

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
NOVEMBER 1997**

**HNC REVISION: 6 MARCH 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE 20 MAY 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Diamond Ordnance Fuze Laboratories

SITE NUMBER: C03DC092700

LOCATION:

City: Washington, D.C.
County: Not Applicable
State: Not Applicable

PROJECT NUMBER: C03DC092701

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 1

ASR RAC: 2

TAG RAC: 5

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Diamond Ordnance Fuze Laboratories consists of approximately 35 acres in the northwestern quarter of Washington, D.C. at Latitude 38° 56' 00" N, Longitude 77° 03' 00" W. The site boundaries were roughly Van Ness Street to the south, Reno Road to the west, Yuma Street to

the north and Connecticut Avenue on the east. The site also included the lease of a nearby building on 57,728 square feet of property at 4433-4463 Connecticut Avenue. The current property owner of the main property is General Services Administration (GSA) and the U.S. State Department. GSA leases the eastern portion of the site to the District of Columbia for operation of the University of the District of Columbia. The western portion was transferred from GSA to the State Department. This land accommodates the Egyptian and Austrian Embassies, with the remainder leased for future embassy development. The 4433-4463 Connecticut Avenue property is privately owned commercial and retail property.

The site is located on high ground in a hilly area, with a maximum elevation of about 350 feet NGVD. The area is urbanized and densely populated with private residences to the west and north and commercial businesses along Connecticut Avenue. There are no detectable surface streams within the site boundaries. All runoff would be by sheet flow on the surface to gutters and then into the storm sewer system or via small swales to surface streams. Drainage is to the east and northeast, with runoff eventually reaching the Potomac River via Broad Branch and Rock Creek. Climate is warm and humid in the summer with temperatures usually about 90° F, and cold in the winter with temperatures below freezing common.

4. SITE HISTORY: Diamond Ordnance Fuze Laboratories (DOFL) officially came into existence as a Department of Defense entity on 27 September 1953 when the Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards (NBS), transferred the facility and mission to the Department of the Army. However, the facilities origin began in December, 1940 when the National Defense Research Committee (NDRC) entered into an agreement with the NBS for the research and development of proximity fuzes and other related articles for rockets, bombs and mortar shells. At that time, the NBS operated one of the premier scientific research facilities in the government on this campus in the district of Columbia. DOFL consisted of a group of buildings and facilities on approximately 35 acres of land.

In the fall of 1944, the Chief of Ordnance signed an agreement under which the NBS continued research and development on proximity fuzes. In May 1945, The NBS broke ground for construction of an ordnance and electronics laboratory. The program expanded to include related ordnance research activities, such as missile development, all of which continued under the Department of Commerce through 1953. Although engaged in work for the Department of Defense, any activities occurring on the site prior to 27 September 1953 are not covered under DERP, since it was a Department of Commerce activity.

With the transfer of the fuze and missile program to the Department of the Army, Chief of Ordnance the Class II activity was renamed Diamond Ordnance Fuze Laboratories. It continued the mission of providing for the research and development of fuzes and related items, consulting and liaison services, fabrication of models and prototypes, and performance of developmental testing. By 1955, the mission expanded to include industrial engineering to the completion of mass production items, improvement of manufacturing processes, and solving problems of procurement.

In August 1962, DOFL transferred to the newly formed Army Materiel Command, which redesignated it as Harry Diamond Laboratories (HDL) on 13 November 1962. The mission expanded to include research and development in technical fields such as microwave components and antennas, radio frequency generators, semiconductor devices, integrated circuits, reserve batteries, lasers, nuclear radiation effects, mechanics and materials. Work continued on prototype and experimental fuzes for rockets, bombs, mortars and guided missiles.

Between 1956 and 1966, HDL made several attempts to acquire the facility in title from the Department of Commerce, since the NBS planned a move to Gaithersburg, Maryland. The National Capitol Planning Commission denied the requests and future use of the site. The GSA received title to the property in 1968 and gave HDL five to ten years to relocate. Between 1973 and 1976, HDL moved to a new location in Adelphi, MD where it is presently located and known as the Army Research Laboratory. Consequently, GSA redeveloped the entire NBS research campus, including the portions used by DOFL/HDL. The University of the District of Columbia and the embassies for Egypt and Austria currently occupy the FUDS.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres:	35 acres (approximately)
Former Use:	Laboratory Facility
Present Use:	University; embassies; 6 acres undeveloped land
Probable End Use:	University; embassies
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	Not Applicable

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Diamond Ordnance Fuze Laboratories was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in November 1997.

7. STRATEGY: RAC 5;NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group reviewed this ASR on 20 May 1998 and determined that a strategy of RAC 5, NOFA applies since there is no evidence of OE at the site (See HNC Safety Comments below). The only evidence of OE stored or used at the site were small laboratory quantities of explosives for work with prototype and experimental fuzes for a variety of munitions. The installation stored the explosives in buildings on site for use in loading of prototypes and for small scale tests. All of the former buildings, including those where explosives were stored or used, have been razed and the construction debris transported from the site.

HNC Safety Comments: Safety disagrees with the RAC score of 2 assigned to the ASR. The ASR writer wrote that there is no evidence of OE hazard at the site. Contractors building the University of the District of Columbia did unearth some unspecified items which were determined to be inert. Some "dumps" that were found did not contain any OE. Testing of ordnance was accomplished at other locations. Except for one small area, the site has been totally developed without incident and there is no reason to believe that OE exists on this site. A new RAC form with a score of 5 is attached.

CWM: There is no evidence whatsoever that CWM is present at this site.

Natural Resources: The only threatened species noted is the federally endangered Hay's spring amphipod (*Stygobromus hayi*) which occurs within 1.5 miles of the site. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may still be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: The ASR did not indicate if historical/cultural resources were found to be present at the site. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: NOFA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: NA