

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
1 AUGUST 1993
HNC REVISION: 27 FEBRUARY 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 12 JUNE 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Owl 4X Plant

SITE NUMBER: J09CA002500

LOCATION:

City: City of Azusa
County: Los Angeles County
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA002501

CATEGORY: CWM

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 2

TAG RAC: 1

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former OWL 4X Plant is located twenty miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles. It occupies the northeast portion of an approximately 40 acre industrial property in San Gabriel Valley at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. The FUDS was leased by the U.S. Army Chemical Corps in 1943 from

American Cyanamid Company (ACC); and was later used in the production of chemical weapons, such as tear gas and cyanogen chloride, agent CK. The site of the plant is now a nursery, a parking lot for ACC, and a gypsum (Calcium Sulphate) disposal area.

4. SITE HISTORY: The OWL 4X Plant site was purchased from the Owl Fumigating Corporation by American Cyanamide Company (ACC) in 1934. In 1943, the U.S. Army Chemical Corps leased the northeast portion of the property from ACC for the production of tear gas and other chemical weapons. In 1944 the government contracted with American Cyanamid to build and operate a plant which would produce agent CK, and fill bomb bodies with the agent. The plant was completed in 1945, and later the same year, was placed in standby status. In 1958 the Government vacated the site and the plant was declared surplus and offered for sale by the Public Building Service, and the lease reverted to ACC.

The design capacity of the plant was 120,000 pounds of cyanogen chloride (Agent CK). The raw materials used to make this production were 70,740 pounds of Hydrocyanic Acid and 156,000 pounds of liquid Chlorine. An inspection report dated 1 May 1945, noted a problem with disposal of the sludge collected in the sludge pond. American Cyanamid proposed to the inspectors that a "proper disposal system" be installed to prevent lawsuits.

Second, the inspection team noted that a collection of incomplete bomb bodies had accumulated at the site, and without proper protection these bombs would become unserviceable.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area

Size; Acres:	40
Former Use:	Production of agent CK and filled bomb bodies with the agent
Present Use:	American Cyanamide Company Parking Lot, Nursery, and Gypsum Disposal Area
Probable End Use:	Same as Present
Ordnance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Bombs & CK residue

6.0 CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report (ASR) was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District in August 1993.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA (RAC 1)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) recommended that this site be scheduled for a RAC 1 CWM EE/CA. Since the bomb bodies that were filled at the site did not contain explosives, the site is not considered for OE. There is

a potential of CWM due to the fact that there is the possibility of discarded bomb bodies, containing chemical agent CK residue, remaining on the site.

This site is a PRP/HTRW site.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only
