

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 03775. The property is approximately 2 miles north of the town of Hanover, New Hampshire and is bordered on the west by the Connecticut River. CRREL is located on a 30 acre lot in Hanover, New Hampshire. Dartmouth College purchased the land from Walter Record of Hanover, New Hampshire in 1932. In 1960, CRREL leased 19.2 acres of land from Dartmouth College for the purpose of constructing a research facility. Prior to 1960, the land was used for agricultural purposes. Gravel was also mined on the western edge bordering the Connecticut River. In 1982, CRREL expanded, and purchased an 11 acre lot. This additional land lies on the western border of the original leased property.

The current operator of the land is CRREL, 72 Lyme Road, Hanover, New Hampshire, 03755, Telephone (603)646-4100. The daily work population consists of approximately two military and 250 civilian personnel. No one lives on the installation. As the Army's center of expertise in cold regions science and engineering, CRREL focuses on the technology base needed for the Army and other Department of Defense (DoD) agencies to operate effectively in winter and cold regions conditions. Functional areas are Cold Regions Technology, Military Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Construction and Facilities Support, and Civil Works.

Environmental Issues

In late October 1990, the Air Force notified the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) that experiments conducted at the Laboratory in 1984-85 could have caused potential ground water contamination with tetrachloroethylene (PCE). As a result, the Laboratory's in-house chemistry capabilities were used to analyze the water from four industrial cooling wells and a nearby municipal water supply. Although the tests proved negative for PCE, they revealed elevated levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) in three of the four industrial wells. Additional sites on CRREL property were tested for TCE contamination, and elevated TCE levels were also found at the site of a former buried TCE storage tank.

While the complete history of TCE releases at the site is not known, several significant historical release events have been documented and contributed to elevated TCE levels observed in site soil and groundwater. A gasket blow-out of an evaporator caused over 6000 gallons of TCE to spill onto the floor of the machine room in May 1970, some of which travelled to facility floor drains that lead to the sewer system. In July 1970, an above-ground TCE tank exploded, and approximately 3000 gallons of TCE was flushed into the storm system by the fire department (this was the accepted practice at that time). In 1978, the experimental ice well was shut down for repairs to the heat exchanger. The water in the well, which was noted to be contaminated with TCE, was pumped out and discharged to the ground or into the storm drains.

Site Status

Two Remedial Investigations (RIs) have been completed thus far and a Phase 3 RI Report is expected to be submitted for review and comment by DES in the second quarter of 2016. Subsequent remedial activities have also included the submission of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP), remediation of the source areas and long-term monitoring under a groundwater management permit.