

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)

PROJECT FACT SHEET

SEPTEMBER 1995

HNC REVISION: 2 MAY 1997

TAG REVIEW DATE: 7 MAY 1997

1. **SITE NAME:** Sangamon Ordnance Plant
Illioopolis, Illinois

SITE NUMBER: E05IL010200

LOCATION:

City: Illioopolis
County: Sangamon
State: Illinois

PROJECT NUMBER: E05IL010203

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 3

2. **POC's:**

TECHNICAL MANAGER:

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GEO DISTRICT POC:

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HEADQUARTERS POC:

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SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:

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ASR TAG REVIEW POC:

Name: Thomas M. Meekma
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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Sangamon Ordnance Plant consisted of 19,093.26 acres of land located between Springfield and Decatur, along highway 36/72 one mile west of Illioopolis, Sangamon County, Illinois. The site comprises some of the most

fertile and productive farmland in the nation. Ownership is primarily by local individuals involved in agricultural activities.

The site is generally flat with occasional small hills. Local climate is typically Midwestern, with hot summers and cold winters. The annual precipitation ranges from 30 to 38 inches. Natural drainage is westward. The Sangamon River and its tributaries, including the South Fork and numerous smaller streams, drain all of the survey area except the northeastern corner. The land is located in a low plain where flooding could occur at times.

4. SITE HISTORY: Between July 1942 and July 1943, The United States of America acquired a total of 19,093.26 acres consisting of 19,092.56 fee acres through either Purchase or Declaration of Takings, and 0.70 license acres for the establishment of the Sangamon Ordnance Plant. Originally the Sangamon Ordnance Plant consisted of only an approximate 9,200 acres. The adjacent Oak Ordnance Plant contained an additional approximate 9,850 acres. These two production facilities were combined in September of 1943 and assumed the Sangamon name for the entire facility.

The Sangamon Ordnance Plant was used by the Department of the Army to load, assemble, and pack explosive ordnance munitions during the World War II period between 1942 and 1945. Records indicate that small arms primers, propellants, bomb fuzes, bursters, boosters, and 90mm, 76mm, 75mm, 57mm, and 3 inch rounds were produced at this plant. In excess of 2,000 buildings and improvements were constructed for plant operation and maintenance purposes. The plant was operated by the Remington-Rand Corporation. Plant operations were discontinued in 1945. The vast majority of lands and improvements were declared excess to the government's needs by the War Department between 1945 and 1946.

On 25 August 1945, 4,026 acres of the site, which was used as a buffer zone and for agriculture during the years of plant operation, were declared surplus by the War Department and transferred to the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) for disposal. Immediately after acceptance, the FCA began disposal of the property to the original landowners. This property did not contain any significant structures or improvements.

On 13 September 1945, 14,946.56 fee acres and 0.70 license acres were declared surplus by the War Department and assigned to the Corps of Engineers for disposal. The War Assets Administration (WAA) assumed accountability from the Corps of Engineers of the 14,947.26 acres on 10 September 1946 and transferred the property to the FCA. FCA disposed of this property generally to the original landowners. The majority of structural improvements were built on this property.

On 17 March 1947, the remaining 120 acres of the plant was declared surplus by the Department of the Army and assigned to the Corps of Engineers for disposal. **The 120 acres included 53.73 acres which were later determined to be contaminated with explosive waste. The 53.73 acres were subsequently withdrawn from this report of excess.** The remaining 66.27 acres were assigned to the WAA. The WAS transferred the property to the FCA. The FCA ultimately disposed of the 66.27 acres.

On 25 January 1950, 53.73 acres (containing 15 parcels) were transferred from the WAA to the General Services Administration (GSA). On 7 April 1950, the Department of the Army reassumed accountability of the 53.73 acres for the purpose of rendering them safe for disposal. On 6 May 1963, the 53.73 acres were once again declared excess by the Army and transferred to GSA for disposal pending final decontamination by the Army. Decontamination work was completed by the Army on 11 February 1970 and the property was determined safe for disposal if restricted to surface use only. All parcels were purchased, generally by owners of surrounding land, from GSA between August 1965 and December 1974. The disposal of these parcels was by quitclaim deed and contained surface use only restrictions and included a save and hold harmless clause to protect the government.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A

Size, Acres:	3.3 (approximate)
Former Use:	Burning Grounds (10 tracts)
Present Use:	Agricultural
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Detonators;Fuzes;Boosters;Bursters; TNT;Explosive D;Tetryl

AREA B

Size, Acres:	12.5 (approximate)
Former Use:	Burning Ground
Present Use:	Agricultural
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Detonators;Fuzes;Boosters;Bursters; TNT;Explosive D;Tetryl

AREA C

Size, Acres: 4.3 (approximate)
Former Use: Burning Ground
Present Use: Agricultural
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: Detonators;Fuzes;Boosters;Bursters;
TNT;Explosive D;Tetryl

AREA D

Size, Acres: 34 (approximate)
Former Use: Load Lines (1-1 and 1-2)
Present Use: Agricultural
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: TNT;Explosive D;Tetryl

AREA E

Size, Acres: 34 (approximate)
Former Use: Load Lines (1-3 and 40-1)
Present Use: Agricultural
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Uncontaminated**
Type: Not Applicable

AREA F

Size, Acres: 1 (approximate)
Former Use: Burning Ground
Present Use: Agricultural
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: Detonators;Fuzes;Boosters;Bursters;
TNT;Explosive D;Tetryl

AREA G

Size, Acres: 784 (approximate)
Former Use: Fuze Lines
Present Use: Agricultural
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Uncontaminated**
Type: Not Applicable

AREA H

Size, Acres: 1,797 (approximate)

Former Use: Storage Magazines
Present Use: Agricultural
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Uncontaminated**
Type: Not Applicable

AREA I

Size, Acres: 2 (approximate)
Former Use: Pistol Ranges
Present Use: Agricultural
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Uncontaminated**
Type: Not Applicable

AREA J

Size, Acres: 16,421 (approximate)
Former Use: Remaining Lands and Buildings
Present Use: Agricultural
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Uncontaminated**
Type: Not Applicable

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for Sangamon Ordnance Plant, Illinois was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in September 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

AREA A: EE/CA; (RAC 3)
AREA B: EE/CA; (RAC 3)
AREA C: EE/CA; (RAC 3)
AREA D: EE/CA; (RAC 3)
AREA E: NOFA; (RAC 5)
AREA F: EE/CA; (RAC 3)
AREA G: NOFA; (RAC 5)
AREA H: NOFA; (RAC 5)
AREA I: NOFA; (RAC 5)
AREA J: NOFA; (RAC 5)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: HNC Safety and the ASR author agreed on NOFA, RAC 5 for Areas E, G, H, I and J and ESI, followed by EE/CA where required, for Areas A-D, and F. The TAG also agrees with this strategy, the exception being that the ESI strategy is removed leaving EE/CA, RAC 3 for Areas A-D, and F.

HNC Safety Comment: Concurs with Draft ASR recommendations and RAC scores as stated. It has already been noted that the TAG recommends EE/CA, RAC 3 for Areas A-D, and F, deleting ESI as an interim strategy.

NOFA Strategy for Areas E, G, H, I, J: All ASR entries for these areas state: "No evidence was found to suspect contamination in subject areas. No ordnance, or remnants of ordnance, was visually witnessed by the site inspection team. No evidence of OE has been reported to authorities since the closure of this facility approximately fifty years ago." It is further stated that documentation was found which shows the areas were either decontaminated, or, if decontamination was not deemed appropriate or complete, destroyed by burning.

EE/CA Strategy for Areas A, B, C, D, F: The RAC Form for these areas states: "These areas contained contamination and were primarily designated as burning areas of the plant. **Area B contains a restriction of surface use only and the owner is eager for remediation to occur as he wanted to do some building on this land.** Although no ordnance related articles have ever been documented as being found in these areas, a 1988 report suggests that several areas may contain possible levels of contamination which appear greater than background values. It should be noted that no incidents involving ordnance or explosives in subject areas have been documented since base closure approximately 50 years ago. The on site assessment team could find no visual evidence which would suggest OE presence. **It is suggested that any future OE projects be closely coordinated with those organizations performing HTRW projects, as those projects appear to address the approximate same acreage."**

Other Projects: (1) Project Number E05IL010202, CON/HTRW, is being addressed by Corps of Engineers, Chicago and Buffalo Districts. (2) Project Number E05IL010204, BD/DR, is being addressed by Corps of Engineers, Chicago District. (3) **Project Number E05IL010201, HTRW, is being addressed by Corps of Engineers, Chicago and Buffalo Districts. During a 1988 site investigation report by individuals from the Buffalo District, soil samples show TNT levels greater than background for TNT, but these levels were not considered dangerous. Also, TNT was found in two groundwater monitoring well samples. Document E-5 of the ASR provides more information.**

Landowner Concerns: Concerns center on an overall view of a majority of the landowners in this area that intrusive actions into this former site are unnecessary. Many suggest the attitude that no problems have surfaced in over fifty years and they

wonder why the concern at this time. They do not readily accept an intrusion onto their prime farm land. On the other hand, Mr. Lee Ruggles, who owns what is defined in this report as Area B, welcomes further investigation into his land, the sooner the better.

Coordination with Districts: Suggest coordinating any further OE actions with both Chicago and Buffalo Districts, to prevent duplication of efforts regarding OE and HTRW projects, as it appears the subject areas may overlap.

Natural Resources: No known Federally- and State-listed species occur within the site area. However, 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 historical/cultural resources were found to be present at the site. 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

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