Delaware
Dover Air Force Base Precision Bombing Range

Facility and Location
The site consists of approximately 3,500 acres and is located approximately ten miles from Dover Army Airfield. The site was acquired through a use permit dated August 4, 1944 from the Department of the Interior which had maintained the property as part of the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. The site was developed by the Research and Development Service of the Army Air Forces in the mid-1940s as a rocket testing range. The Army Air Forces made several improvements to the refuge for operational purposes to include: several observation towers, a radio tower, a main control tower, a mess hall, a latrine, a concrete observation bunker, an oil storage building, a tool house, and a workshop. In addition, a rocket launching structure and several targets were constructed for testing purposes and roads and dikes were expanded to increase site accessibility.

The range was divided into two areas, a precision range and a high explosive range. The precision range consisted of 5,000 yards of flat ground flanked by a swamp area of 1.5 miles in length bordering the Delaware River. The precision range was located in the Dutch Neck area and was used for flight testing rockets from aircraft as well as ground testing of rockets. A specific ground testing range was located on one side of the precision range for the purpose of conducting blast tests and experimental ground firing tests. A large concrete pad was built in this area for the experimental installation of rocket launchers on various types of aircraft. The high explosive range was located to the south of the precision range near the current park headquarters. The range contained several markers (such as M-3 tanks and steel plates) used as targets for high explosive ammunition and rockets.

Media Sampled and Findings
Drinking Water — In 2007, one of three samples detected perchlorate at 0.18 ppb.

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