



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

Media Advisory

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Project Update: Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot

Suffolk, VA – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) continues ordnance and environmental investigations at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) site in Suffolk, Va., under the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program.

Land Use Controls – There has been a great deal of discussion at the last few Restoration Advisory Board meetings about land use controls. The Corps has initiated agreements with the City of Suffolk, TCC, and GE to reduce risk and public exposure to possible explosive hazards at known or suspected munitions sites on former depot property where the Corps has completed, is conducting, or is planning munitions investigations. The land use controls being implemented include: fences and signs; landowner construction support; building permit reviews; zoning variance application reviews; advisories (deed notices); and public education and notification efforts. Certain land use controls, such as community education and general notice to new landowners of prior military use, apply to the whole FNOD property boundary. Actual land use restrictions will only apply to the known or suspected munitions sites determined by historical records review and the Corps' prior site survey work.

Munitions Response Efforts – As part of the ongoing cleanup of old munitions on the Nansemond site, the Corps has removed 16 Discarded Military Munitions items from FNOD so far this year. These items were removed from the Main Burning Ground area (located on GE property), adjacent TCC property north of Welner Drive, and a sliver of land near Bridgeway Commerce Park, south of Welner Drive. The types of munitions removed include: 20mm, 40mm and 37mm projectiles, most of which were partially burned out and contained a small residual amount of explosive.

Parent Advisory/Public Safety Warning – As the warmer weather approaches, the Army Corps wants to remind parents of children bicycling and playing near the GE property and the remote areas of Tidewater Community College, Portsmouth campus, that the Corps has clearly marked its study areas with caution signs to keep people out of harm's way. However, in many cases, the signs are being ignored. Parents are again urged to educate their children not to play in these marked areas with the posted warning signs.

Next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting -- The status of the Corps' site plans and activities will be discussed at the next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on Thursday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Bon Secours Health Center at Harbour View, located at 5818 Harbour View Boulevard in Suffolk, in the second floor conference room. RAB meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Meeting topics will include:

- Environmental Studies Update
- Background Study Findings
- Landowner Updates
- Regulator Updates
- Munitions Response Update

Background on the Restoration Advisory Board -- The Restoration Advisory Board was established in 1997. It is a communications forum that enables the public to provide input on cleanup efforts to the Corps and the environmental regulators. It is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders including community members, local business representatives, local and state officials, a TCC representative and environmental staff from the Corps, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA. For more information please check out the project website at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Nansemond/welcome.html> or contact Adriane James, FUDs Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (757) 201-7701.

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