



PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Release: May 2024

Contact: NAERABFILE@usace.army.mil

SUFFOLK COUNTY ARMY AIRFIELD BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD ASSESSMENT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is required to assess community interest in forming a restoration advisory board (RAB) at Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) every 2 years. USACE is investigating the former Suffolk County Army Airfield Bombing and Gunnery Range, located in Westhampton, New York, under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for FUDS. Between 1943 and 1946, the former Suffolk County Army Airfield was used as a bombing and gunnery training range for fighter pilots and instructors. USACE is issuing this notice to assess public interest at this site and determine whether it is warranted to form a RAB.

A RAB is one of many methods USACE may use to facilitate public participation. Regardless of whether a RAB is formed, USACE will continue to involve the community in accordance with FUDS regulations. The RAB provides a collaborative forum for the community, government agencies, tribes, and property owners to discuss and identify the most efficient and productive means to restore the environment. A RAB should be established when the following requirements are satisfied:

A) There is sufficient and sustained community interest in a FUDS property, and

B) One of the following:

- 1) At least 50 citizens petition the USACE for the creation of a RAB;
- 2) Federal, state, tribal, or local government representatives request the formation of a RAB; or
- 3) USACE determines the need for a RAB based on community responses to a solicitation for input, correspondence, media coverage, and other relevant information that show that there is sufficient and sustained community interest in the establishment and operation of a RAB.

The former Suffolk County Army Airfield Bombing and Gunnery Range site comprised over 9,000 acres; the munitions response site (MRS) investigation area is comprised of 4,297 acres. As a result of historical operations, the former Suffolk County Army Airfield Bombing and Gunnery Range MRS may contain environmental and safety concerns. The site was declared excess in 1945. Records indicate a surface clearance was conducted in 1946. Between June 1946 and September 1947, the site was transferred to and is currently owned by multiple private entities, the Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, the Coast Guard, and the state of New York. A Site Inspection was completed in 2009 and a Remedial Investigation is underway. The project website can be accessed here: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Suffolk-County-Army-Air-Field-Bombing-and-Gunnery-Range-FUDS/>

The USACE-New England District welcomes public feedback regarding community interest in establishing a RAB for the Suffolk County Army Airfield Bombing and Gunnery Range site. Inquiries or questions should be submitted within 30 days of this notice via email to NAERABFile@usace.army.mil or via mail to USACE c/o HydroGeoLogic, Inc., 3877 N. 7th Street, Suite 306, Phoenix, AZ 85014. Within 60 days from publication of this notice, USACE will determine whether a RAB will be formed. Individuals who express interest will be notified of USACE's determination via email or mail.

An Administrative Record file, which will contain project documents as they are completed, is maintained at the information repository located at the Westhampton Free Library, 7 Library Avenue, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978 and at the USACE-New England District located at 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742.

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<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>