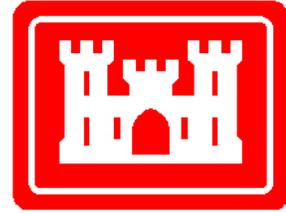




Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



NEWS RELEASE

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Corps of Engineers completes munitions removal activity at Tobyhanna State Park

BALTIMORE — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), has completed a time-critical removal action of military munitions in an area on the northern border of Tobyhanna State Park, south and east of Lake Watawga. Between May 3 and Sept. 28, the project team removed more than 1,000 pieces (more than 2,100 lbs) of munitions debris and removed and destroyed 43 pieces of unexploded ordnance from approximately 200 acres of the state park and surrounding area. The ordnance destroyed includes forty-one 75mm rounds and two 155mm rounds.

Because of the proximity of homes to the park and location of unexploded ordnance found during the planned investigation, USACE expanded west by approximately 30 acres to investigate potential military munitions below the Lake Watawga Estate Community,. This removal activity completed one phase of the overall project to address military munitions at Tobyhanna State Park and Gamelands #127.

During the next few months, the Corps will complete a decision document that outlines the path forward to address military munitions throughout the rest of the Park and Gamelands #127. As part of a 30-day public comment period, the Corps will share this document during a public meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2006. Corps and state officials will answer questions or address any concerns about the proposed cleanup. The specifics of the meeting will be advertised locally once those details are determined. After completing the document, the Corps will work with PADEP, local officials and the public to implement the plan.

In 2003, the Corps teamed with PADEP 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. This overall effort 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.

***Photos and descriptions are available online at: <ftp://ftp.usace.army.mil/pub/nab/>**