



New Jersey NWS Earle

Facility and Location

Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle is divided into two sections: Main (located in Colts Neck) and the Waterfront Area (on Sandy Hook Bay, located in the Leonardo section of Middletown, New Jersey). NWS Earle provides logistical, technical, and material support to the fleet in a variety of areas from combat subsystems and retail ammunition management to ordnance packaging, handling, and storage.

In its 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations, DoD recommended realigning Naval Surface Warfare Center Division Earle, by relocating weapon and armament packaging research and development and acquisition to Picatinny Arsenal. At NWS Earle, all ammunition is handled, stored, or shipped by Atlantic Ordnance Command personnel and all ordnance handling is provided by Naval Munitions Command. There are no manufacturing processes at NWS Earle. In August 2011, weapon and armament packaging research and development activities were relocated to Picatinny Arsenal.

Media Sampled and Findings

Drinking Water — In 2007, two of two samples detected perchlorate at 0.09 and 0.1 ppb. Prior to 2007, two of two samples detected perchlorate at 0.09 and 0.11 ppb.

Groundwater — In 2010, 27 of 27 samples detected perchlorate from 0.09 to 20 ppb. Prior to 2007, 62 of 62 samples detected perchlorate from 0.2 to 398 ppb.

Soil — Prior to 2007, 22 of 22 samples detected perchlorate from 1.4 to 87 ppb.

Surface Water — In 2010, six of six samples detected perchlorate from 0.14 to 0.16 ppb. Prior to 2007, two of two samples detected perchlorate at 1.8 and 2.1 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Groundwater samples were above the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb. There are no state or regional advisory levels for soil.

The Navy will continue to conduct additional sampling at the open burn/open detonation range to further delineate and characterize site contaminants in groundwater and surface water. In early 2011, NWS Earle withdrew the Subpart X permit application and now operates the OB/OD Range under Delay-of-Closure. Sampling data will be available in 2012.