



Munitions Remedial Investigation Planned, Begins Summer 2012

This fact sheet describes an upcoming investigation at the former Raritan Arsenal, called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). This effort will include a Military Munitions Response Program investigation for approximately 976 acres of the former Arsenal site (see Figure 1 on page 2).

Although munitions have been removed from many locations in the developed part of the site over the years, this will be the first comprehensive investigation of the large undeveloped wetlands area shown on Figure 1.

Site History

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been investigating the former Raritan Arsenal for over 20 years, under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection provides regulatory oversight.

The former Raritan Arsenal occupied approximately 3,200 acres and was bounded by Woodbridge Avenue and the Raritan River between Mill Road and Clearview Avenue.

It was used for U.S. Army operations from 1917 to 1963. The main function of the former Arsenal was to store, handle, and ship various classes of ordnance and military supplies.

During Arsenal operations, waste materials including ordnance were routinely buried on site. Some live ordnance was disposed of by open burning/open detonation. These were standard methods of disposal at that time.

Since closure in 1963, the former Arsenal has been redeveloped extensively, mainly for commercial and industrial uses, especially in the northern portion of the facility.

Corps investigations of the former Arsenal have found that ordnance and hazardous and toxic waste contamination were present. As significant health and safety threats were identified, they have been addressed.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Using advanced metal detection techniques and sampling soil and groundwater, the Remedial Investigation will identify safety or environmental hazards in 12 areas at the former Arsenal (see Table 1 on page 2). The goals of the investigation are to:

- Define the *nature* (how much, what kind) and *extent* (how large an area) of munitions and explosives of concern, munitions constituents (chemicals associated with munitions and explosives), and other hazardous and toxic waste
- Provide information to assess the risks and hazards to human health, safety, and the environment posed by munitions and other contaminants
- Provide the data needed to define remedial alternatives in the Feasibility Study
- Provide information to support development of a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (for public review and comments) and a Decision Document.

Table 1 lists the areas to be investigated and where they are located in reference to the Site Map (Figure 1).

Most are in the undeveloped wetlands area or in the industrial area. Area 18D is on Middlesex County College (MCC) property, adjacent to the Beechwood community. Area 10 includes part of Middlesex County property (Thomas Edison Park).

The work will be conducted in a way that will protect the safety of everyone in the area.

The remedial investigation is currently in the planning phase. More detailed information will be made available before the investigation begins in summer 2012.

For More Information

Sandra L. Pietro, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District

Jacob K. Javits Federal Building, 26 Federal Plaza,
Room 1811, New York, NY 10278-0090

(917)790-8487 Sandra.L.Pietro@usace.army.mil

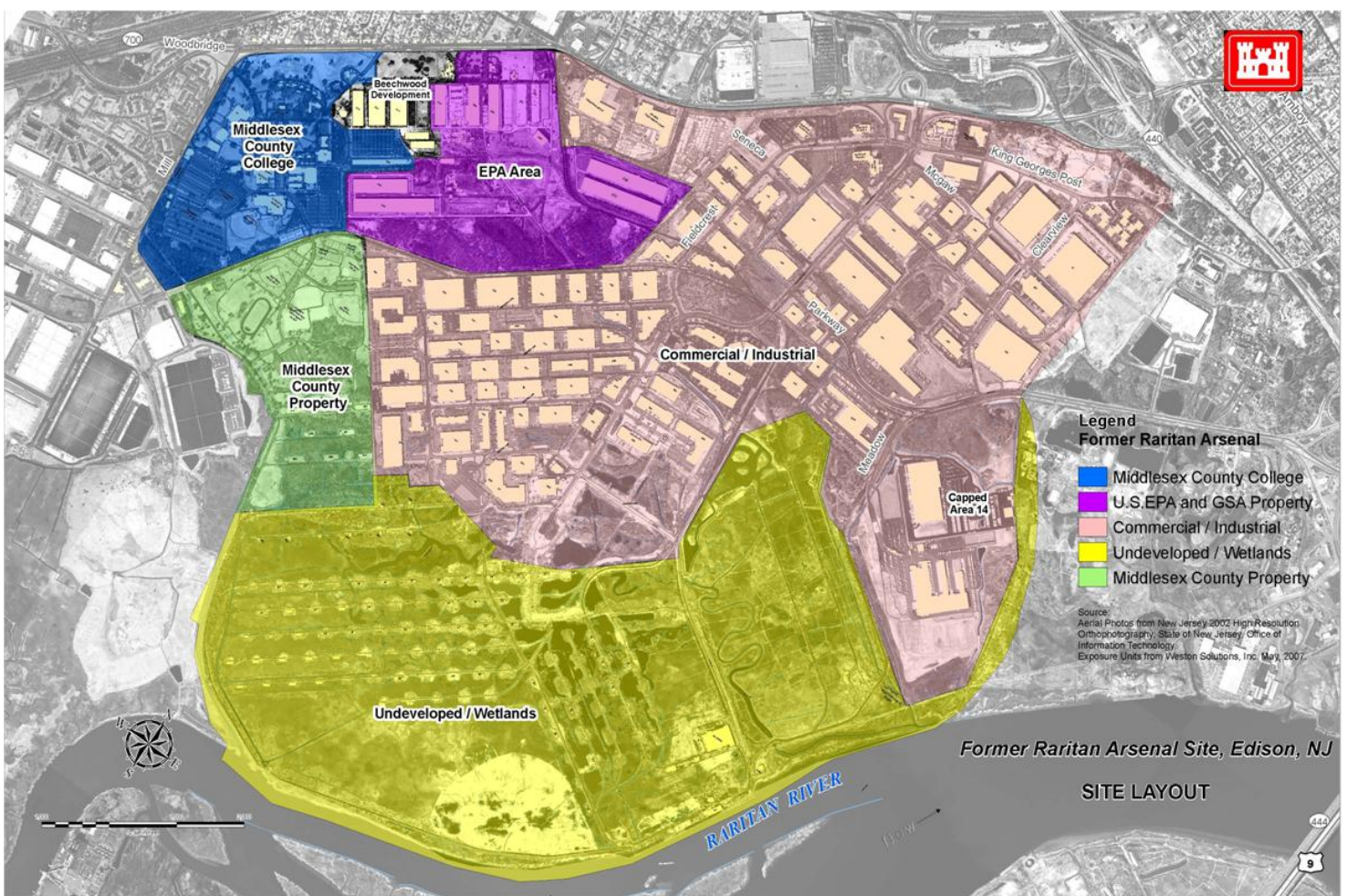


Figure 1 – Site Map of the former Raritan Arsenal showing current land uses

TABLE 1

Areas to be Investigated	Located in (see map above)	Acres	Investigation of	
			Munitions and Explosives of Concern	Munitions Constituents and Hazardous Waste
Area 1: Former Demolition Area	EPA/GSA	0.57		X
Areas 6, 6A, 6B: Former Burning Ground and Impoundment Area	Undeveloped Wetlands	130		X
Area 10, 10C: Former Waste Water Treatment and Magazine Area	Middlesex County	140	Area 10C only	X
Area 11: Former Dredged Material and Explosives Area	Undeveloped Wetlands	11		X
Area 12: Former Dredged Material and Explosives Detonation Area	Undeveloped Wetlands	84	X	X
Area 13: Submerged Dock Area (Raritan River shoreline)	Undeveloped Wetlands	8	X	X
Area 16: Former Magazine Area	Undeveloped Wetlands	277		X
Area 18D: Trench of Shell Casings	EPA/GSA, MCC	31	X	X
Area 19: Former Magazine Area	Industrial	294		X