

5.4 SWMU 4: MORTAR PIT

5.4.1 Site Description and Waste Generation

According to Ertec (1982), SWMU 4 is located in the southeast portion of TEAD-S, slightly northwest of SWMU 3; however, this location could not be confirmed by study of aerial photographs, site visits, or employee interviews (USAEHA 1986; Barnes 1989). A former TEAD employee (Barnes 1989) believed that SWMU 4 is probably one of the pits in SWMU 1. The description of SWMU 4 corresponds with the history of part of SWMU 1 as recorded previously by USATHAMA (1979). This description follows.

Approximately 59,000 empty mortar projectiles (4.2-inch) were reportedly transferred to and buried at the SWMU 4 site in 1971. USATHAMA (1979) designated this site as the "4.2-inch mortar pit." USATHAMA (1979) reported that some of these munitions may have been contaminated with mustard, and that they were burned prior to 1954 in 15 pits formerly designated as pits 31 through 45 in SWMU 1. The 15 burning pits in SWMU 1 were reportedly decontaminated with hypochlorite based decontamination powder (USATHAMA 1979). Approximately 59,000 empty 4.2-inch mortar projectiles were identified in a disposal pit within SWMU 1, indicating that the burned, 4.2-inch mortar projectiles were actually buried within SWMU 1 rather than in a separate location. Therefore, SWMU 4 as a separate unit should be deleted from the list of suspected releases SWMUs.