

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the former Monsanto site?

The Monsanto Chemical Company Site (“Monsanto Site” or “Site”) is located northwest of downtown Columbia and is situated between the Duck River and Willamsport Pike (State Route 50). The Site is approximately 5,300 acres and was previously used for the mining and processing of phosphorus ore to produce elemental phosphorus. These activities resulted in stability issues and the generation and placement of contamination across the Site. Due to this historic use of the Site, properties within the Site are restricted from certain uses. The restrictions are in place so that property is not used in a way that may be harmful to human health or the environment.

Is my property part of the Monsanto Site?

Property owners need to confirm whether their property is part of the Monsanto Site. This can be done by visiting the Maury County Registrar of Deeds office.

What is the Notice of Land Use Restriction (NLUR) and what does it do?

If the property is part of the Monsanto Site, it is covered by the Notice of Land Use Restrictions (NLUR). The NLUR describes what the Monsanto Site property may be used for, what actions are prohibited, and the actions needed to gain approval for the prohibited uses.

Does the Notice of Land Use Restrictions prohibit development?

No, the NLUR does not prohibit any type of development. It does, however, require that the property owner reach out to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Remediation (DoR) before beginning any restricted activities and work with DoR to ensure that the planned development is conducted in a way that protects human health and the environment.

What resources are available to learn more about the property?

DoR is developing a web page to include the following:

- A copy of the Notice of Land Use Restrictions for the site
- Guidelines for sampling
- Information about the Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup Oversight and Assistance Program (VOAP)

Who is the best contact at TDEC to speak to on this issue?

- Legal inquiries: contact Ellery Richardson at Ellery.R.Richardson@tn.gov
- Citizen & Developer inquiries: contact Cameron Swanson at Cameron.swanson@tn.gov
- Elected Official inquiries: contact Horace Tipton at Horace.Tipton@tn.gov