

Environmental Studies Planned

Former Nike Site, Hamburg, New York

June 2020

This fact sheet provides information on upcoming activities at the former Nike Anti-aircraft Missile Battery BU-51/52 – the former Nike Site – located on Lakeview Road in Hamburg, New York. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – New England District is finalizing plans for an environmental study, called a remedial investigation (RI), at a portion of the site – the former Launch Area.

Background

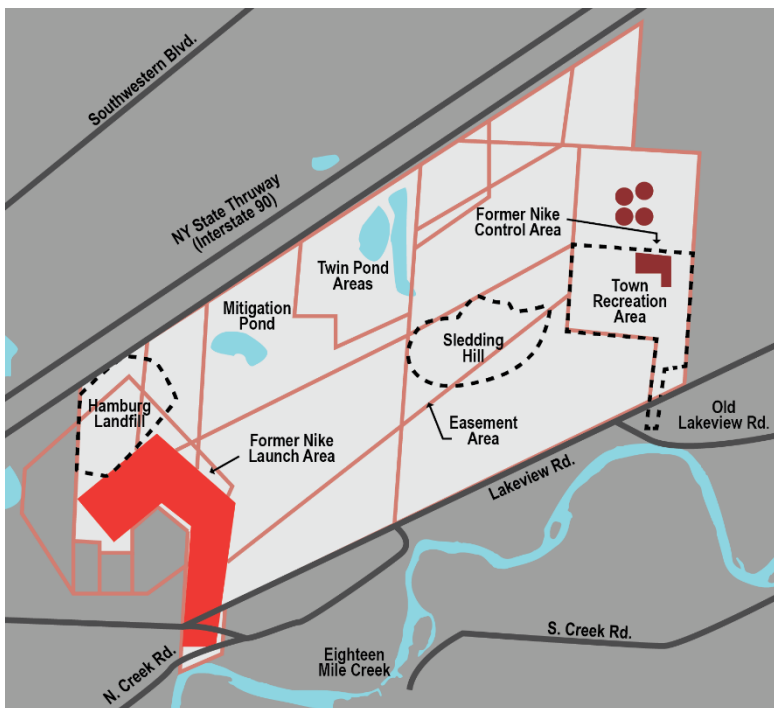
During the Cold War, the U.S. Army developed the Nike Anti-aircraft missile to protect population centers and important industrial and military installations. The former Nike Site in Hamburg was one of the locations where these anti-aircraft missiles were deployed. The site operated from 1956 until its closure in 1961. During that period, the site consisted of three primary areas: 1) Launch Area, 2) Control Area, and 3) Easement Area. The Launch Area contained the facilities and equipment required to assemble, test, and maintain the missiles and launchers. This former Launch Area is now the subject of an upcoming environmental study – called an RI – to determine the nature and extent of any chemicals that might pose a threat to human health or the environment at this portion of the site.

Previous studies of the site have shown impacts to the ground and soil. As a result, the former Launch Area was identified as an Area of Concern (AOC) under the U.S. Department of Defense's Formerly Utilized Defense Site (FUDS) Program.

The USACE is managing the environmental program at the former Nike Site in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The environmental program includes planning and completing the RI and a risk assessment, as well as potentially conducting a feasibility study (FS). The FS would evaluate possible scenarios that address cleanup of the former Launch Area, if required, based on the results of the RI.

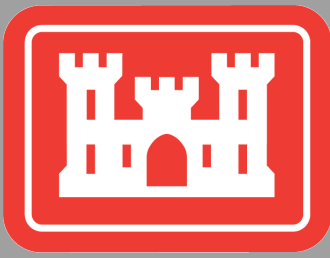
Previous Studies

Three previous environmental studies for soil and groundwater are being used to inform the RI at the former Launch Area. In addition to these previous studies, a screening level human health risk assessment was performed, which concluded that potential risks associated with exposures of residents to former Launch Area soil and groundwater were very low. This RI will build on and expand the previous information collected, by compiling new data according to applicable Standard Operating Procedures.



Navigating the Former Nike Site

-  **FORMER NIKE LAUNCH AREA**
Hamburg's Highway Department now uses the former Launch Area for office space, truck garage space, and storing gravel piles.
-  **FORMER NIKE CONTROL & EASEMENT AREAS**
These areas were redeveloped by the Town of Hamburg into the Lakeview Recreational Area, a community complex consisting of a playground, sledding hill, ball fields, and BMX track.
-  **HAMBURG LANDFILL**
A closed and capped landfill, formerly operated by the Town of Hamburg, is next to the Former Launch Area.



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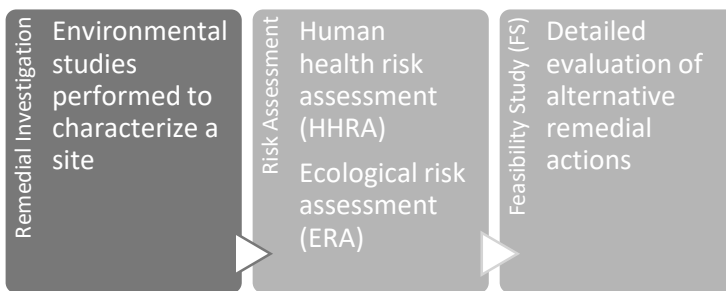
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Upcoming RI Activities

The upcoming RI will be completed in two main parts: 1) on-site environmental studies; and 2) risk assessment.

For the on-site environmental studies, both groundwater and soil sampling will be performed. Groundwater samples will be collected from each new well during each of two groundwater monitoring events. Soil sampling will consist of collecting surface and subsurface samples of the soil on site. All groundwater and soil samples will be analyzed for a list of potential chemicals of concern. Existing groundwater monitoring wells will be abandoned because of their age and new ones installed.

Risk assessments for the site will be conducted using the soil and groundwater data collected during the on-site environmental studies. The risk assessments will consist of a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and an Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA). The purpose of the HHRA is to characterize the health risks associated with soil and groundwater at the site. The ERA will be performed to evaluate the likelihood that plants and wildlife at or near the site may be affected by impacts in the former Launch Area.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is an RI/FS?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an RI is a field study that collects data to characterize site conditions, determine the nature of the waste, and assess risk to human health and the environment. The FS is the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of alternative remedial actions that is developed based on the results of the RI. (Source: EPA.gov)

What will I see on site during the RI?

A team of environmental scientists will be on site to perform the soil and groundwater sampling and conduct an ecological survey. Drill rigs and other equipment will be used as needed.

What measures will be in place to protect health and safety?

A utility survey will identify buried and overhead infrastructure that may be encountered, to prevent damage to infrastructure and physical harm to personnel. Sampling equipment will be decontaminated before and after sampling. Waste generated during the studies will be properly managed to help protect personnel and surrounding community from environmental risk.

What are the next steps?

If needed based on the results of the RI, an FS will be completed to assess cleanup options at the former Nike Site. After that, a Proposed Plan for site cleanup (if needed) will be developed and shared with the public.

What is the anticipated timeline?

On-site field studies are planned July through October 2020. Then, the risk assessments and RI report will be prepared from November 2020 to July 2021. The FS and Proposed Plan (if needed) will be prepared from August 2021 to April 2022.

Where can I find more information?

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact:

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