



California Saline Valley Air-to-Air Gunnery Range

Facility and Location

The former Saline Valley Air-to-Air Gunnery Range is approximately 20 miles east of Independence, and 5 miles northwest of Death Valley. Between August and October 1944, the War Department acquired a total of 591,000 acres of land by transfers from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior through leases and permits. The boundary of the entire 591,000 acres site is considered to be the Air-to-Air Gunnery Range Munitions Response Site (MRS) boundary. The former range served as an auxiliary to Muroc Army Airfield (currently known as Edwards Air Force Base) and provided a remote area for aerial training for gunners on B-24 bombers. The site was declared surplus in February 1946 and transferred to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior in 1947. Approximately 456,142 acres are now within the Death Valley National Park, which is managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service (Inyo National Forest), State of California, and private in-holdings owning smaller portions of the site. There are no permanent residents in Saline Valley. However, several campgrounds and hot springs in the area are accessed by marginally improved dirt roads. Several mining claims also exist within the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS).

Media Sampled and Findings

Surface Water — In 2011, one of three samples detected perchlorate at 0.01 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Not Applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.