

WHAT IS DEPLETED URANIUM?



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

Uranium is one of the most common radioactive elements. You can find it in soil anywhere in the United States.

Uranium ore is mined and then processed. Processing separates the highly radioactive isotope (uranium-235) so it can be used for nuclear power and weapons. The remaining uranium is called **depleted uranium** (DU). DU is less radioactive than natural uranium. DU is still thought to be related to health problems and needs to be managed carefully.

At the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, the Atomic Energy Commission used DU in weapons testing in the 1960s and 1970s. At a few IAAAP areas, DU can still be found in the soil or structures.

The Proposed Plan describes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' the preferred remedy for DU contamination at IAAAP.



A scientist used radiological equipment to find depleted uranium.



This fragment of depleted uranium was found at Firing Site 12.