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(S.D.)-Plan To Clean Up Chemical Weapons Sites

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 11/07/2013 10:46 AM

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Federal workers are drafting a plan to size up and clean up contamination from chemical weapons in southwest South Dakota.

Much of the military's munitions were stored at the Black Hills Army Depot near Edgemont from 1942 to 1967.

It includes three areas where bent, damaged or otherwise unusable weapons were dismantled or destroyed, some of them chemical.

The corps says workers started studying the sites in 2011. The agency is now drafting a plan outlining the level of contamination and possible cleanup options.

A meeting was scheduled for late November to begin a 30-day public comment period on that document, but the federal government shutdown delayed that meeting until early next year.

Government records indicate the U.S. has spent at least \$560 million cleaning up the site since 1984.

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