



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

Summary of FUSRAP Activities at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant

OPERATIONAL RANGE AND MILITARY MUNITIONS RULE



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District, is conducting an environmental cleanup program at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant for sites formerly used by the Atomic Energy Commission to process material for national defense activities starting in the 1940s. The program responsible for this work is the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

The FY 1998 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, in which Congress transferred management of FUSRAP to the USACE, was signed into law on October 13, 1997. Prior to the signing of this bill, FUSRAP had been managed by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The USACE encourages private citizens to participate fully in the cleanup program.

To learn more about the IAAAP FUSRAP areas or to inquire about public involvement opportunities, call

314.260.3905

or write

FUSRAP Project Office, St. Louis
District, Corps of Engineers Office
8945 Latty Avenue
Berkeley, MO 63134

BACKGROUND

USACE is conducting response actions under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant (IAAAP) at specific locations previously used by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the early years of the nation's atomic energy program. One of the areas designated for response under FUSRAP is the Firing Site Area (FSA). The FSA is a fenced site located in the western portion of the IAAAP that encompasses 450 acres (1,821,085 m²) and contains several individual firing sites. The FSA was developed by the AEC to support test firing of munitions for the IAAAP and was used by the AEC between 1948 and 1974. The FSA continues to be used by the U.S. Army.

WHAT IS AN OPERATIONAL RANGE?

An "operational range" is a range that is under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Secretary of a military department and 1) is used for range activities, or 2) although not currently being used for range activities, is still considered by the Secretary to be a range and has not been put to a new use that is incompatible with range activities. 10 U.S.C. §101(e).

The FSA is currently an operational testing range being used by the U.S. Army to test military munitions. Historically, munitions containing depleted uranium (DU) were tested at the site. Munitions containing DU, however, are no longer tested at the FSA.

WHAT IS THE MILITARY MUNITIONS RULE?

The Military Munitions Rule (MMR) recognizes that conducting environmental response actions at operational ranges conflicts with the United State's need to maintain its military capabilities through training and testing, until the site has been put to a new use that is incompatible with range activities.

In particular, The MMR identifies when military munitions become solid wastes potentially subject to hazardous waste regulation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA, Pub. L. 94-580). Under the MMR, a military munition is not solid waste when "used for its intended purposes". In addition, used or fired military munitions found on operational ranges do not become solid waste until they are removed from the site of use and transported for treatment or disposal. 42 C.F.R. §262.202. Because the munitions are not considered solid waste, the munitions found on operational ranges are not hazardous waste and are not subject to RCRA regulation.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF FUSRAP RESPONSE AT THE FSA?

FUSRAP response actions at the FSA will address DU contaminated soils. DU present at the FSA is a product of historic AEC operations at IAAAP, which are no longer conducted, and is not considered a munition subject to the MMR. FUSRAP response actions will also fully address any other chemical, metal, or explosive contamination that is commingled with soils containing DU. This scope of FUSRAP response is consistent with the December 2006 Dispute Resolution Agreement executed between the U.S. Environmental Agency and the Department of the Army.