



# Tobyhanna Artillery Range Formerly Used Defense Site, PA

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**FACT SHEET as of February 1, 2015**

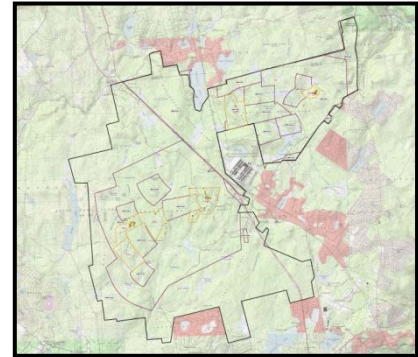
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**AUTHORIZATION:** Defense Environmental Restoration Program

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS)

**PROJECT PHASE:** Record of Decision (ROD)

**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators **Casey** and **Toomey (PA)** and Representatives **Marino (PA-10)** and **Cartwright (PA-17)**



**BACKGROUND:** Tobyhanna State Park and adjacent State Gamelands #127 comprise approximately 25,000 acres of the former Tobyhanna Artillery Range, which was an active military installation from 1912 until its transfer to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1949. Much of the property served as an artillery range and impact area during World War I (1914 - 1918) and again at the beginning of World War II (1937 - 1941). The State Park and State Gamelands are classified as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) under the Defense Environmental Program (DERP). Ordnance fired at the site includes 37mm, 75mm, and 155mm conventional munitions. The former artillery range is adjacent to Tobyhanna Army Depot, an active military installation.

The Corps teamed with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to perform a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (R/IFS). Under a unique joint venture arrangement, PADEP funded the \$3.1 Million RI/FS contract, and the Corps provided substantial technical and safety oversight to the RI/FS effort. The RI/FS identified the nature and extent of Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) and Munitions Constituents (MC) in the approximately 25,000 acres of the Tobyhanna State Park and State Gamelands # 127. The RI/FS determined the extent and cost of UXO removal projects required at the state park and gamelands.

The Corps awarded a contract in 2005 to perform a \$ 3.3 Time Critical Removal Action of MEC along the north border of the site (Park) adjacent to a new housing development. This project was completed successfully in the Fall of 2006 and was fully coordinated with officials from Monroe and Wayne Counties, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

During the RI/FS the FUDS site was divided into 16 munitions response sites (MRSs). The MRS's were designated as low, low to moderate, and high risk based on the explosives safety risk from UXO. The selected remedy for the nine (9) MRSs categorized as high risk is Removal of UXO to Detection Depth with follow-on Land Use Controls. The selected remedy for the seven (7) MRSs categorized as low or low to moderate is Land Use Controls. No MC issues were identified in any of the 16 MRS's.

**STATUS:** A Record of Decision was signed by the Department of Army in September, 2010. Removal actions/UXO clearances began (RAC) in two (2) of the high risk MRS's in 2010, as outlined in the decision document. The removal action for these two MRS's was completed.

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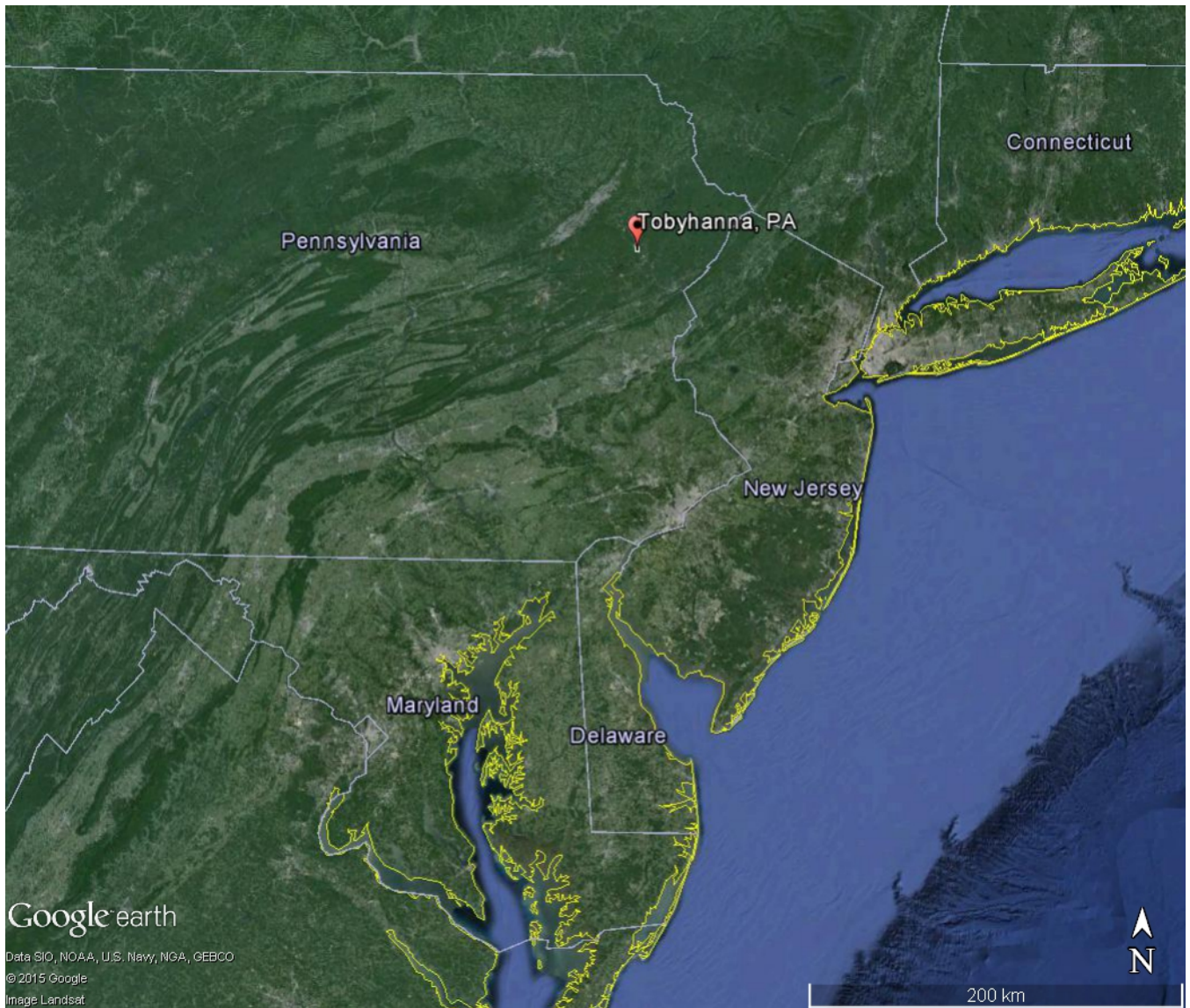
In 2011, a removal action in six (6) of the high risk MRS's, as outlined in the decision document, was begun. The fieldwork under this contract was completed in October of 2014.

During the remedial fieldwork begun in 2011, it was discovered that some of the areas identified as low to moderate risk during the RI required remediation for UXO. These additional high risk acres were not evaluated during the Remedial Investigation (RI) as they were not accessible due to wetlands blocking access. The recent drier climatic conditions in Tobyhanna caused the wetlands previously restricting access to recede. These newly accessible acres were evaluated by the project team. 1,514 acres previously designated as low to moderate risk were re-designated as high risk and mapped using GIS techniques.

Work was begun in April of 2014 to remediate these 1,514 additional acres. The work is scheduled to take about 48 months to complete.

To-date 2,990 high risk acres have been cleared of 5,398 UXO items and over 796,000 pounds of munitions debris during the RI and various UXO removal actions.

**For more information** regarding the Tobyhanna Artillery Range FUDS project, please contact George Follett, CENAB-EN-H, (410) 320-8157, e-mail [george.c.follett@usace.army.mil](mailto:george.c.follett@usace.army.mil).



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