4	E5.6	2	10.9–12.7	E2.4	E8.9	1	10.9–12.8	—	—	4	11.3–12.1
—	E1.3 ⁵	3	10.8–12.3	—	E2.3 ⁵	3	10.7–12.6	—	—	4	10.4–12.7
—	E6.5	0	12.5	—	E2.2	0	12.3	—	E5.6	0	12.3
—	E1.1 ⁵	3	2.0–2.7	—	E1.4 ⁵	3	2.2–2.5	E0.50	E0.57	1	2.3–2.6
—	—	4	2.1–5.2	—	—	4	2.1–5.0	—	—	4	2.0–5.0
—	—	1	2.1	—	—	1	2.0	—	—	1	2.2

¹Samples were collected monthly from September 2016 through December 2016 (4 per parameter).

²Samples were collected in September 2017, 2018, and 2019, and October 2020 (4 per parameter).

³Samples were collected on November 10, 2021 (1 per parameter). The value shown for each constituent is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration in each soil sample.

⁴Reporting detection limits not available for 2016.

⁵The value shown is not a maximum value, but the actual concentration in one sample that was not a non-detect result.

Table 11. Acceptable limits for constituents analyzed in soil samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

[PA MSC, Pennsylvania medium-specific concentrations for soil; EPA SSL, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency soil screening level for industrial soils; mg/kg, milligrams per kilogram; —, not applicable]

Parameter	PA MSC (mg/kg) ¹	EPA SSL (mg/kg) ²
Volatile Organic Compounds		
Acetone	10,000	1,100,000
Benzene	290	5.1
Bromochloromethane	3,200	630
Bromodichloromethane	60	1.3
Bromoform	2,000	86
Bromomethane	400	30
2-Butanone	10,000	190,000
Carbon Disulfide	10,000	3,500
Carbon Tetrachloride	370	2.9
Chlorobenzene	4,000	1,300
Chlorodibromomethane	82	39
Chloroethane	10,000	23,000
Chloromethane	1,200	460
Cyclohexane	10,000	27,000
1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane	0.37	4.1
1,2-Dibromoethane	3.7	1.6
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	10,000	9,300
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	10,000	—
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	200	11
Dichlorodifluoromethane	8,000	370
1,1-Dichloroethane	1,400	16
1,2-Dichloroethane	86	2
1,1-Dichloroethene	10,000	1,000
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	6,400	370
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	4,800	300
1,2-Dichloropropane	220	11
1,3-Dichloropropene	560	8.2
Ethylbenzene	890	25
Freon-113	10,000	28,000
2-Hexanone	2,400	1,300
Isopropylbenzene	10,000	24,000
Methyl acetate	10,000	1,200,000
Methyl cyclohexane	—	—
Methyl t-Butyl Ether	8,600	210
4-Methyl-2-Pentanone (MIBK)	10,000	140,000
Methylene Chloride	10,000	1,000

Table 11. Acceptable limits for constituents analyzed in soil samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.—Continued

[PA MSC, Pennsylvania medium-specific concentrations for soil; EPA SSL, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency soil screening level for industrial soils; mg/kg, milligrams per kilogram; —, not applicable]

Parameter	PA MSC (mg/kg) ¹	EPA SSL (mg/kg) ²
Styrene	10,000	35,000
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	38	2.7
Tetrachloroethene	3,200	100
Trichloromethane	97	1.4
Volatile Organic Compounds—Continued		
Toluene	10,000	47,000
Total Xylenes	8,000	2,500
1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene	—	930
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	3,100	110
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	10,000	36,000
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	16	5
Trichloroethene	160	6
Trichlorofluoromethane	10,000	350,000
Vinyl Chloride	61	1.7
m-Xylene	—	2,400
o-Xylene	—	2,800
p-Xylene	—	2,400
Semivolatile Organic Compound		
Perchlorate	2,200	820
Major Ions		
Chloride	—	—
Fluoride	110,000	47,000
Potassium	—	—
Sulfate	—	—
Silica	—	18,000,000
Sulfur	—	—
Nutrients		
Nitrate-N	—	1,900,000
Nitrite-N	—	120,000
Phosphorus	—	—
Trace Ions		
Aluminum	190,000	1,100,000
Arsenic	61	3
Barium	190,000	22,000
Bismuth	—	—
Cadmium	1,400	100
Chromium	—	—
Copper	100,000	47,000

Table 11. Acceptable limits for constituents analyzed in soil samples collected at the Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction Facility at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.—Continued

[PA MSC, Pennsylvania medium-specific concentrations for soil; EPA SSL, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency soil screening level for industrial soils; mg/kg, milligrams per kilogram; —, not applicable]

Parameter	PA MSC (mg/kg) ¹	EPA SSL (mg/kg) ²
Trace ions—Continued		
Iron	190,000	820,000
Lead	1,000	800
Mercury	450	46
Molybdenum	14,000	5,800
Selenium	14,000	5,800
Silver	14,000	5,800
Tin	190,000	700,000
Zirconium	—	93

¹Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2023)

²U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2023a)

ranged from 2.2 mg/kg of N at site SO-8 to 6.5 mg/kg of N at site SO-7. Perchlorate was not detected at any soil site in 2021 with RDLs ranging from 2.0 to 2.4 µg/kg (table 10).

Of the 52 VOCs analyzed in soil samples collected in 2021, there was only one detected. The VOC isomer m-xylene plus p-xylene was detected at site SO-1 at an estimated concentration of 1.1 µg/kg, below the RDL of 4.6 µg/kg (Galeone and Zarr, 2023).

Study Limitations

Data collected in the vicinity of the ARMD site to characterize groundwater, surface water, and soil since 2016 do present some limitations when identifying any impacts of facility operation on environmental conditions. Initially, the baseline period defined as September to December 2016 did not permit any seasonal characterization. The current sampling frequency on an annual basis limits the number of samples collected for all media, and this frequency could inhibit the identification of seasonal constituent variability. Surface-water data are limited in scope because downgradient surface-water sites were sampled only once since 2016. Culverts and sediment retention areas at the facility do not show evidence of immediate surface runoff and sediment transport since 2016.

Summary and Conclusions

Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD), located near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, is a Federal Government facility that provides supply and maintenance support to the U.S. Armed Forces. The Ammonium Perchlorate Rocket Motor Destruction (ARMD) Facility, built in 2016, uses confined burning with emissions control to treat solid propellant rocket motors. The ARMD Facility functions include static firing of full motors and containment and capture of the exhaust for treatment in a pollution abatement system. The system was designed to eliminate waste streams to the external environment (Redhorse Corporation, 2016). The Code of Federal Regulations requires any hazardous waste disposal facility establish an environmental monitoring program. Redhorse Corporation (2016), in coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and LEAD, drafted an environmental monitoring plan to implement at the ARMD site. A requirement of the environmental monitoring plan was to establish baseline conditions prior to the beginning of facility operation in January 2017, and to conduct annual sampling at and around the facility after the facility opened. The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with LEAD, has collected environmental samples from groundwater, surface water, and soils in accordance with the monitoring plan since 2016.

The sampling sites of the original monitoring plan included 4 groundwater wells, 4 surface-water sites, 9 soil sites, and 2 sediment sampling sites, which were in and immediately downgradient of culverts that receive overland runoff from the facility and surrounding area. The 4 monitoring wells, with depths ranging from 41 to 81 feet (ft), were upgradient (1 well) and downgradient (3 wells) from the facility. The 4 stream sites were upgradient (1 site) and downgradient (3 sites) from the facility. The nine soil sites were within a few hundred yards of the facility buildings. The culverts designated for sediment sampling are at the front of the facility grounds, draining parking areas, access roads, and fields adjacent to the facility buildings. When samples were collected in 2021, there was no water in the downgradient stream locations, so surface-water samples were collected only at the upgradient site. This surface water sample was only representative of the forested environment upgradient from the ARMD Facility. There was also no sediment in the culverts draining the facility grounds, so no sediment was collected during 2021. Water and soil samples were analyzed for nutrients, trace metals, major ions, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and perchlorate.

Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) samples collected during the baseline period associated with water samples indicated some sampling and analytical bias based on the results from blank water samples for VOCs. Two VOCs, acetone and bromomethane, were detected below the reporting detection levels (RDLs) in the equipment blank submitted with groundwater samples. Bromomethane was also detected in an internal method blank (MB) associated with the groundwater

samples. Bromomethane, carbon disulfide, and chloromethane were detected below the RDLs in MBs analyzed in association with surface-water samples (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021). The only VOCs detected in the routine samples (all below the RDLs) collected from both groundwater (acetone and bromomethane) and surface water (bromomethane and carbon disulfide) were also detected in blank water associated with those samples. Percent recoveries of some VOCs (chloroethane, 1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene, and 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene) for matrix spike (MS) and laboratory control samples (LCS) associated with routine groundwater samples were below the acceptable range (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021), indicating that results for routine groundwater samples may have underestimated actual concentrations. MS and LCS results associated with surface-water samples for chloride (Cl), fluoride (F), and sulfate (SO₄) were highly variable and many results did not meet laboratory criteria (ALS Environmental, contracted to the U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 2021); therefore, results for these constituents are qualified based on QA/QC results. Soil QA/QC results indicated that recovery of 34 of the 40 VOC results for MS samples were below the acceptable range; however, LCS results showed recovery of all soil VOCs was in the acceptable range except for 1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane. Replicates submitted with water and soil samples showed acceptable precision except for a few constituents.

Groundwater quality results from the four wells sampled near the ARMD Facility in 2021 do not exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). Dissolved arsenic (As) was detected only in samples from two wells, MW-1 and MW-2, at concentrations of 1.4 micrograms per liter (µg/L; estimated value below the RDL) and 5.4 µg/L, respectively. Well MW-2 had the highest arsenic concentrations for each sampling event from previous years, but all results were below the MCL for As of 10 µg/L (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2018). Dissolved iron (Fe) was the only inorganic constituent measured at greater than a secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL). All groundwater samples collected in 2021 exceeded the iron SMCL of 300 µg/L with concentrations ranging from 390 µg/L (well MW-3) to 3,500 µg/L (well MW-1). All previous samples collected for wells MW-1, MW-2, and MW-4 also exceeded the SMCL for iron; however, the 2021 result for well MW-3 was the first instance of the iron SMCL exceedance for this well. Perchlorate was not detected in any groundwater samples collected during 2021.

Surface-water data collected in 2021 were strictly representative of the stream reach upgradient (SW-U) from the ARMD Facility. There was no streamflow evident at the time of sample collection on October 6, 2021, at the three downgradient surface-water sites. No EPA established MCLs or SMCLs were exceeded for any constituents in samples collected from site SW-U in 2021. Additionally, there was no detection of total perchlorate (the RDL is 0.2 µg/L) at site

SW-U in 2021. Total perchlorate was detected at site SW-U in previous years at estimated values ranging from 0.06 µg/L to 0.09 µg/L.

Soil samples collected near the ARMD Facility on November 10, 2021, showed only one constituent, As, that exceeded EPA soil screening levels (SSLs). No soil medium-specific concentrations (MSCs) established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were exceeded. Arsenic concentrations in soil in 2021, all above the RDLs, ranged from 9.1 mg/kg to 12.9 mg/kg, indicating all samples exceeded the EPA SSL for As of 3 mg/kg; however, EPA acknowledges that “arsenic, aluminum, iron and manganese are common elements in soils that have background levels that may exceed risk-based SLs” (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2023b, sec. 3.2).

The inorganic constituents most commonly detected in soil samples were iron (Fe) and aluminum (Al), with Fe and Al concentrations ranging from 39,200 mg/kg to 47,400 mg/kg and 19,500 mg/kg to 24,600 mg/kg, respectively. Perchlorate was not detected at any soil site in 2021. The only VOC detected was m-xylene plus p-xylene at site SO-1 at a concentration of 1.1 micrograms per kilogram (µg/kg), which was below the RDL of 4.6 µg/kg.

The groundwater, surface water, and soil results for 2021 were generally consistent with samples collected prior to (2016) and concurrent (2017–2021) with the ARMD Facility’s operation. The ARMD Facility is a contained burn treatment facility for demilitarization of rocket motors, the byproduct of which is a non-hazardous solid waste, with no planned releases to surface water, groundwater, soils, stormwater runoff, or runoff sediment.

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