



Fort Smallwood Nike Launch and Control

What You Need to Know

Site Location

The former Fort Smallwood Nike site is located in Jacobsville, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The Nike site was comprised of 35.91 acres located about 3/5 of a mile northeast of the intersection of Fort Smallwood Road and Hog Neck Road. The site is now owned by the Anne Arundel County Schools Maintenance and Operations Department.

Site History

The Fort Smallwood site was a Nike anti-ballistic missile defense battery which operated from 1955 to 1963. The missile defense system was developed during the cold war as a ballistic missile defense system. The batteries were deployed around the U.S. from the 1950s through the 1970s. Each battery was comprised of a radar control site and a missile firing site, usually separated by a distance of about 0.5 – 1 mile.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

In 1991, an Inventory Report and Confirmation Study (INPR) was conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The INPR included a summary of sampling results from a Confirmation Study. While the INPR did not indicate when the Confirmation Study was conducted, these studies for Nike sites were completed in the 1980s.

The Confirmation Study included the collection of 15 soil samples; the installation and sampling of four groundwater monitoring wells and one existing well; and the collection of water samples from two of the three underground missile storage structures.

The soil samples revealed low levels of metals and low levels of petroleum hydrocarbons. The groundwater samples revealed low levels of metals, low levels of petroleum hydrocarbons, and tetrachloroethene in one sample at 6 – 8 µg/L (duplicate samples from one well). The missile storage water samples revealed low levels of metals and low levels of petroleum hydrocarbons.

Current Status/Planned or Potential Future Action

There are no further actions planned for this site.