
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District
Formerly Used Defense Sites Program**

PROPOSED PLAN

**Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range, Project 10
Horry County, South Carolina DERP-FUDS # I04SC002510**



May 2024

INTRODUCTION

This Proposed Plan (PP) is presented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, to facilitate public review and comment on USACE's plan to take no action for Project 10 (also known as Munitions Response Site 10 (MRS-10)) which is part of the Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range (BGR) located in Horry County, South Carolina (Figures 1 and 2). This project is part of the Defense Environmental Response Program (DERP) Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program. Other projects at the Conway BGR FUDS property are addressed in separate PPs.

USACE is the lead agency for investigating, reporting, making remedial decisions, and taking remedial action at Project 10.

This PP highlights information from prior investigations, which are the basis for USACE's No Action recommendation for munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC). USACE performed a Remedial Investigation (RI) at Project 10 and concluded there are no unacceptable risks to human health or the environment from exposure to explosive hazards or MC. Accordingly, USACE is recommending that no action be taken at Project 10 for MEC and MC.

This PP, and other supporting documentation, are part of the Administrative Record (AR) file. USACE encourages the public to review these documents contained in the AR to gain a better understanding of the investigations and other activities that occurred at the Conway BGR FUDS property.

USACE is issuing this PP as part of its public participation responsibilities under §117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and §300.430(f)(2) of the National Oil and Hazardous

Plan (NCP).

USACE requests comments from the public on this PP. Public comments will be accepted during a public review and comment period from May 27, 2024 through July 2, 2024. A public meeting will be held on June 13, 2024 at 5:45 pm, at the Horry County Library at 801 Main Street, Conway South Carolina.

USACE, in coordination with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), may modify the proposed path forward presented in this PP based on new information or public comments submitted during the public comment period. Therefore, the public is encouraged to review and comment on this PP.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

May 27, 2024 through July 2, 2024

The USACE will accept written comments on the PP during the public comment period (see contact information at the end of this notice).

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD:

For more information on the site, see the Administrative Record at the:

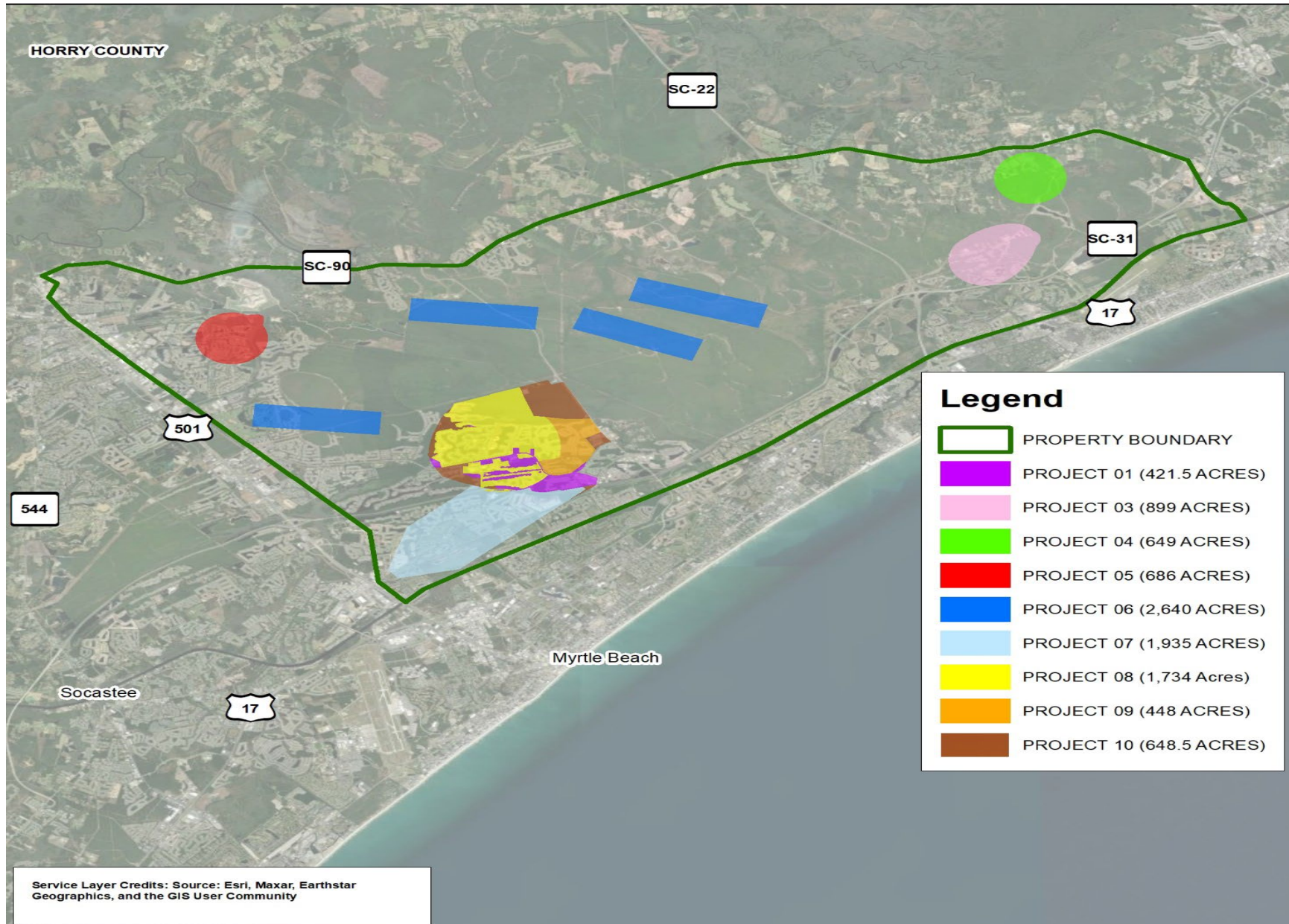
Horry County
Memorial Library
801 Main Street
Conway, SC 29526
843-915-7323

and

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, GA 31401

Substances Pollution Contingency

Figure 1: General Location of Project 10 at the Conway BGR FUDS Property



Once the public comment period has closed, USACE will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) and comments received on the PP will be reviewed and addressed, as appropriate, in the “Responsiveness Summary” section of the ROD.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Conway BGR FUDS property encompassed approximately 55,854 acres in Horry County, South Carolina. The Department of Defense (DoD) predecessor (War Department) established the Conway BGR in 1941 when the 112th Observation Squadron began supporting operations for several bombing and gunnery ranges in the Myrtle Beach and Conway area as part of the Myrtle Beach Army Airfield. The Conway BGR was active from 1941 until 1948. Training included air to ground gunnery and bombing and direct-fire training using rockets, small arms, and small artillery.

The Conway BGR consisted of 19,246 acres in fee and 36,608 acres acquired by lease by the War Department. Of the acreage acquired in fee, 3,610.55 acres was assumed by the Federal Farm Mortgage Cooperation in October 1945 and 15,635.44 acres were assumed by the War Assets Administration in November 1948. The leased acreage was terminated between 1945 and 1948 and the land returned to the International Paper Company.

The Range III Target/Impact Area (Area B) was identified in the Archives Search Report (ASR) (USACE, 1995) and the Range III Safety Zone (Area B-1) was established in the ASR as a circle one mile from the target center and are illustrated in Figure 2. Historical documentation indicates activities at Range III included high and medium altitude bombing, skip bombing, rocket firing including demolition bombing, dive bombing, strafing, and incendiary bombing. Project 10 is comprised of six non-contiguous areas located within portions of the Area B-1 safety zone and outside of Area B-1. The ASR indicated no MEC items or MD were observed in the B-1 safety zone and potential MEC presence was considered low. An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was completed in September 2003 and indicated no MEC and 20 MD items were discovered in the B-1 safety zone and indicated the best ranking alternative for this area was MEC clearance to depth with Institutional Controls to address the potential for MEC (USACE, 2003).

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

Conway BGR FUDS property is bounded to the west by U.S. Highway 501, to the south by the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, the east by Robert Edge Parkway, and the north by South Carolina Route 90. Project 10 is in the southwest portion of the Conway BGR FUDS property. In the past year, the project team determined there was an error with the GIS data and acreages associated with Projects 01 and 10. In response to this, the GIS issue has been resolved and the resulting acreage changed. The current project consists of approximately 648.5 acres of non-contiguous land located in Horry County. Horry County is within the Lower Atlantic Coastal Plain province and the Pee Dee River Basin. The physiographic area is characterized by minor topographic relief and several wetlands associated with the surrounding Carolina Bays. Elevation varies from sea level to approximately 40 feet above mean sea level.

The nearest open water receptor is the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, which is within 2,000 feet to the south. Land use within Project 10 includes residential, educational, and commercial and future land use is anticipated to remain the same.

A RI Report was completed in July 2012. Area B and portions of Area B-1 were combined into MRS-R02 and are illustrated in Figure 2 as the 2015-2016 MRS. The report stated MEC is confirmed at MRS-R02 based on historical investigations. The objective of the RI was to refine the extent of MEC contamination. Neither MEC nor munitions debris (MD) were discovered at MRS-R02 during the RI. However, the 2012 RI report stated characterization of MRS-R02 was incomplete due to property access refusal. Field work conducted in Project 10 for the 2012 RI included approximately 0.25 miles of mag/dig transects and 2 intrusively investigated grids (~0.1 acre). MC samples were collected during the RI within MRS-R02 and no further action was recommended for MC where the samples were collected. Based on the lack of property access, the RI recommended further investigation at MRS-R02 (USACE, 2012).

A significant amount of data has been accumulated for MRS-R02 in historical investigation and removal activities conducted by USACE and private entities. Prior to 2015, the primary concentration of these activities was conducted in Area B and B-1. This data was used to develop the work plan for a second RI. The

second RI report, dated May 2018, was prepared due to data gaps identified after completion of the 2012 RI. The purpose of the 2018 RI was to delineate the extent of MEC contamination.

Therefore, the investigatory area associated with MRS-R02 in the 2018 RI was expanded to adequately address the data gaps identified in the 2012 RI. This included investigation of areas where access was previously denied and areas outside of the original MRS-R02 boundary. Investigative activities conducted for MRS-R02 included 9.6 miles of digital geophysical mapping (DGM) transects, 4.5 miles of analog mag/dig transects (0.4 miles in Project 10), 30 intrusively investigated grids (1.72 acres) (3 grids (0.54 acres) in Project 10), 202 intrusively investigated anomalies (4 in Project 10), and collection of 10 incremental sampling methodology (ISM) soil samples with co-located discrete surface soil sample for analysis of MC (3 in Project 10) (USACE, 2018). Intrusively investigated anomalies resulted in 1 anomaly associated with non-munitions related debris in project 10. The remaining anomalies were determined to be shared targets with another nearby target investigated/removed which means one anomaly was related to multiple targets in close proximity to each other. Other anomalies were “no contact” locations where the anomaly is possibly associated with geology or survey items. No MEC or MD items were discovered at Project 10 or MRS-R02 during the RI. The RI identified and delineated an area determined to be contaminated with MEC within MRS-R02, which is depicted as the MEC contamination boundary in Figure 2. However, all areas of Project 10 are located outside of this MEC contaminated area.

ISM soil samples that were collected by USACE to analyze MC were initially screened by comparing the analytical results to background data. The initial screening conducted in the RI indicated further evaluation in the risk assessment was necessary for cadmium, mercury, and zinc which is summarized in the Project Risks section below.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT RISKS

USACE did not discover MEC or MD at Project 10 during the 2018 RI nor during any prior investigation. Historical reports for privately conducted actions indicate minor amounts of MD have been discovered in Project 10.

The 2018 RI identified an unacceptable risk for human receptors due to exposure with potential MEC items within the MEC contamination boundary. The RI recommended no action for the

remaining acreage in MRS-R02 outside of the MEC contamination boundary. The project 10 acreage are those six non-contiguous areas of MRS-R02 outside of the MEC contamination boundary. Because the RI concluded there are no unacceptable risks from explosive hazards outside of the MEC contamination boundary, USACE recommends that no action be taken for MEC at Project 10.

The 2018 RI included a risk assessment of the ISM soil samples. Initial screening indicated additional evaluation was required for cadmium, mercury, and zinc. After further evaluation, the risk assessment determined that no MC was detected at levels constituting a risk to human health or the environment at Project 10.

It is the lead agency's current judgment that no action is necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment from MEC or from actual or threatened releases into the environment.

REGULATORY COORDINATION

USACE has coordinated this PP with DHEC to gain concurrence. DHEC does not concur with the USACE recommendation to take no action as expressed in correspondence regarding the 2018 RI report on September 12, 2017, February 21, 2018, and May 22, 2018. DHEC requests educational methods be implemented for the entire FUDS property. USACE has previously responded CERCLA response cannot be conducted for these areas where an unacceptable risk has not been identified.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and conclusions of the 2018 RI there are no unacceptable human health or environmental risks from exposure to explosive hazards or MC to current and reasonably anticipated future receptors at Project 10. Therefore, in accordance with CERCLA, USACE recommends that no action be taken at Project 10.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

USACE is soliciting public input on this PP for Project 10 at the Conway BGR FUDS property. Announcements were placed in local newspapers and project information can be found in the Administrative Record file. The dates for the public comment period, location, and the time of the public meeting and the locations of the Administrative Record files are provided on the front page of this PP. Representatives from USACE will be present at the meeting to explain the PP, listen to any concerns, answer questions, and accept public comments.

Written comments will be accepted throughout the public comment period of May 27, 2024, through July 2, 2024.

Comments and requests for further information on the site should be directed to:

Mr. Stephen Fox
Project Manager

Phone: (912) 652-6210

E-mail: Stephen.M.Fox@usace.army.mil or

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Senior Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (912) 652-5014

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US Army Corps of Engineers
Savannah District
100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, GA 31401-3604

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Administrative Record (AR) – A compilation of all documents relied upon to select a remedial action pertaining to the investigation and remediation of the project site.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) – Congress enacted CERCLA (42 USC § 9620 et seq.), commonly known as Superfund, on 11 December 1980. This law addresses the funding for, and remediation of abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. This law also establishes criteria for the creation of key documents such as the RI, FS, PP, and DD.

Digital Geophysical Mapping (DGM) – Method of geophysical surveying using an instrument that acquires geophysical and position data using self-recording instruments. The data is then post-processed by analysts to identify anomalies for further investigation.

Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) – Locations which were previously under the jurisdiction of DoD and owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States at the time of actions leading to contamination by hazardous substances.

Munitions Constituents (MC) – Any materials originating from unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, or other military munitions, including explosive and nonexplosive materials, and emission, degradation, or breakdown elements of such ordnance or munitions.

Munitions Debris (MD) – Remnants of munitions (for example, penetrators, projectiles, shell casings, links, and fins) remaining after munitions use, demilitarization, or disposal. Munitions debris is confirmed inert and free of explosive hazards by technically qualified personnel.

Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) – This term, which distinguishes specific categories of military munitions that may pose unique explosives safety risks, means (a) unexploded ordnance; (b) discarded military munitions; or (c) explosive MC (for example, TNT and RDX) present in high enough concentrations to pose an explosive hazard.

Munitions Response Site (MRS) - A discrete location that is known to require a munitions response.

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Plan (NCP) – More commonly called the National Contingency Plan, the NCP is the Federal government's blueprint for responding to both hazardous substance releases.

Proposed Plan (PP) – The plan that identifies the preferred remedial alternative for a site and is made available to the public for comment.

Record of Decision (ROD) – A document establishing the reasoning for the choice of a cleanup plan or final remedial action at CERCLA sites.

Remedial Investigation (RI) – An investigation conducted to determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess human health and environmental risks posed by the contaminants, and provide a basis for the development of response action alternatives.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) - Military munitions that (a) have been primed, fuzed, armed, or otherwise prepared for action; (b) have been fired, dropped, launched, projected, or placed in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to operations, installations, personnel, or material; and (c) remain unexploded either by malfunction, design, or any other cause.

ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS

AR	Administrative Record
ASR	Archives Search Report
BGR	Bombing and Gunnery Range
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DHEC	South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
DoD	Department of Defense
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site
INPR	Inventory Project Report
ISM	Incremental Sampling Methodology
MC	Munitions Constituents
MD	Munitions Debris
MEC	Munitions and Explosives of Concern
MRS	Munitions Response Site
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
PP	Proposed Plan
RI	Remedial Investigation
ROD	Record of Decision
SAA	Small Arms Ammunition
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

REFERENCES

USACE, 2018. Final Remedial Investigation Report, Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range, Horry County, South Carolina, MRS-R01, Range II; MRS-R02, Range III; MRS-R03, Range IV; MRS-R09, Machine Gun/Rifle Range. May. Prepared for USACE by HydroGeoLogic, Inc.

USACE, 2012. Final Report, Revision 01 for the Remedial Investigation Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range, Horry County, South Carolina. July. Prepared for USACE by EOD Technologies, Inc.

USACE, 2003. Final Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range, Conway, South Carolina. September. Prepared for USACE by Parsons under Contract Number DACA87-95-D0018, Deliver Order 0039.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 1995. Archives Search Report for Conway bombing and Gunnery Range, Horry County, South Carolina, Project Number I04SC002501. September.

