

Public Notices



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

Munitions Response Site Prioritization St. Juliens Creek Annex

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Mid-Atlantic, has updated a munitions response site prioritization scoring for munitions response Area UXO 1 located at St. Juliens Creek Annex (SJCA), Chesapeake, Virginia. The results of the initial scoring, which were previously submitted for public input, have been modified based upon the findings of the quality assurance panel during their review. The quality assurance panel review is required to ensure consistent review and scoring of all munitions response sites. The primary change from the previous scoring, which reduced the chemical warfare materiel hazard scoring but not the overall priority of the site, documents that no known or suspected chemical warfare materiel hazard is expected in association with Area UXO 1. This revised scoring will be used to sequence Area UXO 1 with other Navy/Marine Corps munitions response sites for response actions. Area UXO 1 consists of the submerged areas surrounding the current and former wharfs of SCJA historically used for munitions loading in the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River.

Background: The Munitions Response Program works to reduce potential risks from unexploded ordnance (UXO), discarded military munitions (DMM), and munitions constituents (MC) at ranges that are no longer operational, munitions burial sites, former target ranges, and other areas where site-specific operations may have resulted in the release of UXO, DMM, or MC. These are referred to as "munitions response sites." The Department of Defense (DoD) is required by Congress to set priorities for investigating all munitions response sites, based on overall conditions at these locations and the potential risk posed to human health and the environment. Prioritization is based on current available data and may change as additional data are collected.

After prioritization, the sites are sequenced for response action, in comparison with other Navy/Marine Corps sites. DoD policy is that a munitions response site with higher relative risks will be dealt with before a site with lower relative risks. Other factors, such as future land use, cultural and economic factors, and ecological impacts, also can influence sequencing decisions.

Munitions Response Site: A preliminary assessment of the site was completed in June 2009. The preliminary assessment included an initial prioritization scoring and recommended the site for further investigation and scoring evaluation. Following completion of the preliminary assessment, a site inspection was conducted in February 2010. The site inspection was performed to determine the location of geophysical anomalies in the sediments in the vicinity of the wharf areas.

Area UXO 1: Consists of approximately 2,330 linear feet of current and former wharf area along the shoreline of the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The site encompasses the former northern wharf area and the southern wharf area, which were primarily used for the loading and unloading of munitions at SJCA from the late-1890s until the mid-1970s. The areas are under examination for potential munitions that may have been dropped into the water during loading operations.

For More Information

For more information about these sites
or the Munitions Response Program at SJCA, please contact:

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Copies of the Preliminary Assessment Report, Site Inspection Report, and revised Munitions Response Site Prioritization Scoring can be obtained by contacting the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Public Affairs Office.

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