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ST JULIENS CREEK  
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY FOR MUNITIONS RESPONSE SITE PRIORITIZATION  
FOR ST JULIENS CREEK ANNEX CHESAPEAKE VA  
06/05/2011  
THE VIRGINIAN PILOT

# Public Notices



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY Munitions Response Site Prioritization St. Julens Creek Annex

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Mid-Atlantic, has updated a munitions response site prioritization scoring for munitions response Area UXO 1, located at St. Julens Creek Annex (SJCA), Chesapeake, Virginia. Area UXO 1 consists of the submerged areas surrounding the current and former wharfs of SJCA historically used for munitions loading in the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The results of the earlier scorings, which were previously submitted for public review, have been modified based upon the findings of the Quality Assurance Panel during their May 2011 review. The Quality Assurance Panel review is required to ensure consistent scoring of all munitions response sites. The change from the previous scoring for UXO 1 incorporates the potential for sensitive munitions to be present based on historical records indicating that hand grenades may have been shipped from the site. While the potential shipment of hand grenades was documented in earlier site reports, they were previously scored as discarded military munitions (DMM) because they would not have been armed or fired prior to shipment; however, because of their sensitive nature, all hand grenades containing energetic material are scored as "sensitive" whether or not they have been armed. This change increases the explosive hazard evaluation scoring, resulting in an increase in the overall priority of the site. The change in scoring is not due to any recent activity at SJCA and does not mean that the public is at greater risk. Rather it updates the scoring to be consistent with data presented in site reports.

**Background:** The Munitions Response Program works to reduce potential risks from unexploded ordnance (UXO), DMM, and munitions constituents (MC) at ranges that are no longer operational, munitions burial sites, former target ranges, and other areas where site-specific operations may have resulted in the release of UXO, DMM, or MC. These are referred to as "munitions response sites." The Department of Defense (DoD) is required by Congress to set priorities for investigating all munitions response sites, based on overall conditions at these locations and the potential risk posed to human health and the environment. Prioritization is based on current available data and may change as additional data are collected.

After prioritization, the sites are sequenced for funding, in comparison with other Navy/Marine Corps sites. DoD policy is that response actions for a munitions response site with higher relative risks will be prioritized before response actions for a munitions response site with lower relative risks. Other factors, such as future land use, cultural and economic factors, and ecological impacts, also can influence sequencing decisions.

**Munitions Response Site:** A preliminary assessment of the site was completed in June 2009. The preliminary assessment included an initial prioritization scoring and recommended the site for further investigation and scoring evaluation. Following completion of the preliminary assessment, a site inspection was conducted in February 2010. The site inspection was performed to determine the location of geophysical anomaly sources in the sediments in the vicinity of the wharf areas.

**Area UXO 1:** Consists of approximately 2,330 linear feet of current and former wharf area along the shoreline of the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The site encompasses the former northern wharf area and the southern wharf area, which were primarily used for the loading and unloading of munitions at SJCA from the late-1890s until the mid-1970s. The areas are under examination for potential munitions that may have been dropped into the water during loading operations.

**For More Information** about these sites or the Munitions Response Program at SJCA, or to obtain copies of site reports, please contact: Jeff Cunningham, Public Affairs Officer Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Code 1160, Portsmouth, Virginia 23709-5000.

Phone: (757) 396-8122 E-mail: [jeffrey.r.cunningham@navy.mil](mailto:jeffrey.r.cunningham@navy.mil) or visit the SJCA Information Repository in the Major Hillard Library at 824 Old George Washington Highway N, Chesapeake, Virginia 23323. Phone: (757) 382-3600.

Copies of the Preliminary Assessment Report, Site Inspection Report, and revised Munitions Response Site Prioritization Scoring are contained in the SJCA Information Repository.

**To Submit Comments** Written comments on the prioritization process should be sent by **July 5, 2011** to: Mr. Walter Bell, NAVFAC MIDLANT OPHE3, 9742 Maryland Avenue, Building N-26, Room 3300, Norfolk, Virginia 23511-3095

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