US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory Hanover

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The Cold Regions Research and Environmental Laboratory (CRREL) (FFID – NH157002484700) is located at 72 Lyme Road, Hanover, New Hampshire. The property is approximately 30 acres and located 1.5 miles north of the center of Hanover. Dartmouth College housing is located immediately south of and adjacent to the CRREL facility. The Hanover Country Club, owned by Dartmouth College, borders the Site to the southwest. Further to the east and northeast are the Richmond Middle School and Dartmouth Printing Company, respectively. The Connecticut River is located west of the CRREL facility.

As a US Army Corps of Engineers center of expertise, CRREL performs basic and applied research in snow, ice, and frozen ground. CRREL also provides the US Army with practical engineering research to develop equipment and procedures for application in cold regions. As an active United States Army installation, remedial activities at the CRREL facility are conducted under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) and Installation Restoration Program (IRP).

Environmental investigations have been conducted at CRREL since November 1990. The investigations have included production well sampling for trichloroethylene (TCE), investigations of the history and use of TCE, groundwater sampling of onsite wells, water supply well sampling in Vermont across the Connecticut River from CRREL, investigation of Areas of Concern (AOCs) and surface water and sediment sampling near CRREL. These prior investigations are all included in the CRREL Administrative Record.

Previous soil and groundwater sampling investigations at CRREL have narrowed the focus of the most recent Phase III Remedial Investigation (RI) to four remaining AOCs including: AOC 2, a former underground storage tank (UST) that leaked TCE; AOC 9, the location of the former Ice Well and former aboveground storage tank (AST) that leaked TCE; AOC 13, a former disposal area; and AOC 15, the location of a former UST that leaked fuel oil.

Two RIs were historically completed, and the recent Phase III RI Report was submitted in June 2018. Subsequent remedial activities have also included the implementation of sub-slab depressurization systems to control vapor intrusion, pilot testing of soil vapor extraction (SVE) for remediation of the source areas and long-term monitoring under a groundwater management permit.

- During the Phase III RI, thousands of samples of soil, soil vapor, groundwater, bedrock, outdoor, and indoor air were collected over a four-year period.

- TCE is the primary Contaminant of Concern (CoC) at the site. Human health risks are driven by exposure to TCE in indoor air of several onsite buildings, soil vapor in onsite excavations and groundwater onsite if it were to be used for drinking water in the future. Offsite human health risks are driven by potential future residents' exposure to TCE-impacted indoor air at the undeveloped property north of the site, which is owned by Dartmouth College Real Estate, also called "Rivercrest property."

- Next steps in the CRREL Installation Restoration Program include finalizing the Feasibility Study (FS), preparing and publishing a Proposed Plan, and ultimately a Decision Document for the upland areas of the site.

- Review of a draft RI for the Connecticut River, including impacts to groundwater in Vermont, are ongoing.