

THE HAWK EYE

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Environmental study begins

Company inspects 43 sites at IAAP

By Gene George
The Hawk Eye

MIDDLETOWN — Inspection of 43 possible contamination sites at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant began Aug. 7 and will last five weeks, the plant commander announced Friday.

Jaycor, a Vienna, Va., company, received a \$3.3 million Army contract to determine whether any contamination exists at the ordnance plant, Lt. Col. Duane Brandt said in a news release.

The Army already has said the IAAP has two sites it must clean up.

Earlier this summer, Col. David Morgan, chief of staff for the command that oversees the IAAP and 35 other ammunition plants, reported that the sites were contaminated with TNT during World War II.

Both sites — located 2½ miles into the plant from its eastern boundary — are on the Environmental Protection Agency's clean-up list, IAAP officials

have said.

The contaminated areas are old impoundment areas behind Line 800 and Line 1, into which TNT particles drained when workers washed down the plant floor, they said. Cleanup of those sites may not start for years.

It's still not known whether the TNT is a threat to the environment.

Plant officials weren't available Friday to say whether these two sites are included in Jaycor's inspection.

Morgan, chief of staff of the Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command, conducted a review of the Middletown plant this spring. The need to clean up the two TNT sites is one of the plant's few problems, he concluded.

Jaycor is analyzing samples of groundwater, surface water, sediment, surface and sub-surface soils, Brandt said. The results of this work will determine if any of the sites warrant a more comprehensive investigation.

The site inspection is one

phase of the Department of Defense Installation Restoration Program, which is meant to find and correct environmental contamination at the department's facilities that were created by practices once considered acceptable.

The Army's Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency, a branch of the Corps of Engineers, is managing the restoration program at the IAAP.

Jaycor's findings will be sent to the EPA office in Kansas City, Kan., before the next phase of the program begins, the Army said.

Site inspection documents and other documents connected to the IAAP's environmental program will be available to the public for review at three locations:

- Burlington Public Library, 501 N. Fourth St.
- Danville City Hall, 105 W. Shepherd St.
- IAAP Administration Building (Bldg. 110-101).

Persons with questions can contact Larry Johnson at the IAAP, (319) 753-7600.

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