

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **U.S. ARMY INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED PLAN FOR TWO TRANSFERRED WATER MUNITIONS RESPONSE SITES AT THE U.S. ARMY GARRISON WEST POINT**

#### **SUMMARY**

The U.S. Army invites the public to comment on the Proposed Plan for final remedies for two water munitions response sites (Siege Battery–Transferred River and Battery Knox–Transferred River) that were investigated under the Military Munitions Response Program to address any potential explosives hazards and human health and environmental issues resulting from their past use. The meaning of “Transferred” is that the U.S. Army does not own the property; these “water” munitions response sites are located in the Hudson River.

At these two munitions response sites, comprehensive investigations were conducted, including underwater visual surveys and digging surveys, and digital geophysical mapping. At both the Siege Battery–Transferred River and Battery Knox–Transferred River munitions response sites, no munitions items were discovered during investigation activities. Only one munitions debris item was discovered during investigation activities; therefore, no munitions constituents sampling was conducted. Although no munitions item was encountered in the two munitions response sites during the investigation, there is a potential for munitions items to be present, based on past observations along the shorelines of the Hudson River adjacent to the munitions response sites.

The U.S. Army evaluated four different alternatives for addressing munitions at each of the two munitions response sites. At both the Siege Battery–Transferred River and Battery Knox–Transferred River water munitions response sites, the U.S. Army evaluated these four alternatives: 1) No Action; 2) Land Use Controls; and 3) Underwater Munitions and Explosives of Concern Removal Using Analog Techniques and Land Use Controls; and 4) Underwater Munitions and Explosives of Concern Removal Using Digital Geophysical Mapping and Land Use Controls. Based on the evaluation of alternatives for the Siege Battery–Transferred River and Battery Knox–Transferred River water munitions response sites, the U.S. Army has identified Land Use Controls as the Preferred Alternative recommended in the Proposed Plan for both water munitions response sites.

Land Use Controls include visual surveys/shoreline sweeps, dig permits, signage/information boards, educational materials, training for construction workers, and the production of brochures to inform the public about the site. The Preferred Alternatives identified by the U.S. Army will reduce the explosive hazards posed to the public by munitions potentially located at each of the two water munitions response sites and allow for their current and future use.

#### **SITES INVESTIGATED**

The two water munitions response sites recommended for Land Use Controls are located within the Hudson River in Orange and Putnam Counties near the U.S. Army Garrison West Point Main Post Area and Constitution Island, as well as Storm King State Park and the Village of Cold Spring.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND MEETING**

The U.S. Army welcomes the public's comments on all the alternatives listed above. The recommendations presented in the Proposed Plan may be modified based on public input or new information. The final decision will be documented in a Decision Document that will include a summary of public comments received during the comment period and the U.S. Army's responses to these comments.

A public meeting will be held to discuss the Proposed Plan:

**Tuesday December 19, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**

Desmond-Fish Public Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524

The public meeting can be accessed virtually by sending a request for an internet link and instructions via email to [kharris@bridgeconsultingcorp.com](mailto:kharris@bridgeconsultingcorp.com).

A copy of the Proposed Plan and reports of the comprehensive investigations are available for review at the Highland Falls Library, 298 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY 10928; the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library, 10 Morris Avenue, Cold Spring, NY 10516; and the Desmond-Fish Public Library, 472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524; and online at:

<https://home.army.mil/westpoint/about/environmental-management-division>

The public may submit written comments during the 30-day comment period (December 11, 2023 to January 10, 2024). Comments must be postmarked by January 10, 2024, and sent to Mr. Paul Dunaev, U.S. Army Garrison West Point, ATTN: AMM-MLP-E, 667A Ruger Road, West Point, NY 10996-1592 or emailed to [paul.v.dunaev.civ@army.mil](mailto:paul.v.dunaev.civ@army.mil) by midnight on January 10, 2024.