



August 2020

Why did the Corps say the site was not eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program in 1991 but now it is?

To be eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, the property must have been under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense and owned by, leased by, or otherwise possessed by the United States (including governmental entities that are the legal predecessors of the Department of Defense or its Components) and that were transferred from the Department of Defense control prior to October 17, 1986. When the Corps assessed the property in 1991, it relied on the information available at the time. The Navy never purchased or leased the property; therefore, there were no real estate documents showing the Navy's use of the site. Since 1991, millions of documents stored in warehouses across the country have been indexed and are more readily available to researchers. In 2018, memoranda and letters were recovered showing the Navy did use the property to dispose of materials from the Naval Air Station. Therefore, the Off-Base Disposal Area is eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program because it was "otherwise possessed by" the military.

What happens now that the Off-Base Disposal Area is eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program?

The Corps follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act which specifies the steps the Corps must follow to evaluate, and if necessary, remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The first step is a Preliminary Assessment to review site history and the Navy's use of the land and to evaluate if further investigations are necessary. Typically, a Site Inspection, which confirms presence or absence of military-related impacts, would follow a Preliminary Assessment. If, however, potential impacts are documented in the Preliminary Assessment, the Corps can initiate a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study without completing the Site Inspection. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study evaluates what is present, where, and in what amounts; this is known as characterizing the nature and extent of impacts attributable to the Navy. The Corps finalized the Preliminary Assessment in April 2020, and it is posted on the project website (www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver). Because the presence of military-related impacts has been confirmed, the Corps will not do a Site Inspection, and will instead, proceed to the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

How soon will you begin your investigation?

The Corps finalized the Preliminary Assessment in April 2020 and requested approval for a project which leadership granted July 25, 2020. Pending funding, the Corps will initiate a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

How did the Navy use the Off-Base Disposal Area?

Records indicate the agreement with the property owner was for disposing of burnable materials. However, as the Navy prepared to close the base, it became apparent all types of trash and debris were left there. In an effort to restore the property to the owner's satisfaction, the Navy buried the materials and graded the site. The documents do not specify what was buried or disposed of in this area.

Where is the Off-Base Disposal Area?

The Corps determined the size and shape of the Disposal Area based on an analysis of aerial photographs taken between 1943 and 1953. These images indicate the apparent maximum extent of the Disposal Area, based on ground disturbances, is approximately 52 acres. We will further refine the boundaries during the course of our investigations. The Off-Base Disposal Area is in an unincorporated community about 52 miles southeast of Orlando between Patrick Air Force Base and Satellite Beach. The area is generally between NE 1st Street to the north, 1st Avenue to the south, Pelican Drive to the west, and Highway A1A to the east.

Other organizations have conducted tests in this area. What will you do with that information?

The Corps has copies of the test results and reports. Chemists and other subject matter experts will evaluate the data, and we

will use the information as we plan the scope of work for our investigations.

Will you buy my property?

The Formerly Used Defense Sites program is not authorized to purchase property.

How can I make sure you investigate my property?

Should the Corps receive funding for the Remedial Investigation, if your property is within the boundaries of the Off-Base Disposal Area, you can sign a right-of-entry form authorizing the Corps to investigate your property.

What happens after you investigate my property?

Once the Corps completes the fieldwork, we will send a letter letting you know what we found. We will also hold a community meeting to share the results of the investigations with the public.

How will the Corps address PFOS and PFOA at the Off-Base Disposal Area?

The Corps is addressing the Off-Base Disposal Area under the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program. Under this program, the Corps can only address impacts associated with the Navy's historical use of the property. The Navy ended activities at the Disposal Area decades before the military began using aqueous film forming foam that contained PFOA and PFOS.

While these activities are not eligible under the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, the Department of Defense is taking a holistic approach to address PFOA and PFOS. Additional information related to the Air Force's response at Patrick Air Force Base is available at www.patrick.af.mil/Perfluorinated-Compounds. Additional information on Department of Defense-wide efforts is available at www.defense.gov/PFAS.

We are concerned about the number of people with cancer who live in or went to school in this area. What are you doing about that?

Evaluating cancer clusters is outside the Corps' expertise and authority; there are other governmental entities that are equipped to do such analysis. We will, however, analyze all data available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Brevard County in addition to data from the Corps' investigation and will complete a Human Health Risk Assessment as part of the Remedial Investigation. The Corps will determine the most appropriate response based on the analysis of the data.

Will being considered within a Formerly Used Defense Site impact my property values?

The Corps cannot speak to the value of any specific property, but generally, parcels within Formerly Used Defense Sites sell at comparable rates and values of other properties nearby that are not within the Formerly Used Defense Site.

How can you be sure your investigation will not cause more harm to the environment and those living in this area?

The Corps will coordinate with state and local agencies and will take appropriate precautions when conducting the investigation to minimize impacts to the environment and people living in the area.

Is the water in this area safe to drink?

Yes, drinking water in this area is provided through a regulated utility and is safe to drink.

Is the water in this area safe to use?

Based on the analysis of data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Brevard County, the water is safe for irrigation and other related uses.

How can I find out more about the history of Naval Air Station Banana River and the Off-Base Disposal Area?

The history of Naval Air Station Banana River and information about the Off-Base Disposal Area are summarized in the Site Summary Fact Sheet. Project documents and other information are available on our website (www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver).

Will the coronavirus pandemic impact the Corps' investigation?

The Corps continues to monitor the situation, and currently, travel is limited. Until further notice, we will be unable to hold in-person meetings but will share information through letters, email, the project website, and social media. Should we receive funding for the Remedial Investigation, the contractor will be given approval to travel as essential workers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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