

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY



SEPTEMBER 2020

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES

Across the country, the Department of Defense acquired properties, often during times of war, to use for military training, testing and demonstrations. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals or other government entities. These Formerly Used Defense Sites can range from privately owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, industrial and educational properties. We are committed to protecting people and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these properties. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites was established to evaluate and, if necessary, to remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) manages the program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, in 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986. These laws give the Corps the authority for certain cleanup activities and dictate the process we must follow. We conduct investigations to determine the potential risk to people and the environment from the military's use of the property. Public involvement and community participation are important components of the process. The Corps partners with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local governments, regulatory and environmental agencies, and affected property owners.

BACKGROUND

The former Hingham Naval Ammo Depot, and the six associated munitions response sites are in Plymouth County and Norfolk County on the northern edge of the Weymouth Back River in Hingham and Weymouth, MA, approximately 15 miles south of Boston. The Hingham Naval Ammo Depot was comprised of 991 acres of land and water in, and surrounding, the Weymouth Back River. Currently, the former Hingham Naval Ammo Depot is the property of the towns of Weymouth and Hingham and several other smaller landholders. The Navy used the Hingham Naval Ammo Depot as a transportation point to supply ordnance to ships and aircraft primarily during the preparation and engagement of World Wars I and II. The Navy's construction of the buildings and other improvements began in 1909. The property was closed in 1960 and reported to General Services Administration for disposal in 1962.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

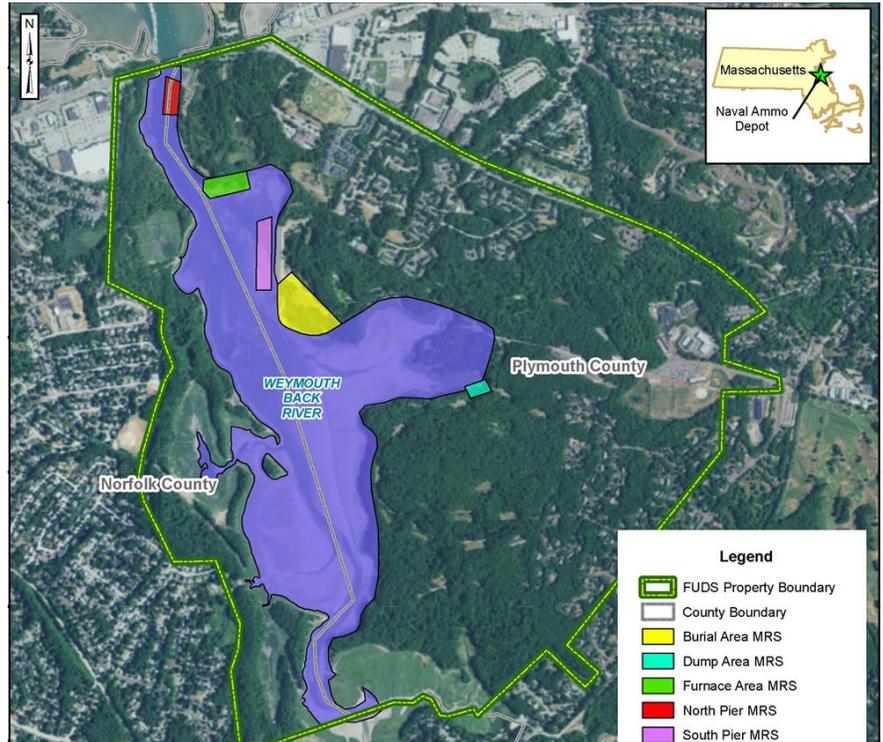
Over the years, the Corps has conducted investigations to evaluate if any military-related materials remain at the site. We completed a Site Inspection in 2008 and concluded that a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is necessary for the following project areas: North Pier, Dump Area, South Pier, Furnace Area, Weymouth Back River, and Burial Area. The North Pier and South Pier were 1.8-acre and 3.5-acre areas, respectively, used for transportation of packaged ammunition. The Dump Area was a 1-acre dump area on a steep bank on the edge of the Weymouth Back River, used for disposal of solid waste and potentially munitions related items. The Furnace Area was a 3-acre area used for disposal of unserviceable and unused munitions. The Weymouth Back River site encompasses is 227 acres in and around the Weymouth Back River (203 acres of water and 24 acres of land), used for transportation of packaged ammunition. The Burial Area is an 8.2-acre area that was used for the disposal of solid waste, to potentially include munitions related items.

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Hingham Naval Ammo Depot

The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was conducted between 2018 and 2020; the purpose was to determine if any munitions related items or their residual by-products remain in the area from the military's use of the property, and if so, in what amounts and in what location.

The fieldwork included searching for munitions related items and collecting environmental samples to test for metals and explosives. No munitions and explosives of concern were found during the field investigation (or field work). Environmental sampling concluded there were no human health or environmental concerns from munitions related items or their residual by-products remain in the area.

The results will be summarized in a document called a Proposed Plan which will present the alternatives. The alternatives can range from no further action being necessary to educating the public about the site to conducting a removal action to search for and remove munitions. When the Proposed Plan is ready, the Corps will present it at a public meeting, and the public will have 30 days to review and submit comments on the plan.



SAFETY FIRST: Remember the 3Rs

Because of the military use at the sites, never touch, move or disturb something you think may be a munition. Remember the 3Rs.

RECOGNIZE – THE ITEM YOU FOUND COULD BE DANGEROUS

RETREAT – LEAVE THE ITEM WHERE IT IS, DO NOT TOUCH IT, AND LEAVE THE AREA

REPORT – CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY AND REPORT WHAT YOU FOUND



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone: 978-318-8180

Email: Gina.A.Kaso@usace.army.mil (Subject: Hingham NAD FUDS Information Request)

Project documents can be viewed at:

Hingham Public Library
66 Leavitt Street, Hingham, MA 02043
Telephone: 781-741-1405

Tufts Library (Weymouth)
46 Broad Street, Weymouth, MA 02188
Telephone: 781-337-1402

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

