Cleanup: Plan due by end of year

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that one arm of the federal government has said to another arm of the federal government, you have polluted an area and you need to quickly and correctly clean it up," said County Executive Claude Ramsey. "It's a positive for the overall welfare of the community."

Chattanooga Mayor Jon Kinsey also called EPA's action a positive step.

"EPA will have the ability to force the Army to move much more quickly," Mr. Kinsey said. "I believe the EPA involvement will mean the city and county will get more property sooner rather than later."

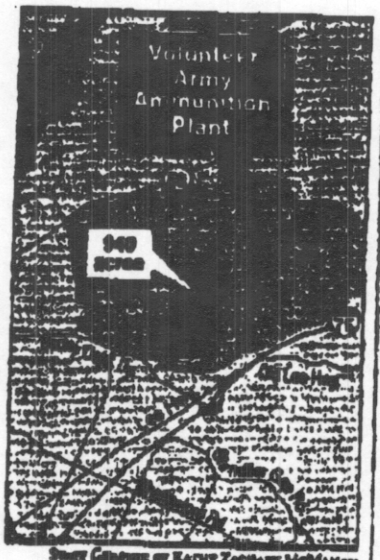
The city and county purchased their first 940 acres of the Volunteer Site last year. The EPA order does not apply to that property.

Gov. Don Sundquist said Wednesday that if the local officials were satisfied, he was too. "Apparently it's OK (with Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Kinsey)," the governor said.

David Dorian of the enforcement and compliance office in EPA Region IV said the order was issued under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. That act empowers EPA to force environmental investigation and cleanup. The Army has 30 days to appeal the order.

"This order provides a legal framework in which the Army must clean up the site in an expeditious manner that is consistent with EPA guidelines for what is considered clean, and what is considered protective of human health and the environment," Mr. Dorian said. "We believe this order really goes a long way to speeding the actual process of getting the site cleaned up."

If the Army doesn't appeal, it has 60 days to complete a survey of the entire site to look for contamination that has not been found already, Mr. Dorian said.



Staff Graphic by Kathy Zachary McMahan

and extent of the contamination at known sites, with another 60 days for extra sampling at certain sites. A corrective action plan is due 120 days later.

The EPA may negotiate on the timetable, Mr. Dorian said, but "the fundamental gist of the order to get the site cleaned up within a defined time will not change."

If surveys show the contamination has spread outside the plant's borders, the Army will have to say how it plans to clean that up too, he said. The Army has said that treating contaminated groundwater may be too complicated and costly to undertake.

"They cannot simply walk away from the problem," Mr. Dorian said. He said the Army must make a good-faith effort to find and contain groundwater migration and contamination of wells off the site.

Mr. Brittain told Army officials last July to give the Volunteer cleanup a higher priority.

The state's Department of Environment and Conservation has been supervising the cleanup under the state's Superfund law since 1995, when Gov. Sundquist decided not to put the facility on the federal Superfund list.

Since then, state regulators and the Army have tussled over how much investigation and cleanup to do.

"They've spent a lot of time and money there, but they haven't done it to the satisfaction of the EPA," said

Crisis: State funds in

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we didn't anticipate, but I'm not sure what we would have done differently," Mr. Adams said. "For years financial advisers have urged mothers and grandmothers to invest in utilities because they're the safest investment they can make."

The state bought the 56- and 61-day bonds in late November and early December, when PG&E was given the highest ratings by Moody's Investment Services and Standard & Poor's. At the time, Moody's estimated the chance of default was "zero percent," Mr. Adams said.

One week later, the same bond rating agencies put PG&E on credit watch, and throughout January the utility's rating steadily dropped. By then, the state could not unload the papers because nobody was buying it. On Tuesday, just 47 days after the state's investment, PG&E was in default, Mr. Adams said.

"To our knowledge this is the first time in history that a piece of commercial paper rated A1 and P1 has gone into default," Mr. Adams said.

The investments were intended to benefit the state's retirement funds and the State Pooled Investment Fund.

About $91.7 million of commercial paper came from the $2.2 billion in the State Pooled Investment Fund. Another $40.9 million came from the $24 billion Tennessee Con-

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Hamilton Coun invested through Wright, county fin said the county wo

Bush: Says he worrie

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Gephardt, D-Mo.

In their session, Bush and McCain discussed campaign finance reforms the Arizona senator plans to push through Congress this year.

Senior advisers said Bush did not expect to bridge the gap with McCain, but he wanted to show the public that he was willing to listen to the senator.

Asked what he intended to tell McCain, Bush said simply: "Welcome."

The Cabinet Room meeting with GOP and Democratic leaders was Bush's first to include congression-

erate Democrats party's elder states lier sessions.

"It is a habit I Bush said. "When tive branch is wil the legislative br right for the coun words. Expectatio come together to Our mission is to tations."

The president for his proposal t trillion over 10 yea ries that the econ main way for ver