

Reba Parish Personal Interview
May 10, 2014

Mrs. Reba Parish's family owned the land that the missile silo was located on and that the government gained through the use of eminent domain. Mrs. Parish did not want to be recorded, and we have no picture of her. She was an elderly woman who remembered well her families' feelings about losing their land to the government for the silo.

Q. How did you feel about having a missile silo near you? (Both before and after the explosion.)

A. When the silo was installed, we didn't want it on our land, but the government forced us to let it be put there. We tried to make them not put it there, but we were not able to stop it. After the first leak, we were even more afraid of what could happen.

Q. What do you remember from the night of the explosion?

A. We were going to feed our cows, but found a caution light [on the light that was at the entrance to the pasture gate] and were told not to come that way. This was because of the leak. The next morning we evacuated to Clinton, and actually felt the explosion there. Then we went on to Harrison to stay with family.

Q. Did you suffer from any adverse effects?

A. There was a strong smell around when we returned a few days later. One of my daughter's went to get in her car, and the fumes had pooled and she breathed in the fumes. My daughter later suffered from an immune disorder, which they even think might be lupus. The fumes also gave one of our cows liver failure. Debris was everywhere, but they were never told what happened.