

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Restoration Advisory Boards

Restoration Advisory Boards



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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is committed to public involvement in environmental restoration decisions and activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites. If USACE determines that there is sufficient and sustained community interest in participating in the environmental restoration process and one other satisfied criterion, we will establish a Restoration Advisory Board.

What is a Restoration Advisory Board?

Restoration Advisory Boards are a means for USACE to gather input from the community and for the community to learn more about the environmental restoration activities from community members familiar with the process. A Restoration Advisory Board brings together community members who reflect the diverse interests of the local area, enabling the sharing of information, concerns and values between the community and USACE. A Restoration Advisory Board is established when the following requirements are satisfied:

1. There is sufficient and sustained community interest in a FUDS property; and
2. One of the following:
 - a. At least 50 local citizens petition USACE for creation of a Restoration Advisory Board;
 - b. Federal, state, tribal, or local government representatives request the formation of a Restoration Advisory Board; or
 - c. The Savannah District Commander determines there is a need for a Restoration Advisory Board.

What do Restoration Advisory Board members do?

Restoration Advisory Board members work cooperatively with each other to ensure the efficient and effective use of time and resources. Specific responsibilities may include the following:

- Commenting to USACE and regulatory agencies on environmental restoration activities,
- Encouraging community involvement, and
- Reviewing and evaluating technical documents.

Restoration Advisory Boards provide valuable input to USACE, but they are not a decision-making body and do not direct our work.

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Who and how many may serve on a Restoration Advisory Board?

Restoration Advisory Boards should be small enough to be manageable but large enough to represent the diverse range of the affected community's interests. Typically, they have no more than 20 members. Anyone who owns property, lives, or works near the Formerly Used Defense Site may be a member. Membership should reflect all segments of the community and could include representatives from the following groups:

- Federal, state and local governments, including USACE;
- Property and business owners;
- School districts;
- Community, religious, civic and/or professional organizations; and
- Local residents.



It is not necessary to serve on a Restoration Advisory Board to participate in the environmental restoration process. Interested members of the community can be included on mailing lists and may attend all Restoration Advisory Board meetings in addition to any other community meeting that may be held throughout the restoration process. Technical documents will be made available to the public, and the public will be able to comment on them at community meetings or at Restoration Advisory Board meetings during a time set aside for public comments and input.

How are Restoration Advisory Boards organized?

An independent selection panel chooses members from among the applicants in a fair and open manner. Once the community members are selected, at the first Restoration Advisory Board meeting, the community members will elect one of their members to serve as the co-chair with a USACE representative. The co-chairs work with the board to develop a mission statement and standard operating procedures. Operating procedures cover membership roles and responsibilities, membership terms (typically two years) and how often the board meets. Meetings will be held at convenient times and locations and are open to the public.

USACE is responsible for the administrative operations and costs associated with the Restoration Advisory Board, but it does not provide compensation to board members, nor does it pay travel expenses for board members.

Are Restoration Advisory Boards able to receive training or assistance to understand the technical documents?

A Technical Assistance for Public Participation program provides members with access to independent technical support in interpreting scientific and engineering issues related to the restoration activities at the Formerly Used Defense Sites.

Eligible projects may include the following:

- Interpreting technical documents,
- Assessing technologies,
- Interpreting health and safety information, and
- Training.

For More Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

Email: Cesas-FUDS@usace.army.mil

Visit: <https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/Missions/Formerly-Used-Defense-Sites/Camp-Butner/>



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