



PROPOSED PLAN
FORMER RARITAN ARSENAL
AREA 10
FUDS PROJECT NO. CO2NJ008403
EDISON TOWNSHIP, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

The Proposed Plan

This **proposed plan** presents a no action decision for Area 10 at the Former Raritan Arsenal (FRA) located in Edison and Woodbridge Townships, New Jersey, and summarizes technical documents that demonstrate there are no unacceptable exposure risks for human health or the environment at the site. This proposed plan, prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), provides a review of the investigations conducted of past storage and handling of munitions at Area 10, located within the FRA. This plan summarizes the USACE rationale for recommending no action at Area 10.

INTRODUCTION

This proposed plan provides information to the public regarding investigations of munitions storage and handling at Area 10 within the Former Raritan Arsenal (FRA) located in Edison and Woodbridge Townships, New Jersey (the "site"). This plan provides the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)'s rationale for selection of the no action decision for Area 10, which is based on investigative and removal actions that demonstrate there are no unacceptable exposure risks for human health or the environment that require remedial action.

USACE, New York District, is the lead agency responsible for managing the project and provides required direction and guidance for its execution. The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, and USACE, New England District, provide technical support. The lead regulatory agency is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Federal environmental laws govern characterization and

response activities at former federal facilities. Investigation and environmental restoration of the FRA has been conducted under the **Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP)–Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)**¹. The overall goal of DERP-FUDS is to achieve environmental restoration of the FRA and address potential human health and environmental risks associated with past Department of Defense (DoD) activities. The **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)**, a federal environmental statute, and the **National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)** establish procedures for site investigation, evaluation, and remediation. USACE is required by DERP-FUDS to execute the environmental restoration program in accordance with CERCLA and NCP. USACE has been working within the framework of CERCLA to evaluate potential impacts from past activities at the FRA and identify appropriate remedial responses. NJDEP has been involved in this process. In accordance with federal law and regulations, state involvement is sought in the form of reviews and submission of potential Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) for constituents of concern (COCs) identified by the federal government. USACE has also been conferring with local stakeholders about community concerns regarding the site since 1990.

As the lead agency implementing the environmental response program for the FRA, USACE has prepared this proposed plan in accordance with CERCLA Section 117(a) and Section 300.430(f)(2) of the NCP to continue its community awareness efforts and to encourage public participation. After the public has had the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed plan, USACE will respond to the comments received during the public comment

¹ Please refer to the Glossary of Terms on Page 14.



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

period, including any comments received during the public meeting. The comments will be included in the responsiveness summary of the **Decision Document**. Information about the **public comment period** and the public meeting is shown below.

Public Comments Are Requested

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

August 12 to September 14, 2019 (33 days, not to include start date)

Written comments on this proposed plan may be submitted to USACE during the comment period. Comment letters must be postmarked no later than September 14, 2019, and may be sent to Mr. Matt Creamer (USACE, New York District, Project Manager):

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Mr. Matt Creamer
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Edison, NJ 08837

PUBLIC MEETING

August 20, 2019

USACE will host an information session from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Edison Senior Citizen Center, 2963 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, New Jersey, to provide information and answer questions in an informal setting. This meeting will include a brief introduction and summary by USACE.

USACE will carefully consider all comments received from the public, and responses will be compiled into a responsiveness summary. The decision as to which action is appropriate for the site will be detailed in a decision document, which will include the responsiveness summary.

This proposed plan highlights key information from previous reports prepared for the site, including site characterization details provided in the **remedial investigation (RI)** reports. The **Administrative Record** files and other documents that support this proposed plan are available for review at the information repositories or through the USACE New York District website for the FRA:

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Raritan>

Information Repository:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Edison, NJ 08837

Central Information Repository
USACE New York District Office
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

SITE HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The FRA is located on approximately 3,200 acres on the northern bank of the Raritan River in Middlesex County, New Jersey (Figure 1).

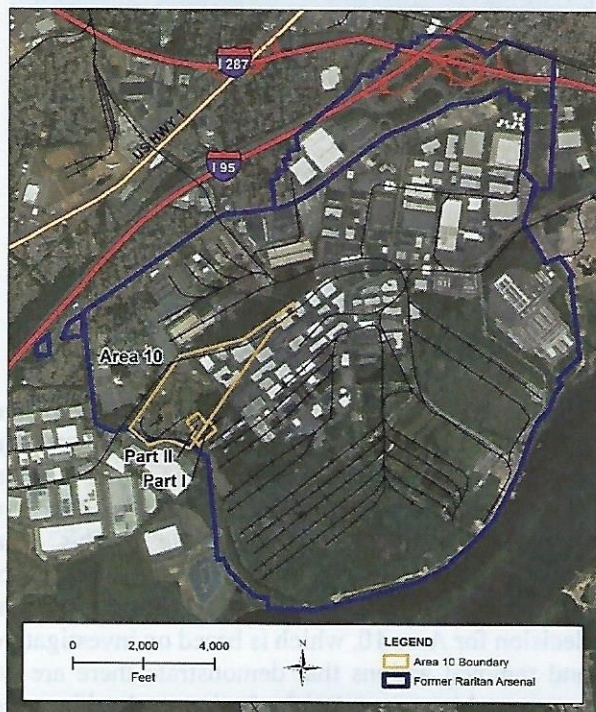


Figure 1. Location of the Former Raritan Arsenal

The majority of the FRA land area lies within Edison Township, with a portion of the site located in Woodbridge Township. It is bordered to the north and northwest by Woodbridge Avenue, to the southwest by Mill Road and the Industrial Land Reclamation Landfill, and to the east by the Raritan River.

The Raritan Arsenal was initially developed to facilitate military shipments during World War I. The initial land purchased for development of the



FRA consisted of tidal marsh, quarries, and farmland. The War Department purchased the land in December 1917, and construction of the Raritan Arsenal was underway by the beginning of 1918. Ordnance was first received at the Raritan Arsenal during the early phases of construction. On May 2, 1918, the Raritan Arsenal contained military facilities that included magazines, a railway network, locomotive houses, docks, warehouses, assembly and process buildings, administration buildings, storage buildings, and living quarters, and was declared operational (Weston, 2007).

The principal function of the Raritan Arsenal was to store, handle, and ship various classes of ordnance and military supplies. Other activities and missions included assembly of automobiles, trucks, tanks, and motorized artillery; preservation, renovation, and manufacture of munitions; salvaging, linking, belting, clipping, packing, demilitarizing, and maintaining ammunition; requisition, research, and development of ordnance; military supply chain management; and troop training.

In March 1961, the DoD announced the proposed disposition of the Raritan Arsenal, and in 1964, the General Services Administration (GSA) began selling the FRA property. At the time of the disposition announcement, the FRA contained approximately 440 buildings and more than 62 miles of roads and railways. Since closure, the site has been redeveloped extensively, primarily for commercial and industrial uses, particularly in the northern portion of the facility.

The FRA currently constitutes one **munitions response site (MRS)** that includes several areas of interest that are in various states of investigation or remediation. Area 10 is in the west-central portion of the FRA, and encompasses approximately 143 acres (see Figure 1). The northeastern portion of Area 10 is part of the heavily developed Raritan Center. The remainder of Area 10 is developed as part of Thomas A. Edison County Park.

Area 10 consists of a portion of the former Arsenal known as the Former Wastewater Treatment and Magazine Areas. During World War II and the postwar period, the magazines in Area 10 were used for storing small arms ammunition, inert material, 20-millimeter (mm) to 105-mm shells, 2,4,6-

trinitrotoluene (TNT), and Composition C explosives (Metcalf & Eddy, 1991). In 1919, an explosion at former Magazine Building E-31 destroyed six magazines and scattered ammunition, various caliber cartridge cases, and miscellaneous components over an area now designated as Area 10, Parts I and II.

Area 10 was also reported to have been used for de-priming cartridge cases within former magazines B5 and B6. Former magazines B5 and B6 were located at the east end of railroad line B, and during initial investigations of the area, the presence of small arms ammunition, cartridge cases, and primers found adjacent to the former A-line railroad track were attributed to the de-priming activity. Another minor source of potential **munitions and explosives of concern (MEC)** release may have occurred during the transport of items along the historical rail lines. This type of release mechanism is not considered to be significant and is evidenced only by several inert ammunition components and 10 to 15 items related to 50-caliber ammunition that were found in areas along the old railroad beds during the 1974 (items classified as **munitions debris [MD]**) construction at Thomas A. Edison County Park.

Area 10 housed a sewage disposal plant that was located between railroad lines B and D. The sewage disposal plant is believed to have been constructed between 1934 and 1943, and is believed to have operated until the Arsenal phase-out in the early 1960s. The treatment plant, including its foundation and adjacent buildings, was removed by Middlesex County in 1991 (Roy F. Weston, 1996a).

A decontamination study of the FRA was conducted in 1963 as part of the decommissioning process. The study was begun under the direction of Raritan Arsenal personnel and was completed under the direction of personnel from Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD) and the U.S. Army Materiel Command Safety Office. LEAD identified 17 areas within the FRA as potentially contaminated by ordnance-related activities. Standard operating procedures for decontaminating the 17 areas were prepared, approved by the Safety Office, and carried out during closure of the FRA. Based on the LEAD investigation, Parts I and II of Area 10 were recommended for surface use only. The remainder of