



Munitions Remedial Investigation is Beginning

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 1,000 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.

Fieldwork for the Remedial Investigation will start in late October 2013. One of the areas to be investigated is immediately south of the Centreplace at Edison condominiums.

Site History

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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, along with Middlesex Community College (MCC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency EPA, and Thomas Edison Park.

USACE investigations of the former Arsenal have found that areas of 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 environmental sampling, the Remedial Investigation will identify safety or environmental hazards in 12 areas at the former Arsenal. 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). Figure 2 shows the investigation area boundaries.

Most are in the undeveloped wetlands area or in the industrial area. Area 18D is on Middlesex County College (MCC) property, next to the southern boundary fence of the Centreplace at Edison community. Area 10 Part I 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is coordinating this investigation with public safety officials in Edison Township, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other agencies to ensure the public's safety, the safety of on-site workers, and protection of the environment.

The USACE is committed to keeping the public, Raritan Business Park property owners and tenants, and local government informed about what is happening, and when it will be happening. More information will be provided as the work progresses.

Figure 1 – Site Map of the former Raritan Arsenal

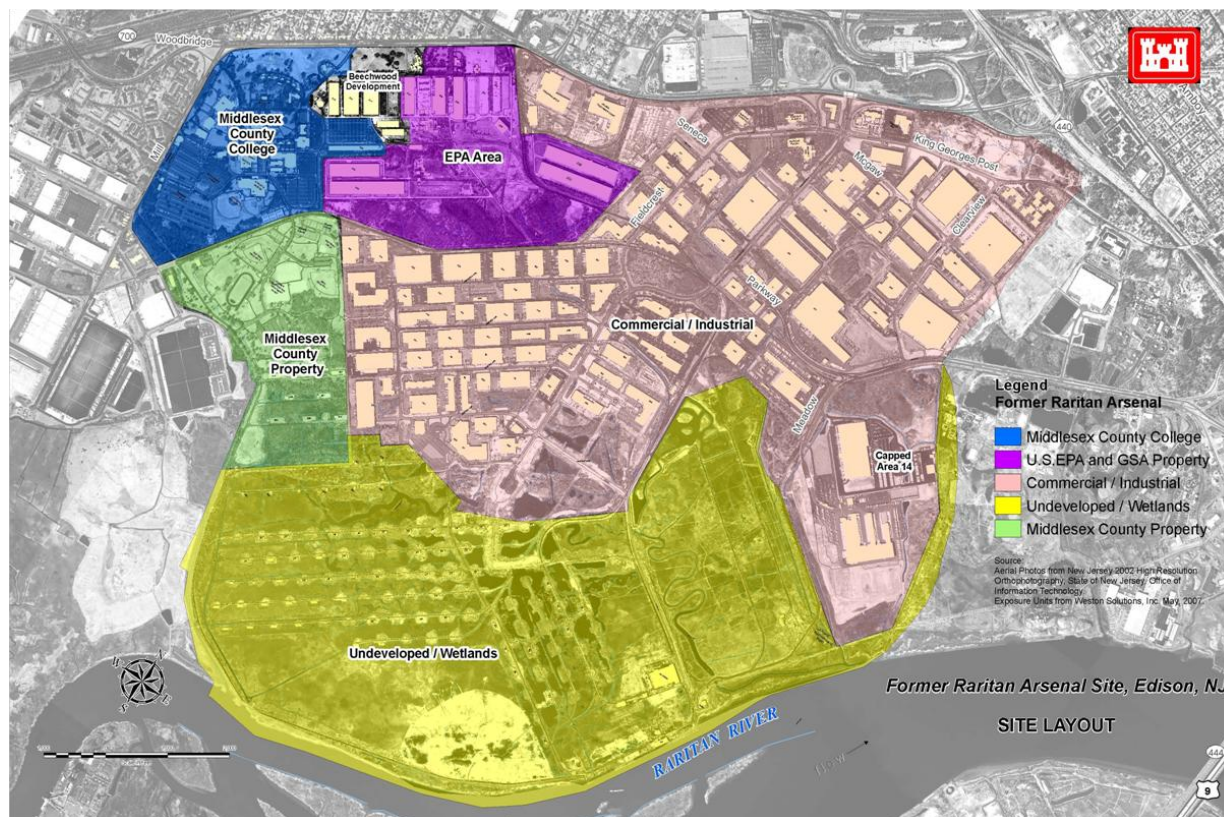


Table 1 – Areas to be Investigated

	Located in (see Figure 1)	Acres	Investigation of	
			Munitions and Explosives of Concern	Munitions Constituents and Hazardous Waste
Area 1: Former Demolition Area	EPA/GSA property	0.57		✓
Areas 6, 6A, 6B: Former Burning Ground and Impoundment Area	Undeveloped Wetlands	130	✓	✓
Area 10, 10 (Part I): Former Waste Water Treatment and Magazine Area	Middlesex County	140	(Part I only)	✓
Area 11: Former Dredged Material and Explosives Area	Undeveloped Wetlands	11	✓	✓
Area 12: Former Dredged Material and Explosives Detonation Area	Undeveloped Wetlands	82	✓	✓
Area 13: Submerged Dock Area (Raritan River shoreline)	Undeveloped Wetlands	23	✓	✓
Area 16: Former Magazine Area	Undeveloped Wetlands	277		✓
Area 18D: Trench of Shell Casings (see Figure 2)	EPA/GSA, MCC	31	✓	✓
Area 19: Former Magazine Area / Area 9: Former Magazine H-65 Explosion Area	Industrial	294		✓
Dredge Spoils Area (DSA)	(multiple locations)	645	✓	✓

Figure 2 – Investigation Area 18D near Centreplace at Edison



A Phased Approach for Remedial Investigation

Phase I (October 2013-December 2013): A Digital Geophysical Mapping (DGM) survey will provide data on specific locations where munitions might be present.

Phase II (January 2014-summer 2014): Selected metallic objects located by the DGM survey will be dug up, to determine if they are munitions or other metallic objects, for example pipes or poles.

Phase III (summer 2014): Samples from surface and subsurface soil will be collected and analyzed.

What Will Happen in Phase I?

Vegetation will be cut and cleared to allow for surface clearance and the DGM survey.

Surface clearance: Trained personnel will walk over the areas to be investigated and will pick up surface metallic objects that could interfere with the planned DGM.

DGM Survey: Skilled geophysicists will walk linear paths across the study area, with specialized metal detection equipment that will map the locations of buried metallic objects.

Munitions discovery: If a munition is discovered on the surface, it will be handled one of two ways:

- If it is deemed safe to move, it will be moved to a remote location where it will be destroyed.
- If it is not safe to move, engineering controls such as sandbags, soil, etc., will be used to conduct a safe controlled detonation.

For More Information

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You are invited to a Public Meeting

In late October 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, will begin a munitions investigation at the former Raritan Arsenal, which will include an area immediately south of the Centreplace at Edison Condominiums.

To learn more about this investigation, please join us:

Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 7pm – 9pm

Edison Senior Center ▪ 2963 Woodbridge Avenue ▪ Edison, New Jersey

Agenda

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm: Open House – View posters and talk with team members

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presentation followed by questions and discussion

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