

Preserving America's Heritage

**PROGRAM COMMENT FOR
WORLD WAR II AND COLD WAR ERA (1939 – 1974)
ARMY AMMUNITION PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND PLANTS**

I. Introduction

This Program Comment provides the Department of the Army (Army) with an alternative way to comply with its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with regard to the effect of the following management actions on World War II (WWII) and Cold War Era Army Ammunition Production Facilities and Plants that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (Facilities and Plants): ongoing operations, maintenance and repair, rehabilitation, renovation, mothballing, cessation of maintenance, new construction, demolition, deconstruction and salvage, remediation activities, and transfer, sale, lease, and closure of such facilities.

In order to take into account the effects on Facilities and Plants, the Army will conduct documentation in accordance with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

II. Treatment of Properties

A. Army Mitigation

1. The Army has an existing context study, Historic Context for the World War II Ordnance Department's Government-Owned Contractor-Operated (GOCO) Industrial Facilities 1939-1945 as well as documentation of nine World War II GOCO Plants.

2. The Army will prepare a supplemental volume that revises and expands the existing context to include the Cold War Era (1946-1974). The updated context study will:

focus on the changes that the plants underwent to address changing weapons technology and defense needs; and

identify prominent architect-engineer firms that may have designed architecturally significant buildings for Army Ammunition Plants.

3. The Army will prepare documentation that generally comports with the appropriate HABS/HAER standards for documentation for selected architecturally significant Facilities and Plants at two installations. This documentation will be similar to and follow the format of the existing documentation described in section II.A.1, above.

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4. Upon completion of the documentation, the Army will then make the existing documentation of the nine WWII GOCO Army Ammunition Plants and the WWII GOCO context and the new documentation, to the extent possible under security concerns, available in electronic format to Federal and State agencies that request it.

5. In addition, as a result of on-going consultations with stakeholders, the Army will provide a list of properties covered by the Program Comment, by state, to the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

6. The Army will also develop additional public information on the Army ammunition process, from production through storage, to include:

a display that can be loaned to one of the Army's museums, such as the Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground, or used at conferences; and

a popular publication on the ammunition process to accompany the display.

Copies of this information will be available electronically, to the extent possible under security concerns, and hard copies will be placed in a permanent repository, such as the Center for Military History.

7. The Army will encourage adaptive reuse of the properties as well as the use of historic tax credits by private developers under lease arrangements. The Army should also incorporate adaptive reuse and preservation principles into master planning documents and activities.

The above actions satisfy the Army's requirement to take into account the effects of the following management actions on Facilities and Plants: ongoing operations, maintenance and repair, rehabilitation, renovation, mothballing, cessation of maintenance activities, new construction, demolition, deconstruction and salvage, remedial activities, and transfer, sale, lease and/or closure of such facilities.

III. Applicability

A. This Program Comment applies solely to Facilities and Plants. The Program Comment does not apply to the following properties that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places: (1) archeological properties, (2) properties of traditional religious and cultural significance to federally recognized Indian tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations, and/or (3) Facilities and Plants listed or eligible National Register of Historic Places districts where the ammunition production facility is a contributing element of the district and the proposed undertaking has a potential to adversely affect such historic district. This third exclusion does not apply to ammunition production related historic districts that are entirely within the boundaries of an ammunition production plant. In those cases the Program Comment would be applicable to such districts.

B. An installation with an existing Section 106 agreement document that addresses Facilities and Plants can choose to:

1. continue to follow the stipulations in the existing agreement document for the remaining period of the agreement; or

2. seek to amend the existing agreement document to incorporate, in whole or in part, the terms of this Program Comment; or

3. terminate the existing agreement document and re-initiate consultation informed by this Program Comment, if necessary.

C. All future Section 106 agreement documents developed by Army installations related to undertakings and properties addressed in this Program Comment shall include appropriate provisions detailing whether and how the terms of the Program Comment apply to such undertakings.

IV. Completion Schedule

On or before 60 days following issuance of the Program Comment, the Army and ACHP will establish a schedule for completion of the treatments outlined above.

V. Effect of the Program Comment

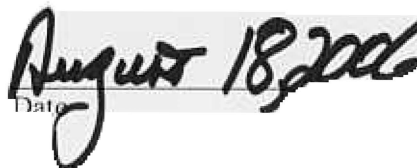
By following this Program Comment, the Army has met its responsibilities for compliance under Section 106 regarding the effect of the following management actions on WWII and Cold War Era Army Ammunition Production Facilities and Plants that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places: ongoing operations, maintenance and repair, rehabilitation, renovation, mothballing, cessation of maintenance, new construction, demolition, deconstruction and salvage, remediation activities, and transfer, sale, lease, and closure of such facilities. Accordingly, the Army will no longer be required to follow the case-by-case Section 106 review process for such effects.

VI. Duration and Review of the Program Comment

This Program Comment will remain in effect until such time as Headquarters, Department of the Army determines that such comments are no longer needed and notifies ACHP in writing, or ACHP withdraws the comments in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.14(e)(6). Following such withdrawal, the Army would be required to comply with the requirements of 36 CFR §§ 800.3 through 800.7 regarding the effects under this Program Comments' scope.

Headquarters, Department of the Army and ACHP will review the implementation of the Program Comment seven years after its issuance and determine whether to take action to terminate the Program Comment as detailed in the preceding paragraph.


John L. Nau, III
Chairman


Date