

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
NOVEMBER 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Green Creek Bombing Target Site

SITE NUMBER: C02NJ094400

LOCATION:

City: Green Creek
County: Cape May
State: New Jersey

PROJECT NUMBER: C02NJ094401

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC's:**

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ASR TAG REVIEW POC:

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Green Creek Bombing Target Site is located in Middle Township, Cape May County, 1/4 mile west of the Village of Green Creek, New Jersey. The site encompasses 30.71 acres and consists of a small island and surrounding salt marsh wetland. The 30.71 acres also include the land to the east of the island to Route 47 as shown in INPR and ASR maps. The only means of access to the island is either by boat or helicopter. The land is currently being used for land management practices of the Department of Conservation, Fish,

Game and Wildlife. Ralph Sheets, the former owner, continues to farm part of the land under a lease with the State.

The site consists of a narrow strip of land fronting on Delaware Bay and extending inland about 6500 feet. The area is predominately sandy with ground elevations less than 10 NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum). Terrain is relatively flat and swampy. Marsh grass and trees cover the area. Green Creek, a small stream draining a few square miles of the area, flows just north and through the site, emptying into Delaware Bay.

4. SITE HISTORY: The Green Creek Bombing Target Site, also known as Bombing Target No. 1, was one of fourteen bombing and/or rocket ranges used by the Wildwood Naval Air Station, which is three miles south of the site. Per Declaration of Taking dated 29 May 1944, the Department of the Navy obtained a lease over 30.71 acres from Ralph and Edna Sheets. Navy aviators practiced low level bombing and rocket training at the target site. Practice bombs and 2.25-inch aerial rockets (practice) were used in training at the site. A target consisting of concentric circles and an observation tower were constructed on the site. NAS, Wildwood was declared as excess on 30 April 1946. On 30 June 1946, the lease was terminated by the Department of the Navy and the 30.71 acres fee reverted back to Ralph and Edna Sheets.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA

Size, Acres:	30.71
Former Use:	Bombing Target
Present Use:	Wetlands; State owned and used for land management practices; lease farming
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordinance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Practice bombs (AN-MK 43); 2.25" Subcaliber Aerial Rocket Practice

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Green Creek Bombing Target Site was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in November 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

EE/CA; (RAC 4)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The site is RAC 4 with a strategy of a low priority EE/CA. The focus of the EE/CA should be the island (where the target was located) and the surrounding marshes. There is no evidence to indicate that the two-thirds of the site

to the east of the island and marsh has any potential OE presence. The site survey team found no surface evidence of conventional OE (HE or practice). Mr. Ralph Sheets, the former landowner, helped the site survey team identify ordnance debris he had found in past years. His descriptions indicated that he found 2.25" Subcaliber Aerial Rocket (Practice) and AN-MK 43 Practice bombs. Mr. Sheets stated that he had picked up practice rocket debris and stacked it at one location on the "island". The survey team found no evidence of this debris. The ASR does mention that in addition to practice rounds, HE duds may be located subsurface. This information was obtained from the landowner but could not be verified elsewhere and so is mentioned in passing.

Other OE concerns: The ASR identifies three other target sites (Eldorado Target Range, Marsh River and Commercial Township near Port Norris) which will soon be under restoration by the Philadelphia Service Engineering and Gas Company. Recommend the geographical district be advised of this fact so that appropriate action can be taken. It is recommended that any further removal action be conducted in conjunction with EE/CA(s) addressing W.W.II targets and W.W.I proving grounds known to have existed in Cape May County, New Jersey.

OE Presence: Conversation with Mr. Gerald V. Schwalbe following the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting clarified some points of discussion during the TAG meeting. Mr. Schwalbe stated that the confirmed OE presence at the site is that which is described in the RAC form in the ASR Conclusions and Recommendations. The references to other OE in the ASR photographs, text, and interviews does not pertain to the site. This information was only included to impress upon the reader other areas of OE usage in the vicinity requiring coordinated action.

Site Boundaries: The site acreage includes the island and adjacent marshes as well as the strip of land extending east to Route 47 as shown on INPR and ASR maps. Text descriptions of the site in the INPR and ASR Findings (Page 1-2, para 1.2) indicate that the site "consisted of a small island and surrounding salt marsh wetland" accessible only by helicopter or boat. This refers to the target area of the site. Mr. Schwalbe did state that the focus of the EE/CA should be on the island and the surrounding marsh and not the real estate that extends east to Route 47.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. Listings are provided in the ASR Findings, page 3-6, paragraph 3.5. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, 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:** EE/CA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only

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