Radford is an active facility with two existing burn chambers and an open burning ground. Our treatment facilities are designed for multiple types, sizes (from centimeters to a meter), and configurations of propellants and are permitted and compliant with applicable regulations. Radford Ammunition Plant creates multiple types of propellants that create various safety concerns that can prevent the use of the on-site contained burn incinerators. When material cannot be safely introduced into the incinerators for fear of detonation, open burning is the method to ensure safety of our personnel. We are currently in the process of designing a new incineration facility. This facility has been in the installation's plans for years and the design began in April of 2016. One of the project goals is to handle all material created at RFAAP and reduce or eliminate the open burning ground requirement. Because of the multiple types of material requiring treatment, the design is far more complicated than a typical chamber. We anticipate completion of the design in the fall of next year.

With regard to current operations, the Environmental Program Management RFAAP is mature and modern with dedicated treatment facilities for our water discharges, air emissions, and wastes. All activities at RFAAP are regulated by the EPA Region 3 and by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ). RFAAP employs certified experts on both the contractor and Army staffs to execute the environmental program. In addition to our own internal auditing systems, we are routinely audited by outside agencies like EPA and VADEQ dozens of times per year. When compliance issues arise due to equipment failures and other factors, we self-report those instances, correct them, and keep our regulatory community involved. For four years we have conducted voluntary public meetings with the community to provide information about RFAAP’s environmental and modernization programs as well as allow citizens to ask questions. The public can also send inquiries into our dedicated email address and we will respond to those questions and post them on our website.

Groundwater at RFAAP migrates away from municipal and private wells. Detection of perchlorate in off-site wells by non-Army sponsored organizations was recently attributed to agricultural sources. Contributions to public and private well in the area from RFAAP were deemed unlikely according to a 2015 analysis by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

The studies cited are part of a robust environmental restoration program addressing impacts from past practices at Radford. The Corrective Action Permit governs the cleanup of old sites at RFAAP. We are in the final stages of those remediation activities which have been underway for more than 20 years and have addressed many identified areas of contamination. The VADEQ has completed their review of the permit and has held public meetings on 27 January and 10 February 2016 to accept public comments. On 1 April 2016, VADEQ issued a new permit that recognizes clean up to date and sets the conditions for future actions.

Regarding concerns about offsite impacts, ATSDR completed a rigorous analysis of all available data concerning RFAAP’s potential impact to the water supply of the surrounding community. ATSDR released their draft health consultation report on 23
April 2014 and accepted public comments through June 2014. The final report was published 28 January 2015. Both the draft and final reports reached two main conclusions:

1. Public water systems in the area are not adversely affected by releases from RFAAP.
2. Private wells near RFAAP are unlikely to be affected by releases from the facility.

Our air permits and limits are designed by the DEQ and EPA to be protective of human health and the environment. Extensive analysis and risk assessments are conducted to arrive at the permit conditions and limits we adhere to. We have pollution monitors on plant that collect real time pollution data at the source. That data is shared with DEQ and EPA to demonstrate compliance with our permits. The data is also publicly available.