



FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES PROGRAM SUMMARY

April 2008

Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS)

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to correcting environmental damage caused by its activities. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of the Department of Defense. Formerly used defense sites (FUDS) are those properties that the DoD once owned or used for military demonstrations, training and testing, but no longer controls. These properties can range from privately-owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential areas, schools, colleges, and industrial areas.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 gave DoD the authority for certain cleanup activities at former DoD sites in the United States and its territories.

DERP-FUDS goals

- Identification, investigation and cleanup of contamination from DoD activities
- Detection and disposal of unexploded ordnance
- Demolition and removal of unsafe buildings and structures



Several 23-lb. fragmentation bombs, detonated at Odyssey Middle School on the former Pinecastle Jeep Range, Orlando, Fla. Some were empty and some contained explosives. The white cord is the detonating cord, used during the removal operations.

Site Eligibility

The DERP-FUDS requires that a site must have been owned by, leased to, possessed by or otherwise under the jurisdiction of DoD, and resulting in hazardous environmental conditions. A FUDS may include manufacturing facilities that were owned or leased by DoD but operated by contractors, sites where DoD had a documented presence and sites that were used for the disposal of DoD materials or waste. The following sites are not eligible for cleanup or reimbursement:

- Sites outside U.S. jurisdiction
- Sites where current owners have used facilities such as underground storage tanks or buildings, or have expended funds to clean up contamination or remove unsafe debris
- Sites for which the DoD component that owned or used the site has accepted full restoration responsibility
- United Services Organization sites
- Civil Works sites
- Cemeteries
- Sites for which no records are available

Types of Projects

FUDS projects fall within one or more of the following categories:

- *Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste*
Cleanup and removal of hazardous substances.

Projects in this category include removal of underground and above ground storage tanks, drums and electrical transformers. These projects are called containerized hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste projects. Other projects in this category include removal of soil or groundwater contaminated with hazardous substances. Also included are projects for removal of other hazardous substances or wastes. In addition, this category includes projects for cleanup of environmental problems associated with contaminated landfills.

- *Building Demolition and/or Debris Removal*
Removal and demolition of structurally unsafe buildings or towers and/or removal of unsafe debris.
- *Ordnance and Explosive Waste*
Identification and removal of abandoned ordnance and explosive waste such as bombs, bullets, and rockets. Also included are projects for removal or remediation of explosive contaminated soil and chemical warfare material.

Three Major Phases of the FUDS program

- **Inventory:** The inventory phase includes searches of real estate records to verify previous DoD ownership or usage. As part of the inventory process, a preliminary assessment is made to determine the site eligibility, severity of environmental problems and need for cleanup. If no contamination is found, no further action will be taken. However, if the property owners or regulators later find that contamination exists and was caused by DoD, they may contact us for reevaluation of that site.
- **Study:** The study phase consists of a several investigations including a site inspection and a remedial investigation and feasibility study. The site inspection is to confirm contamination. During the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, we delineate the extent of environmental damage and determine how best to clean up the contamination. The selection of an environmentally safe cleanup method is also part of this phase. At sites where numerous parties may have contributed to the contamination, the share of DoD liability is also determined.
- **Removal/Remediation:** This phase consists of the engineering design and the necessary action to clean up the site. Sometimes it also includes additional operations and maintenance phases to address contamination.

After work on a site is completed and regulatory agencies have reviewed and confirmed that it no longer poses a public safety or environmental risk, remedial action on the site is considered complete. However, if the property owners or regulators later find that contamination exists and was caused by DoD, they may contact us for reevaluation of that site.

Program Management

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the DERP-FUDS program. Policies are developed based on DoD guidance, and funds are allocated to local Corps divisions and districts to perform FUDS remediation. Work is prioritized based on risk to public safety and the environment, with those sites with the greatest potential danger receiving the highest priority. Normally these are areas where people live, work or attend school.

FUDS projects can take about two years to up to 10 years or more to complete. Project duration depends on the size of the site, the complexity of the cleanup and the available funding. If subsequent operation and maintenance activities are required, the project may extend beyond ten years. No two projects are ever quite the same. One thing that does remain constant is the need for strong partnership between the Corps of Engineers, regulatory agencies, and stakeholders and for the active involvement of the affected communities.



Public Affairs specialist speaks with the Orlando Sentinel at Odyssey Middle School.

Public Involvement

Public values and concerns are an important element of the cleanup process. The Corps works closely with property owners and adjacent residents prior to and while working on a site. Personal contacts, small group meetings, workshops and public meetings facilitate two-way communication so important to the decision-making process. Through information meetings, Web sites, brochures, fact sheets and other products, the public is apprised of the progress of the work.

A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) may be established at a site where there is sufficient community interest. The purpose of the RAB is to review progress of projects and establish a collaborative dialogue between the local community and the government agencies responsible for the cleanup. The RAB is jointly chaired by a Corps and a community representative.

For More Information

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