



Florida

Orlando Range and Chemical Yard

Facility and Location

Between 1942 and 1943, 2,111 acres were acquired for the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard. The area was originally used to support the Orlando Air Base as a rifle range that fired north from the southern end of the property. Later, the Army Air Corps abandoned the rifle range and constructed a toxic gas yard with improvements such as ordnance storage igloos, a storage warehouse, storage area for chemical storage cylinders and drums, latrines, and a few smaller buildings. A pistol range was added west of the abandoned rifle range. The southern part of the site was used for conducting training demonstrations that were incorporated into the curriculum for the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics. Typically, several demonstrations were conducted per month with as many as 1,000 personnel attending.

In April 1946, much of the former Orlando Range and Chemical Yard was declared excess. There were two areas within the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) sampled for perchlorate contamination, Potential Areas of Interest (PAOI) 3 and 4. PAOI 3 consisted of four ground scars consistent with potential disposal/burial areas that were identified on a 1947 aerial photograph toward the northern side of the former Orlando Range and Chemical Yard. Combined, the three ground scars covered approximately 11 acres. PAOI 4, toxic gas yard, was located near the center of the former Orlando Range and Chemical Yard. Construction was begun on the toxic gas yard in May 1943, and included a filling shed, rollways, personnel decontamination building, boiler room, pump house, well, and water tower.

Media Sampled and Findings

Groundwater — In 2009, one of seven samples detected perchlorate at 0.22 ppb.

Surface Water — In 2009, two samples reported no detection.

Appropriate Actions

No DoD Action Indicated was recommended for PAOI 4 and part of PAOI 3. The remainder of PAOI 3 was recommended to be evaluated to become a munitions response site and incorporated into a future Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. Additional perchlorate sampling was not specifically recommended due to the lack of findings above screening levels and all samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.