



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

## You are invited to a Public Meeting

In early November 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, will begin a munitions investigation on and near the former Raritan Arsenal, which will *include the wetlands area south of the Raritan River and north of Sayreville Boulevard, immediately north of the Sheffield Towne community.*

### To learn more about this investigation, please join us:

**Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Sayreville Borough Hall (Council Chambers) – 167 Main Street, Sayreville, 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**

Department of the Army  
New York District, Corps of Engineers  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 1811  
New York, N.Y. 10278-0090



**Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)**

**Former Raritan Arsenal**

Edison, New Jersey

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**October 2013**

## Munitions Remedial Investigation is Beginning Fieldwork South of the Raritan River in Sayreville

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New York District, is beginning a munitions investigation to identify potential safety or environmental hazards in 12 areas on or near the former Raritan Arsenal, *including the wetlands area between the Raritan River and Sayreville Boulevard (see Figure 1).*

This investigation is part of an ongoing environmental program that the USACE has been conducting at the former Raritan Arsenal for more than 20 years. This is the first investigation that will focus on largely undeveloped wetlands areas, including an area south of the Raritan River.

*Fieldwork for the Remedial Investigation will start in early November 2013.*

### Investigation Area

The upcoming investigation, called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), will include a Military Munitions Response Program investigation for approximately 1,000 acres of the former arsenal site, of which approximately 228 acres are located in the wetlands area south of the river.

The former Raritan Arsenal was used for U.S. Army operations from 1917 to 1963. The lower Raritan River was dredged in the 1940s and 1950s to maintain a channel and turning basin for ships loading and unloading at the former Raritan Arsenal. The dredged materials were deposited in six areas on and near the former arsenal property, known as the Dredge Spoils Area (DSA). The dredged material (“spoils”) may have included discarded military munitions (DMM) that had fallen off cargo ships during loading and unloading.

For the purposes of this investigation, these areas have been grouped into the Northern Area and the Southern Area. The Southern Area includes DSA #5, a 228-acre area of wetlands along the southern shore of the river, just north of Sheffield Towne community, and DSA #6, one of two small islands known as the Crab Islands.

Historical records indicate that, in 1975, the river was dredged to increase its depth for shipping. The dredge spoils were most likely placed in an 8-acre parcel of land

(in the northeast portion of DSA #5) referred to as the “Spoils Area.” The “Spoils Area” was used by the Town of Sayreville during installation of a sewer plant effluent diffuser in the river bed. In 1993, USACE conducted a removal action in this area, in which 245 ordnance items were removed from a depth of 4 to 8 feet.

In 2012, records research identified historical maps from the 1950s showing the permitted limits of dredge spoils disposal along the shorelines of the river, including what has now been designated DSA #5. Because of the ordnance items found in the “Spoils Areas” in 1993, USACE has added all of the DSA #5 area to this munitions investigation.

### Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Using advanced metal detection techniques and environmental sampling, the Remedial Investigation will identify safety or environmental hazards in the 12 investigation areas. 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.

### A Phased Approach for Remedial Investigation

**Phase I** (November 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, such as 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, such as the invasive plant phragmites, bushes, and small trees, 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.

**Site Safety and Public Information**

**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 the Borough of Sayreville, 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 and local government informed about what is happening, and when it will be happening. A public meeting is scheduled to provide more information about the upcoming investigation (see back page) and another meeting will be held in December or January to present the Phase I results and the next steps.



Wetlands area along south side of Raritan River

**Site Background**

The USACE has been investigating and cleaning up ordnance and old waste disposal sites at the former Raritan Arsenal for more than 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. 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 Raritan Arsenal has been redeveloped extensively, mainly for commercial and industrial uses (Raritan Business Park), along with Middlesex Community College, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Thomas Edison Park.

**For More Information**

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**Project website**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District:**  
[www.nan.usace.army.mil/Raritan](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Raritan)



**Figure 1** Former Raritan Arsenal boundary [blue outline] Investigation Areas [yellow box] Dredge Spoil Area [red box]



The “3 Rs” of munitions safety are always important to know, especially in areas around formerly-used defense sites. Munitions are sometimes hard to identify. If you have found something you even think *might* be a munition:

- RECOGNIZE: Do not touch it
- RETREAT: Note the location and move away
- REPORT: Call 911

