

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: DECEMBER 1993
TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 OCTOBER 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Lowell Ordnance Plant

SITE NUMBER: D01MA002100

LOCATION:

City: Lowell
County: Middlesex
State: Massachusetts

PROJECT NUMBER: D01MA002100

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: Not Developed

ASR RAC: 5 (Plant 1)
3 (Plant 2)

TAG RAC: 5 (Plant 1)
3 (Plant 2)

2. **POC's:**

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICT:

Name: Bill Holtham
Office: CENAE-PM-E
Phone: (978)318-8670

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION:

Name: Celia Orgel
Office: CENAD-PP-S
Phone: (212) 264-6484

ASR/INPR TEAM:

Name: Richard L. Pike
Office: CEHNC-OE-DC
Phone: (256) 895-1559

HEADQUARTERS:

Name: J.R. Gibson
Office: CEMP-RF
Phone: (202) 761-4709

ASR SUPPORT DISTRICT:

Name: Thomas Freeman
Office: CELMS-PM-M
Phone: (314) 331-8785

ASR TECHNICAL REVIEWER:

Name: C. Fredrick Girard
Office: SIOAC-ESL
Phone: (815) 273-8849

3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The former Lowell Ordnance Plant consists of two separate facilities in Lowell, Massachusetts in Middlesex County. Lowell

Ordnance Plant #1 was located at 117 Marginal St and consisted of 12 acres situated along the south bank of the Merrimack River in the northwest area of the city. Lowell Ordnance Plant #2 was located five miles southwest of Plant #1, partially in the towns of Billerica and Tewksbury, and consisted of approximately 144 acres, along the east bank of the Concord River.

4. **SITE HISTORY:**

On March 27, 1942, negotiations began for the construction of a small arms ammunition plant. The design contractor, Lockwood-Greens Engineers, Inc., began working on the production layouts in April 1942 at Bridgeport, Connecticut, the home of Remington Arms Company. Remington was designated as the operator of the new facility which would become known as the Lowell Ordnance Plant, a government owned, contractor-operated (GOCO) installation. The facility was ready for operation in the fall of 1942.

Plant #1 contained several buildings, of which three were used as wool storage warehouses. It was decided that Plant #1 would be the site of the administration building, storage buildings and the manufacturing facility for .50 caliber casings. Plant #2 consisted of 19 buildings which were built before WWI for the manufacture of ammunition by the U.S. Cartridge Co. Due to being the more isolated area, Plant #2 was designated to be the area of all hazardous operations including primer manufacturing, loading, powder storage and primer storage. All casings were brought by truck from Plant #1, loaded with explosives and shipped out by rail from Plant #2. Between November 1942 and December 1943, over 71 million .50 caliber rounds were accepted by the Ordnance Department from the Lowell facility.

After cessation of .50 caliber ammunition manufacturing at Plant #2 in December 1943, the Government let a contract with General Electric to produce T-30, 4.5" rocket launchers. This contract was terminated in December 1944. In May 1945, Rewelec Manufacturing Company began producing secret electronic devices at Plant #2. This contract ended in November 1945 and the site was declared surplus in December 1945. In May 1950, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation sold Plant #2 to the Tewksbury Development Corporation. In August 1946, the War Assets Administration approved the sale of the land, buildings and machinery at Plant #1 to the General Electric Company.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Plant #1:	Size, Acres:	12
	Former Use:	Manufacturing, Storage and Administration Areas
	Present Use:	Vacant Plant except for 20% of one building
	Probable End Use:	Possible Manufacturing
	Ordnance Presence:	None
Plant #2:	Size, Acres:	144
	Former Use:	Ordnance manufacturing, Storage and testing area
	Present Use:	Manufacturing military missile components
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
	Type:	.50 Caliber casings Potential 20 and 30mm rds

6. CURRENT STATUS:

The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Lowell Ordnance Plant was completed by the U. S. Army corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in December 1993.

7. STRATEGY:

Plant #1: NOFA
Plant #2: EE/CA (RAC 3)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met and discussed this ASR on 27 October 1998 and determined NOFA for Plant #1 as no OE related activities occurred at this location during War Department ownership. The TAG determined an EE/CA (RAC 3) for the Plant #2 area as there is a potential for OE in and around the Firing Range. An updated and revised Risk Assessment Code form is attached. All of the old separate ordnance buildings have been replaced by an integrated modern manufacturing facility. Buildings #'s 30, 32, 70A and 70B which were once thought to be contaminated with lead azide and mercury fulminate have all been razed and a parking lot covers some of this area. Building #98 (Firing Range) and the old storage areas around it in the northern portion of Plant #2 have been allowed to return to a natural wetland and are usually underwater. Raytheon and the Corps of Engineers have drilled wells and groundwater contamination is currently being monitored.

Analysis of the soil in these areas may be warranted to determine if further remedial actions are necessary.

Projectiles around 30mm in size, were found on the surface of Plant #2 (See attached photographs). The historical documentation for this site does not mention the plant producing this type ammunition for the U.S. Government. By the historical documentation, only .50 caliber small arms ammunition was produced for the U.S. Government. This lack of historical documentation raises the question as to Potential Responsible Party for this site. This issue needs to be resolved before any additional work can proceed.

Based on the investigation of historical records reviewed, the results of the site survey and interviews, there is no evidence of Chemical Warfare Materials ever being stored, used or disposed of at this FUDS.

There are known Federally-and State-listed species occurring in the site area. 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.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only