

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FACT SHEET
Proposed Range Rule
FOR CLOSED, TRANSFERRED, AND TRANSFERRING RANGES

DOD Develops Rule to Regulate Management of Munitions on Closed, Transferred, and Transferring Ranges

The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Military Munitions Rule, published November 8, 1995, contains a proposal that the Defense Department draft its own regulation for military ranges. A Department of Defense team is currently developing a draft Range Rule to address the management of military munitions on closed, transferred, or transferring ranges.

The regulation will address safety, human health, and the environment on these ranges. This rule will apply to ranges that have already been closed, ranges that are transferring from Defense Department control under base closure or realignment, or ranges that the Department historically transferred. Some of these ranges, although no longer in use, may be on installations still used by the military. Others may be on lands transferred to federal or state agencies, or to private citizens.

While drafting its Range Rule, the Defense Department is actively seeking public comments. Citizens and interested groups have several opportunities to provide their comments and concerns to the Defense Department. The Department's public involvement program includes meetings with interested groups to solicit comments, updates on the rulemaking process, and a 60-day public comment period following publication of

the proposed Range Rule in mid-1996. The Environmental Protection Agency, among other federal agencies, has reviewed the draft Range Rule. The next step involves review of a revised draft by the Office of Management and Budget before the proposed rule goes to the Federal Register for publication.

The public will be kept informed of the development and publication of the proposed rule and will have ample opportunity to provide comments or voice concerns, which will all be part of the public record.

Among other initiatives, the Defense Department is planning to conduct public forums on the Range Rule and related issues in four cities this summer. These forums will give citizens an opportunity to learn more about the Range Rule through exhibits and handouts, and discuss range issues with the Defense Department's Range Rule team.

The current schedule calls for holding the first public forum in Baltimore this summer. The Defense Department will sponsor the same type of public forum during the three weeks that follow the Baltimore forum — in Chicago; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Reno, Nev. Exact dates, times, and locations will be provided in a news release once details are firm. In conjunction with the 60-day comment

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period, the Defense Department will consolidate all public comments, respond to them, and fully consider them when developing the final rule.

Measures to ensure the safety of the public, as well as that of the military and civilian workforce, will be carefully considered during the rulemaking. The rule will also address potential health and ecological concerns.

An information center was established in Gaithersburg, Maryland, to receive suggestions and questions about the Range Rule and rulemaking process, and to take formal public comments after the proposed Range Rule is published in the Federal Register.

Anyone interested in receiving information from this center, or in providing questions or suggestions, can call 1-800-870-6542 or a line for the hearing impaired at

1-800-870-6557. Faxes can be sent to the center at 1-800-870-6547.

The public can also write to the center using the e-mail address, fbarrule@b-r.com, or the following postal address: DOD Range Rule, P.O. Box 3430, Gaithersburg, MD 20885-3430.

Media inquiries should be directed to the U.S. Army Environmental Center Public Affairs Office at (410) 671-2556/1272.

The working draft of the Range Rule is available for downloading from the Defense Department's Environmental Security home page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ens/>. The link words at this site are Munitions and Range Rule.

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