Federal Facilities where RDX is a Contaminant of Concern

RDX is a secondary explosive that can be released to the environment through spills, firing of munitions, open incineration and detonation of ordnance, leaching from inadequately sealed impoundments and demilitarization of munitions.

Until recently, the EPA classified RDX as a probable human carcinogen. However, in response to pressure from the military, the EPA may re-categorize its cancer potential resulting in less stringent regulation and cleanup of RDX. The proposed change is also expected to undermine claims by veterans that link RDX exposure to liver and lung cancer.

RDX is not significantly retained by most soils and can readily migrate to groundwater. Potential exposure to RDX may occur by dermal contact or inhalation exposure. Ingestion of contaminated drinking water or agricultural crops irrigated with contaminated water is also significant route of exposure, according to federal health officials.

**Notations:** Some of the above facilities have multiple RDX-contaminated sites, and some sites have been remediated.

**Sources:** The U.S. Center for Disease Control admits that the number of sites that have been evaluated for RDX is not known (2012). The above list was compiled using available government sources including: U.S. ATSDR online database for contaminant mapping, site-specific Public Health Assessments, U.S. EPA online sources, and reports by the National Research Council. The list of facilities is intended to provide examples and should not be considered a comprehensive list of all known or possible RDX-contaminated sites. Since the release of RDX is not required to be reported under SARA Section 313 (Superfund), there are no data on RDX in the Toxics Release Inventory.