



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Army Corps of Engineers to remove military munitions from Tobyhanna State Park

BALTIMORE — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, will conduct a Time-Critical Removal Action of military munitions in an area on the northern border of Tobyhanna State Park, Pa., south and east of Lake Watawga, beginning May 3. The work, which is scheduled to last until the fall, involves surveying the site with metal detectors, removing any munitions that are discovered, and destroying recovered munitions on-site using engineering controls designed to ensure public safety. Throughout the duration of the removal actions, which will occur during daylight hours, nearby residents can expect to occasionally hear the sound of detonations. Due to the nature of the cleanup action, the public must remain outside an established safety zone.

Residents who have questions are invited to an open house on Friday, April 28 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Gouldsboro Volunteer Fire House, located on Route 507 in Gouldsboro.

In 2003, the Corps teamed with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to jointly perform a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to determine the extent and cost to address future munitions and explosives of concern at the State Park and Gamelands 127. The Time-Critical Removal Action is part of a more comprehensive response developed by the study results to address unexploded ordnance discovered at Tobyhanna State Park and State Gamelands 127. It is being fully coordinated with officials from the Corps, Monroe and Wayne Counties, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Tobyhanna State Park and adjacent State Gamelands 127 comprise approximately 21,000 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 under the Defense Environmental Program. Ordnance fired at the site includes 37mm, 75mm, and 155mm conventional munitions.

***See media advisory for details on Friday's media day and demonstration at Tobyhanna State Park.**