



Formerly Used Defense Site Program

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Fact Sheet

January 2020

During the past 200 years, some activities supporting military readiness have resulted in the need for environmental cleanup within the United States and its territories. The Department of Defense (DoD), the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are committed to protecting human health and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these properties.

A Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is a property used by the military to train and support members of the military (fighting forces), as well as to test new weapons and warfare capabilities. To qualify as a FUDS, the property must have been used for this purpose prior to October 1986. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals or federal, state, tribal, or local government entities.

Congress created the FUDS Program during the 1980s. The Army oversees the FUDS Program for DoD using the USACE to identify eligible properties, investigate their condition and manage required cleanup. Teams from USACE districts consult with state environmental and health offices, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, landowners and the public in performing the work.

The USACE responds to DoD-generated contamination and munitions that remained on the property when it was transferred. The USACE is committed to addressing this contamination in as safe, timely, and responsive manner as possible.

The more than 10,000 potential FUDS properties can range from less than an acre to half a million acres and can be found in industrial or residential areas as well as federal or state properties.

As of September 2018, approximately 5,400 FUDS properties have been identified for investigation and cleanup with more added each year. Of these sites, cleanup has been completed at 3,650 sites, leaving 1,776 sites identified where cleanup actions still require a CERCLA response. A single property may have more than one cleanup project.

The type of cleanup required varies from property to property, and can include cleaning up hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste sites; removing munitions and explosives of concern and munitions constituents; and doing building demolition and debris removal.

The FUDS Program employs a risk management approach in accomplishing the cleanup. Work also is prioritized to meet DoD goals, including achieving remedy in place or remedy complete at 100 percent of the hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste sites by the end of fiscal year 2020. Most projects take several years to complete, and each is unique.

Active communication, coordination, consultation and collaboration with property owners, state and federal regulators, tribal and local governments, and local communities are critical in planning and carrying out cleanups. The USACE works hard to keep all interested parties informed and offers opportunities for dialogue throughout all cleanup phases.



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

For More Information:

Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Public Affairs Office at 213-452-3921 or publicaffairs.spl@usace.army.mil.

To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil.

