

Remedial Investigation of UMore Park East, Dakota County, MN

April 2011

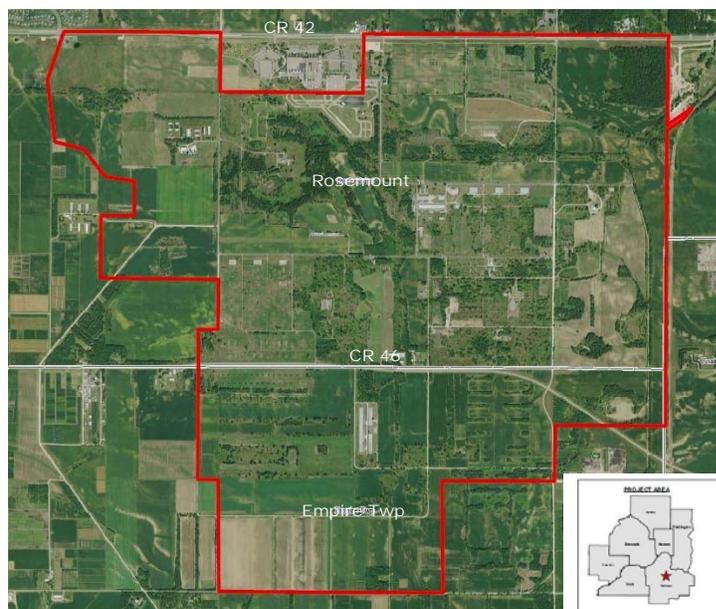
Introduction

The University of Minnesota has prepared this Fact Sheet to provide an overview to the local and University communities of the University's planned Remedial Investigation (RI) of the eastern portion of the University of Minnesota Outreach, Research and Education (UMore) Park in Dakota County, Minnesota. The purpose of the RI is to collect information needed to identify and assess potential risks to human health and the environment associated with historical uses of the property and to identify alternatives to address any potential unacceptable risks that may be present.

Site Background and Location

In 1942 and 1943, the U.S. War Department acquired about 12,000 acres of farmland in Dakota County for the construction of the Gopher Ordnance Works (GOW), a facility that manufactured smokeless gunpowder and related products. Production began in approximately November 1944 and ceased in October 1945. After the war, the federal government declared GOW to be surplus property, demolished most of the buildings, and transferred approximately 8,000 acres and the remaining GOW buildings and infrastructure to the University. Since acquiring the property, the University has used it for agricultural and other research purposes and has also leased some parcels to agricultural and commercial tenants.

The RI will be conducted on the eastern approximately 3,500 acres of UMore Park (see figure). The western portion of UMore Park consists of the UMore Mining Area, which was recently the subject of a comprehensive environmental study, and is proposed for sand and gravel extraction, and subsequently, residential and commercial redevelopment. South of UMore Park is the 2,822-acre Vermillion Highlands: A Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area that is jointly managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the University for outdoor recreation, wildlife management and agricultural research.



Map: UMore Park East Site

The Remedial Investigation

A number of studies have previously been completed at UMore Park, which have identified the presence of historical releases of hazardous substances* on limited areas of the property. The University and state and local regulators are seeking a more comprehensive understanding of the environmental condition of the property, including any impacts associated with the construction, operation and demolition of the former GOW, and subsequent University research and tenant activities.

*These substances include metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, and petroleum. Areas on which these substances have been identified and other areas where historical releases of these substances may have occurred are the subject of this investigation. The limited current use of the property ensures that potential risks or impacts to human health are avoided.

Through a competitive procurement process, the University selected Barr Engineering Company to conduct the RI. A RI is a technical study that characterizes the environmental quality of soil and groundwater. It consists of a formal process established under state and federal rules and is intended to systematically identify areas that will require risk evaluation, and suitable remedial actions as necessary. Barr will use a number of investigative techniques including soil borings, test pit excavations, groundwater monitoring wells, and geophysical surveys, and will collect and submit for laboratory analysis approximately 700 soil and groundwater samples. The RI field work is scheduled to begin in late June 2011.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) serves as the lead regulatory agency for the site, and will review and approve the RI Work Plan and supporting documents. The University is also committed to working cooperatively with Dakota County, the City of Rosemount, Empire Township, and the general public to share information as the RI proceeds.

The findings of the RI will be documented in a Remedial Investigation Report, which will be made available for public review in early 2012. The RI findings will then be used to determine what additional investigation or actions are necessary to inform future use of the property.

Community Involvement Opportunities

The RI Work Plan, a Community Involvement Plan and further information about the property is available for review at www.umorepark.umn.edu as well as at the Information Repository established for the property at the UMore Park Administration Building, 1605 160th Street W, Rosemount, MN. Documents are available for review at the Information Repository between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The MPCA and the University will hold a public meeting on May 19, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Rosemount Community Center, 13885 South Robert Trail (Hwy. 3), Rosemount, MN, to provide the opportunity to comment on the Remedial Investigation Work Plan. The MPCA will also accept public comments to the RI Work Plan from May 9, 2011 to June 10, 2011. Written comments may be provided to the MPCA at the public meeting or by mail or hand delivery to:

Mr. Gary Krueger
Remediation Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

More Information

Please contact Tim Busse, Director of Communications, University Services, University of Minnesota
Telephone: 612-624-2863
Email: busse006@umn.edu
You may also contact Gary Krueger of the MPCA Remediation Division at 651-757-2509.