

Dust suppression for training areas at the Arizona Army National Guard

Background.

On one to two weekends each month, the Arizona Army National Guard conducts combat training at the Florence Military Reservation, located 1.5 miles north of the town of Florence. This training area is used primarily for live fire exercises, unit maneuvers, simulated engagements and small arms training. In

Solution.

Whitney Kirk, an environmental specialist at the National Guard said, "To help minimize the amount of dust from military operations, we evaluated various dust suppressant products to determine what might work best in this environment." As a result of the study, EnviroKleen® as selected.



Left: EnviroKleen® is sprayed on the native soil with trucks designed for this task.

Top Right: An EnviroKleen® treated surface effectively minimizes dust as this tracked vehicle travels to the Florence Military Reservation.

Bottom Right: Guests at the public open house compare treated and untreated soil.

preparing for the training exercises, personnel and equipment organize at the Equipment Staging Area, located south of Florence Gardens. Some of the equipment used includes tracked vehicles, wheeled vehicles and helicopters. The helicopters take off from the helipad located at the southwest corner of the Equipment Staging Area. The vehicles access the training area by traveling along the Track Road to access the Main Supply Route located east of and parallel to U.S. Highway 79.

Problem.

The soil at the Equipment Staging Area and along the Main Supply Route is fine grained, which historically has resulted in dust when subjected to vehicular movement or moderate wind.

EnviroKleen was applied in the wash areas along the Main Supply Route as well as the unpaved area around the helipad at the Equipment Staging Area. EnviroKleen® is a mineral oil-like product that coats the soil but does not bind it. It was applied by trucks specifically suited and calibrated for the application and are equipped with a spray bar close to the ground. EnviroKleen dried clear, but darkened the soil slightly. It is safe to humans, animals, plant life and groundwater.

EnviroKleen was evaluated for one year to assess the long-term effectiveness of the dust suppression treatment.

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Arizona Army National Guard

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The Arizona Army National Guard hosted a public open house at Florence Gardens Mobile Home Association Clubhouse to inform the local community about the plans to apply dust suppressants to the Mesa Staging Area and part of the Main Supply Route. The 34 people who attended were able to review displays, ask questions and offer oral and written comments. The displays included samples of the products and boxes of native soil treated with EnviroKleen®, as well as aerial views of the areas to be treated.

Most of the comments indicated support for the Arizona Army National Guard for being pro-active and taking measures to suppress the dust from military activities in the area. Some of the comments included "We are really excited about your concern for the dust problem" and "very good news on settling the dust."

The Arizona Army National Guard successfully applied dust suppressant products to the Equipment Staging Area and Track Road at the Florence Military Reservation. Approximately five miles of the Main Supply Route was treated to help reduce the dust that may occur from military training exercises.