

**Minutes • Community Interest Group/Public Meeting
Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site in State Game Land 211, Pennsylvania
October 9, 2014 • East Hanover Township Building, Grantville, PA**

Community Interest Group Members and Project Staff Attendees

Dennis Coffman	Lou Samsel	Jo Anderson, Pennsylvania Army National Guard
Larry Herr	Jay Saylor	Wayne Davis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, Baltimore District
Randall Hurst	Dorman Shaver	CPT David Miles, Army National Guard Directorate
Donald Kleinfelter	Paul Shoop	LTC Dale Waltman, Pennsylvania Army National Guard
Joan Renninger	Shirley Shoop	MAJ Angela King-Sweigart, Pennsylvania Army National Guard
		John Gerhard, Weston Solutions, Inc.
		Deb Volkmer, Weston Solutions, Inc.

Other Attendees

John Fitzgerald, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Galen D. Kleinfelter
Claudia Hacker, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Dreama O'Neal, Pennsylvania Army National Guard
	Tom Powers, Save Stony Valley
	Sharon L. Southall, Lebanon Valley Hiking Club

Handouts from the Meeting

1. Agenda
2. Final Meeting Minutes, Community Interest Group/Public Meeting, Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site in State Game Lands 211, PA, April 23, 2014
3. Provided by Office of Public Affairs, Fort Indiantown Gap:
 - a. Map of Fort Indiantown Gap
 - b. Brochure: *Munitions Concerns – Safety Information You Should Know*
 - c. Booklet: *Army National Guard: A Civic Leader's Guide to Who We Are* (ARNG 13-01)

Welcome

Jo Anderson, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, welcomed the attendees to the meeting. She introduced the project team and representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Overview of Remedial Action

John Gerhard, Project Manager with Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston), presented an overview of the remedial design and remedial action, which is provided in Appendix B. The presentation included a brief summary of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Military Munitions Response Program processes and a timeline of site documents and activities from 2003 to the present. The presentation provided the basics of the remedial design and remedial action. The objectives of the remedial design are:

- Reduce explosive safety hazards and ensure protection of human health, public safety, and the environment.
- Minimize exposure to:
 - The public while maintaining access for recreational activities.
 - Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel and contractors.

The remedial design entailed the following activities:

- **Surface removal action:** Removal of exposed or partially exposed munitions and explosives of concern across 1,334 acres of the Ricochet Area Munitions Response Site.

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- **Subsurface removal action:** Removal of surface and subsurface munitions and explosives of concern across the 11 acres of the Cold Spring and Yellow Springs Herbaceous Openings.
- **Containment and controls:** Land use controls

Field crews began work on February 3, 2014, in challenging terrain and winter weather conditions to survey site boundaries to define removal action areas and establish a grid system for navigation and tracking in each removal action area. This work was completed in early April 2014.

Surface removal activities were conducted from May to July 2014. About 50 field personnel comprised six teams to locate, identify, and remove munitions and explosives of concern. Munitions debris was inspected, recovered, and recycled.

Subsurface removal activities were conducted through digital geophysical mapping to detect subsurface anomalies. Approximately, 1,000 items were investigated in the herbaceous openings. Most of the items were located in the Cold Spring Herbaceous Opening.

The results of the remedial action included the following:

- Removal action completed in 108 work days.
- 60 unexploded ordnance were recovered during surface removal action activities
- 7 discarded military munitions were recovered during subsurface removal activities
- More than 9,400 pounds of munitions debris were removed, inspected, and recycled

The following activities were conducted to implement the containment and controls phase of the remedial action:

- Signs describing potential munitions in the area were installed at key access point to State Game Land 211
- A brochure, *Munitions Concerns – Safety Information You Should Know*, was prepared and available for distribution
- An awareness video is being produced

Weston is also preparing an after action report that includes the following information:

- Project activities and operations
- Munitions and explosives of concern removal action report
- Quality control activities and results
- Dig sheet data
- Munitions and explosives of concern disposition/accountability records

It is expected that the after action report will be finalized during winter 2014-2015. After the final action report the site will be reviewed every five years (CERCLA 5-Year Review process) and a report will be generated. It is also possible the Pennsylvania Game Commission may require munitions support during construction activities.

Protect yourself and others if locating a potential munition by following the 3 Rs:

- Recognize – If you didn't drop it, don't pick it up
- Retreat – Mark the area
- Report – Call 911

Tom Powers – How deep did they dig to find items in the subsurface removal?

John Gerhard – On average the digital geophysical mapping device can detect an item 3 to 4 feet deep, but it does depend on the size of the item.

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Larry Herr – How much debris did you find at the latrine at Cold Spring?

John Gerhard – A lot. A lot of non-munitions related debris from former buildings and activities remains out there.

Lou Samsel – Will the final after action report be posted on the website?

John Gerhard – Yes, the report will be posted on the website and placed in the project repository at the Annville Free Library.

Dennis Coffman – I haven't been out there recently but have all the markers been removed?

John Gerhard – Some of the survey flag tape is biodegradable and the wooden stakes have been left in place and will degrade over time.

Sharon Southall – What happened to the cultural artifacts that were found during the remedial action?

John Gerhard – The larger metallic objects were transported to Fort Indiantown Gap and a cultural resources manager with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and a historian from the museum had the opportunity to inspect the items. All of the objects recovered were cleared and determined not to be of significance.

Point of clarification: The DMVA cultural resources manager wanted to inspect only significant artifacts (i.e., bones). The museum historian inspected the munitions debris.

Tom Powers – Did the field crews find any unusual or interesting wildlife?

John Gerhard – We did encounter a number of rattlesnakes, which was expected. One bear and a few deer were spotted but nothing more than that.

Announcements

Jo Anderson – Saturday, October 11, 2014, is the “3rd Annual Pennsylvania National Guard March for the Fallen.” There are several courses to walk or run varying from 3 miles to 28 miles. Registration is “walk-in” the day of the event at the Blue Mountain Track.

“National Red Ribbon Week” is on October 23 to 31, 2014. The week was established 29 years ago in memory of U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency special agent Enrique Camarena who was killed by a drug cartel in Mexico. The wearing of red ribbons during this time symbolizes the belief to fight the war on drugs and to support our communities, individuals, and their families.

To follow the Fort Indiantown Gap training activities visit the post website. MAJ King-Sweigart added that the telephone information line provides updates of training activities. The recorded information regarding training activities such as artillery firing is at (717) 861-2007.

Adjournment

Jo Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Agenda

Appendix B – Presentation: Overview of Remedial Design and Action

Appendix C – Brochure: *Munitions Concerns – Safety Information You Should Know*