For More Information

During the remedial action, periodic updates will be posted on the project website. Upon completion of the remedial action, a report called an after action report will be prepared, and the final report will be available to the public in the information repository on the project website.

All technical reports and community outreach materials are available to the public at the project information repository and administrative record at the following two locations:

Annville Free Library
216 East Main Street
Annville, PA 17003

Website: http://www.dmva.state.pa.us
Click on “Featured Topics,” then click on “Military Munitions Response Program/Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site.”

For more information regarding the Ricochet Area MRS in State Game Lands 211 contact:

Major Angela King-Sweigart
Deputy State Public Affairs Officer
Pennsylvania National Guard
Fort Indiantown Gap
Phone: (717) 861-8829
E-mail: angela.s.kingsweigart.mil@mail.mil

Introduction

The Army National Guard Directorate (ARNG), Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are conducting a remedial action at the Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site (MRS) in State Game Lands 211, Pennsylvania. The Army National Guard Directorate (ARNG) is conducting the remedial action at the Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site (MRS) in State Game Lands 211, Pennsylvania. State Game Lands 211 is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC).

Ricochet Area MRS is located between Second and Sharp Mountains within eastern Dauphin County and northern Lebanon County in south central Pennsylvania. Military munitions are present in the Ricochet Area MRS as a result of historical training activities conducted by the Army. The current artillery firing angles used by PAARNG prevent ricochets into this area.

Current land use at the MRS includes recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, running, bicycle riding, snow shoeing, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, Fall-Drive-Thru, and bird watching. The Horse-Shoe Trail and Appalachian National Scenic Trail are adjacent to the MRS.

Non-recreational activities within the MRS include trail, game, and forest maintenance performed by PGC employees or their contractors and organizations associated with the other trails. The PGC plan for current and future land use includes continued recreational use, road construction and maintenance, special wildlife area management, timber management/harvests, prescribed burns, and preservation area maintenance. Regular maintenance is performed in two herbaceous (grass) openings maintained for wild game (e.g., turkey and deer).

Recent Studies Conducted at Ricochet Area MRS

A remedial investigation was conducted in 2010 and 13 munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) were found and disposed. In 2012, a feasibility study was prepared and presented the evaluation of six remedial alternatives. The public had the opportunity to comment on the proposed remedial alternative (Alternative 4 – Focused Surface and Subsurface Removal of MEC with Containment and Controls) from June 7, 2012 to July 6, 2012. The record of decision documented that a remedial action is necessary to reduce the risk associated with MEC to human health and the environment based on the current and intended future land use of the site. The record of decision for the site was signed on May 26, 2013.

This fact sheet provides a summary of the remedial design and land use controls (LUCs). The technical documents on which this fact sheet was prepared are the Remedial Action Work Plan (January 2014) and the Land Use Controls Implementation Plan (January 2014).

Remedial Design and Land Use Controls Summary

April 2014

When in the Ricochet Area MRS in State Game Lands 211, follow the 3Rs:

Recognize. Understand you may have encountered a munition.

Retreat. Do not touch, move, or disturb it; but carefully leave the area.

Report. Immediately notify the police. Call 911 and report the location and description of the item. When possible, provide its estimated size, shape, and any visible markings, including coloring.
Summary of Remedial Design

Based on previous investigations and removal actions, the MEC anticipated at the Ricochet Area MRS includes:

- 75-millimeter (mm) high explosive projectiles.
- 155-mm high explosive projectiles.
- 75-mm armor piercing high explosive projectiles.
- MK-2A4 primers.

Removal of MEC detected on the ground surface in the area identified (see the figure to the right) with more than 0.5 MEC and munitions debris per acre and along trails (estimated to be 1,334 acres of the Ricochet Area MRS). MEC will be removed to the detection depth at the herbaceous openings located at Cold Spring and Yellow Spring.

On-Site Technical Approach

The Remedial Action Work Plan presents the technical approach that involves the following on-site activities:

Mobilization - Includes mobilization of field staff, equipment, and consumable materials to the site; setup, maintenance, and testing of equipment and facilities; familiarizing project personnel with the site; and safety requirements.

Grid Survey Activities - A grid system will be established before intrusive UXO search activities are conducted.

Brush Clearing - Vegetation removal will be minimized and will be conducted only when necessary to ensure personnel safety and to achieve quality removal results during operations. There are no plans to remove any trees; however, no trees larger than 4 inches will be removed unless specifically approved by PGC. All areas designated for brush clearance will be approved by ARNG, PAARNG, and USACE prior to any clearing activities.

Surface Removal of MEC – Using detection instruments, removal of MEC detected over 1,334 acres of the ground surface in the Ricochet Area MRS that are either fully or partially exposed.

Subsurface Removal of MEC - Geophysical data will be collected and evaluated to identify anomalies in the subsurface on 11 acres of the Cold Spring and Yellow Spring herbaceous openings.

Demolition and Disposal - Demolition actions will be initiated when MEC and material documented as an explosive hazard are identified in accordance with the Work Plan and Explosives Safety Submission.

Environmental Protection Approach

An important objective of the remedial design and remedial action is maintaining the environment in its natural state as much as possible during the cleanup activities. The Remedial Action Work Plan includes a plan to document site-specific environmental conditions in and adjacent to the Ricochet Area MRS. Protection of the environment addresses potential impacts that the cleanup activities may have on the surrounding environment and provides measures to protect identified environmentally sensitive areas.

Land Use Controls Implementation Plan

The Land Use Controls Implementation Plan details the approach for providing containment and controls/LUCs for the Ricochet Area MRS. LUCs are implemented to reduce risk to humans from munitions. The following LUCs are recommended for the Ricochet Area MRS:

- Signs, awareness video, and classroom education.
- Notification during permitting and contracting.
- Brochures/fact sheets and Internet website.
- Information packages to public officials and emergency management agencies.
- Appalachian Trail Guide editorials.
- UXO construction support activities during timber harvesting.
- Recurring reviews completed by ARNG.

State Games Lands Will Remain Open

During the field cleanup activities, State Game Lands 211 will remain open to the public. Signs will be posted at the three entry points of State Game Lands 211 to notify recreational users of the work in progress. Safety first! A qualified UXO Safety Officer and Senior UXO Supervisor will oversee and manage munitions operations. No unauthorized persons will be allowed within a predetermined safety zone at each munitions work location. Safety zones will be determined and boundaries of each work area will be identified with signs and personnel to prevent accidental entry into the zone.