



FINAL

Operational Range Assessment Program
Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report
WVDNR Elk River WMA Training Area, West Virginia
U.S. Army Operational Range Assessment Program
Qualitative Operational Range Assessments

Prepared for:

U.S. Army Environmental Command and
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District



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AUGUST 2008



**FINAL
OPERATIONAL RANGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
PHASE I QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ELK RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TRAINING
AREA
BRAXTON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

AUGUST 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States (U.S.) Army is conducting qualitative assessments at operational ranges to meet the requirements of Department of Defense policy and to support the U.S. Army Sustainable Range Program. The operational range qualitative assessment (hereinafter referred to as Phase I Assessment) is the first phase of the U.S. Army Operational Range Assessment Program. This Phase I Assessment evaluates the operational range area at West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR) Elk River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Training Area to assess whether further investigation is needed to determine if potential munitions constituents of concern (MCOC) are or could be migrating off-range at levels that may pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. In conducting the Phase I Assessment, MCOC sources, potential off-range migration pathways, and potential off-range human and ecological receptors are evaluated as appropriate.

The WVDNR Elk River WMA Training Area is located within the WVDNR Elk River WMA, three miles south of Flatwoods, West Virginia, and approximately three miles east of Sutton, West Virginia. The training area is situated between Route 15 to the north and Sutton Lake to the south. The 277.93-acre training area contains one 1.82-acre small arms range, which is programmatically excluded, and five maneuver and training areas totaling 276.11 acres.

A review of available records and background data, as well as an interview with West Virginia Army National Guard personnel, indicate that munitions use at the maneuver and training areas at WVDNR Elk River WMA Training Area is limited to small caliber blanks. Training currently conducted on these ranges consists of field training exercises, land navigation, obstacle breaching, and other Army Training Evaluation Program tasks. Because training activities have never involved the use of live-fire military munitions, there are no potential sources of MCOC. Therefore, potential off-range migration pathways and potential off-range human and ecological receptors were not evaluated, and the operational ranges at WVDNR Elk River WMA Training Area were categorized as Unlikely.

Installations with operational ranges where no munitions or only small caliber blanks have been utilized are categorized as Unlikely. That is, based on a review of available information, there is sufficient evidence to show that due to the lack of munitions use there are no known releases or source-receptor interactions that could present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Ranges categorized as Unlikely are required to be re-evaluated at least every five years. Re-evaluation may occur sooner if significant changes (e.g., change in range operations or site conditions, regulatory changes) occur that affect determinations made during this Phase I Assessment.

Table ES-1 summarizes the Phase I Assessment findings.

Table ES-1: Summary of Findings and Conclusions for WNDNR Elk River WMA Training Area

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathways(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	5 operational ranges; 276.11 acres	No source—no current or historical use of live-fire or non-live-fire military munitions	Not evaluated (no source identified)		Re-evaluate during the five-year review.