

~ Final ~

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Establishing a Surface Danger Zone on a Portion of State Game Lands No. 211 in Connection with the Operation of a Multi-Purpose Training Range

**National Guard Training Center – Fort Indiantown Gap,
Pennsylvania**

Prepared for:



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SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SIGNATURE PAGE

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Department of Military and Veterans Affairs,
National Guard Training Center – Fort Indiantown Gap

TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION: Establishing a Surface Danger Zone on a Portion of State
Game Lands No. 211 in Connection with the Operation of
a Multi-Purpose Training Range at the National Guard
Training Center – Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania

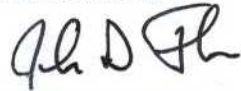
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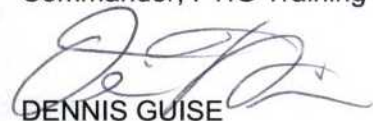
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ABSTRACT: The Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) proposes to establish a periodic surface danger zone (SDZ) to support a part of the Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) SDZ to the north of NGTC-FTIG, within SGL 211, for a maximum of 90 days per calendar year, over a period of 41 years. The primary goal of the proposed SDZ and associated land use agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) is for the DMVA to gain necessary limited jurisdiction and military control over this area as required by Army Regulation (AR) 385-63 and Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 385-63. In this manner, the proposed safety buffer and land use agreement would



allow operation of the MPTR, and thereby assist in maintaining the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up-to-date, resourceful training site for the Pennsylvania National Guard and for other National Guard, Reserve and active forces.

Construction and operation of the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG originally was assessed within the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the *Enhanced Training and Operations at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap*, March 2002 (DMVA/PANG 2002a) and the consequent Record of Decision (ROD) on that FEIS dated 16 June 2002 (DMVA/PANG 2002b). In the FEIS and ROD, the DMVA/PAARNG assessed and approved the construction and operation of the MPTR, based on data available and known at that time. Since that time, additional analysis has determined that the MPTR can not be designed, constructed, and operated with its SDZ fully contained within the boundaries of NGTC-FTIG. Consequently, this Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared to assess the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of establishing a periodic, controlled, off-Post SDZ to accommodate the safe operation of the MPTR.

This SEA considers alternative actions for implementing the Proposed Action. The No-Action Alternative was also retained for evaluation in this SEA.

This SEA evaluates the individual and cumulative effects of Alternative 1 (900-acre SDZ within SGL 211), Alternative 2 (1,900-acre SDZ within SGL 211, and the No-Action Alternative (Alternative 3) with respect to a variety of criteria, including physical environment; water quality; groundwater; air quality; biological resources, such as vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, plant communities, protected species, and wetlands; land use; socioeconomic environment; noise; hazardous, and toxic wastes; cultural resources; infrastructure; and human health and safety, including environmental justice and children's health and safety risks.

This analysis determines that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary for implementation of any of the alternatives and that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate. Minor short-term adverse impacts to land use and socioeconomics; minor long-term adverse impacts to socioeconomics and public safety; and minor long-term positive impacts to transportation infrastructure and surface water quality would be anticipated through implementation of Alternatives 1 or 2. Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in indirect long-term adverse socioeconomic impacts as well as minor long-term positive impacts to the noise and safety environment.

This SEA recommends that the PAARNG elect to implement Alternative 1. Implementation of Alternative 1 would serve to fulfill the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action while minimizing the overall potential for adverse impacts.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADNL	A-Weighted Day-Night Average Sound Level	FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
AMEC	AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.	FICUN	Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise
Amsl	Above Mean Sea Level	FMO	Financial Management Office
ANST	Appalachian National Scenic Trail	FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
AR	Army Regulation	H₂S	Hydrogen sulfide
ARDEC	United States Army Research and Development Engineering Center	HAP	Hazardous Air Pollutant
		HATS	Harrisburg Area Transportation Study
ARNG	Army National Guard	HF	Hydrogen fluoride
ATC	Appalachian Trail Conference	HQDA	Headquarters of the Department of the Army
Be	Beryllium	HTMW	Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Waste
BMP	Best Management Practices	I	Interstate
CAA	Clean Air Act	IDT	Inactive Duty Training
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments	IICEP	Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
CDNL	C-Weighted Day-Night Average Sound Level	JAG	Judge Advocate General
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality	LCPD	Lebanon County Planning Department
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	MAAF	Muir Army Air Field
CO	Carbon Monoxide	mi²	Miles Squared
DA PAM	Department of the Army Pamphlet	mm	millimeter
DMVA	Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	MPTR	Multi-Purpose Training Range
DoD	Department of Defense	NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
E-1	Echo One	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
EAATS	Eastern Army Aviation Training Site	NGB	National Guard Bureau
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey	NGTC-FTIG	National Guard Training Center – Fort Indiantown Gap
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	NOA	Notice of Availability
EO	Executive Order	NO_x	Nitrogen Oxide
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement		



NPS	National Park Service	SCWA	Swatara Creek Watershed Association
NWI	National Wetland Inventory	SDZ	Surface Danger Zone
O₃	Ozone	SEA	Supplemental Environmental Assessment
OTR	Ozone Transport Region	SEA	Supplemental Environmental Assessment
P.L.	Public Law	SGL 211	State Game Lands No. 211
Pa.C.S.	Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes	SHPO	State Historical Preservation Office
PA/SI	Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection	SMHWA	Second Mountain Hawk Watch Association
PAAQS	Pennsylvania Ambient Air Quality Standard	SO₂	Sulfur Dioxide
PAARNG	Pennsylvania Army National Guard	SR	State Route
PADCNR	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	TA	Training Area
PADEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	TAG	The Adjutant General
PANG	Pennsylvania National Guard	TCRPC	Tri-county Regional Planning Commission
Pb	Lead	THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
PFBC	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission	U.S.	United States
PGC	Pennsylvania Game Commission	ug/L	Micrograms per Liter
PHMC	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission	USACHPPM	United States Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine
PM	Particulate Matter	USC	United States Code
PNDI	Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
PNHP	Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program	USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study	USFWS	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
ROD	Record of Decision	USGS	United States Geological Society
ROI	Region of Influence	UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
SBCT	Stryker Brigade Combat Team	VOC	Volatile Organic Compound



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Supplemental Environmental Assessment Establishing a Surface Danger Zone on a Portion of State Game Lands No. 211 in Connection with the Operation of a Multi-Purpose Training Range

This Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared to identify, document and discuss the possible environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the proposed establishment of a Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) on a portion of State Game Lands No. 211 (SGL 211) in connection with the operation of the Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) at the National Guard Training Center - Fort Indiantown Gap (NGTC-FTIG), Pennsylvania.

Per **Section 8.13** of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the *Transformation of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard 56th Brigade into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team* (DMVA/PANG 2006a): "Once this SGL #211...proposal is sufficiently defined between the PANG and the PGC, the PANG will complete a Supplemental NEPA document (i.e., as a supplement to the 2002 Final EIS [FEIS]) for this specific action. This Supplemental NEPA document will address the individual and cumulative effects of this proposed Revised MPTR Action and associated "land exchange", including an analysis of the cumulative effects of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, including the Proposed SBCT Action."

This SEA supplements data provided in the FEIS for the *Enhanced Training and Operations at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap*, March 2002 (DMVA/PANG 2002a) and the consequent ROD on that FEIS dated 16 June 2002 (DMVA/PANG 2002b). In the FEIS and ROD, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs/Pennsylvania Army National Guard (DMVA/PAARNG) assessed and approved the construction and operation of the MPTR, based on data available and known at that time.

Since publication of the ROD, the original FEIS-assessed MPTR configuration and an array of alternative design configurations were completed by the PAARNG and associated ricochet analyses were conducted by United States Army Research and Development Engineering Center (ARDEC) on each alternative. These analyses determined no practical MPTR design alternative exists that would retain projectiles within the boundaries of NGTC-FTIG (ARDEC 2007). Therefore, no design alternative exists that would satisfy the conditions of the ROD as stated above. This SEA has been prepared as required under Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1502).

As such, the DMVA/PAARNG has selected as their Preferred Alternative, to be assessed in this SEA, that alternative which would result in the minimum impact to SGL 211. The design configuration of the MPTR that produces this minimum of SGL 211 impact is sited within the construction footprint analyzed within the prior FEIS and ROD. Consequently, this SEA focuses on the proposed SDZ extending off of NGTC-FTIG and onto SGL 211. The impacts of the



construction and operation of the MPTR within NGTC-FTIG, as analyzed within the 2002 FEIS and approved within the ROD, including approved associated on-Post mitigation measures, remain valid and are not re-evaluated herein.

This SEA has been prepared to document the potential for environmental impacts resulting from proposed limited jurisdiction and military control over a portion of SGL 211 to support a part of the SDZ for the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. This SEA has been prepared under the provisions of, and in accordance with, NEPA of 1969 (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 *et seq.*), CEQ Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and 32 CFR 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, Final Rule). In addition, the document has been prepared as prescribed in the *NGB NEPA Handbook - Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NGB 2006).

Overview of Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide an adequate SDZ, based on Army requirements (AR 385-63, DA PAM 385-63) for weapons systems in the Army inventory used on the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. SDZs are part of every Army range. When a standard, two-dimensional SDZ does not fit onto the terrain of an installation, it is permissible to utilize terrain (three-dimensional) to modify/reduce the standard SDZ, and/or acquire/control the land outside of the confines of an installation (AR 385-63, DA PAM 385-63). The standard, two-dimensional SDZ for the NGTC-FTIG MPTR does not fit within the borders of NGTC-FTIG. A scientific analysis of the projectile ricochet from weapons systems to be used at the MPTR, conducted by the ARDEC in Picatinny, New Jersey, demonstrated that the required, three-dimensional SDZ (i.e., when extant terrain is taken into consideration) extends off of NGTC-FTIG and onto a 900-acre portion of SGL 211, located to the north of NGTC-FTIG. Based on the recently completed ricochet analyses associated with the MPTR and applicable Army requirements, it is necessary for the PAARNG to gain limited control of the approximately 900-acre portion of SGL 211 to accommodate the modeled SDZ of this MPTR.

Control of the SDZ is needed to protect the public from potential ricochets as a result of military training on the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Currently, NGTC-FTIG does not have an adequate amount of land to support the MPTR SDZ; therefore, to fulfill the requirements set by the Army and to enable appropriate military training and military preparedness of the PAARNG, the PAARNG must exercise limited control over approximately 900 acres in SGL 211 to support the MPTR SDZ adjacent to NGTC-FTIG.

The DMVA has proposed to enter into a cooperative land use agreement with the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), the manager of this land, as the legal mechanism to provide the required, limited military jurisdiction and control over this portion of the SGL 211 for use as an SDZ.



Summary Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is the establishment of a periodic SDZ to support a part of the MPTR SDZ to the north of NGTC-FTIG, within SGL 211, for a maximum of 90 days per calendar year, over a period of 41 years. The primary goal of the proposed SDZ and land use agreement is for the DMVA to gain necessary limited jurisdiction and military control over this area. In this manner, the proposed safety buffer and land use agreement would assist in maintaining the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up-to-date, resourceful training site for the PANG and for other National Guard, Reserve and active forces.

The Proposed Action would not involve any development, construction or subdivision of the proposed SDZ area within SGL 211 by the DMVA or the PAARNG. In addition, the Proposed Action would not involve any military training within the SDZ proposed on SGL 211. No roads for vehicular traffic of any kind (tracked or wheeled) would be constructed as part of the Proposed Action within the proposed SDZ in SGL 211. Additionally, the SDZ would not be fenced. The SDZ would be controlled in accordance with AR 385-63 and DA PAM 385-63.

As part of the Proposed Action, the PGC would continue to exercise administrative and management responsibility for wildlife, forest resources and other resources within the SGL 211 portion of the SDZ. The PGC would also retain all natural resource rights within the SDZ. The PGC would continue to exercise its rights, duties and responsibilities over SGL 211.

Based on the ricochet analyses conducted by the ARDEC in Picatinny, New Jersey, the following munitions would potentially enter into the SDZ within SGL 211:

- **25mm** – The 25mm round would be used with the M2 and M3 Bradley. Two types of 25mm rounds would be used, the M793 sabot round and the M910 HEAT round. The projectile is approximately 4.5 inches in length, by 25mm in diameter. The M793 Sabot projectile weighs 0.488 lb. and the M910 HEAT projectile weighs 0.255 lb. For training purposes, the 25mm round used in connection with the MPTR would be inert, steel ammunition. A total of 651 25mm rounds (a combination of M793 and M910) could potentially ricochet into the proposed SDZ on an annual basis.
- **.50 cal.** – The .50 cal. would be used in long-range target and sniper rifles, as well as other .50 machine guns. The bullet diameter is approximately 0.511 inches, and is approximately 2.5 inches in length. The .50 cal projectile weighs 0.10 lb. The projectile is constructed of copper jacketed lead and contains no explosives. A total of 67 .50 cal. rounds could potentially ricochet into the proposed SDZ on an annual basis.
- **M831A1** – The M831A1 would be used in the M1A1 Tank. This 120mm cartridge is a target practice round which simulates ballistics of the M830 HEAT-MP-T Cartridge. The approximate length and weight of the projectile is 20.6 inches and 29.76 pounds, respectively. For training purposes, the M831A1 round used in connection with the MPTR would be inert steel. A total of 1 M831A1 round could potentially ricochet into the proposed SDZ on an annual basis.



- **M865** – The M8365 would be used in the M1A1 Tank. This 120mm cartridge is a target practice, cone stabilized, discarding sabot cartridge. The approximate length and weight of the projectile is 18.5 inches and 7.05 pounds, respectively. For training purposes, the M865 round used in connection with the MPTR would be inert steel. A total of 60 M865 rounds could potentially ricochet into the proposed SDZ on an annual basis.

Overview of Considered Project Alternatives

This SEA presents the three alternatives considered for the Proposed Action, summarized as follows:

- **Alternative 1: Preferred Alternative** – The establishment of a SDZ on a portion of SGL 211 in connection with the operation of the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Under this alternative, a 900-acre portion of SGL 211 would serve as a SDZ for the MPTR for up to 90 calendar days per year when the MPTR is in operation. A proposed cooperative land use agreement between DMVA and the PGC would include additional limitations on the use of the 900-acre off-Post SDZ.
- **Alternative 2: MPTR Buffer Alternative** – The establishment of a slightly larger SDZ extension into SGL 211, in comparison to Alternative 1. Based on earlier MPTR designs involving various firing lane configurations, the DMVA would seek approximately 1,900 acres of SGL 211 for use as a SDZ by means of a land use agreement in an identical fashion to Alternative 1.
- **Alternative 3: No-Action Alternative** – The DMVA would not establish an SDZ on a portion of SGL 211. Consequently, the PAARNG would not construct and/or operate the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG.

The DMVA considered a variety of alternatives prior to identifying the Preferred Alternative and the MPTR Buffer Alternative (Alternatives 1 and 2). A total of 5 alternatives were considered but eliminated from further consideration, as they do not adequately meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and were determined to be infeasible.

Overview of Potential Project Impacts

As a result of the implementation of Alternative 1, the following impacts would be anticipated:

- Minor, short-term, adverse land use impact due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses for up to 90 days per year of the proposed 900 acres within SGL 211.¹

¹ Per the Interagency Cooperative Agreement, the DMVA would not utilize the SDZ in SGL 211 during the regular antlered or antlerless (rifle) deer season and bear season. Prior to 31 January of each year, the DMVA would cooperate with PGC to designate, in advance, a minimum of four weekdays and one Saturday (which do not need to be consecutive) during both the Spring Gobbler season and Wild Turkey season (fall) when the SDZ in SGL 211 would not be used.



- Minor, short- and long-term, adverse socioeconomic impacts due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses of the proposed 900 acres within SGL 211 for up to 90 days per year over a 41-year period.
- Minor, long-term adverse public safety impact due to potential ricochets entering SGL 211.
- Minor, long-term, positive impact to transportation infrastructure due to the maintenance of Cold Springs Road using the best management practices (BMPs) applicable to dirt and gravel roads.
- Minor, long-term positive impacts to surface water quality due to the maintenance of Cold Spring Road. Proper maintenance of Cold Springs Road would lower the potential for soil erosion and subsequent sedimentation.

The following impacts would be anticipated as a result of the implementation of Alternative 2:

- Minor, short-term, adverse land use impact due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses for up to 90 days per year of the proposed 1,900 acres within SGL 211.²
- Minor, short- and long-term, adverse socioeconomic impacts due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses of the proposed 1,900 acres within SGL 211 for up to 90 days per year over a 41-year period.
- Minor, long-term adverse public safety impact due to potential ricochets entering SGL 211.
- Minor, long-term, positive impact to transportation infrastructure due to the maintenance of Cold Springs Road using BMPs applicable to dirt and gravel roads.
- Minor, long-term positive impacts to surface water quality due to the maintenance of Cold Spring Road. Proper maintenance of Cold Springs Road would lower the potential for soil erosion and subsequent sedimentation.

No direct impacts would be anticipated as a result of implementation of Alternative 3. However, implementation of Alternative 3 would result in an indirect, minor, long-term positive impact to the noise and safety environment, since the DMVA would not establish an SDZ on a portion of SGL 211, and consequently the PAARNG would not construct and/or operate the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Therefore, noise impacts and potential ricochet impacts associated with the MPTR would not be realized. In addition, since the DMVA would not establish an SDZ on a portion of SGL 211 and the PAARNG would not construct and/or operate the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG, indirect, long-term significant adverse socioeconomic impacts would be anticipated, affecting the readiness of PAARNG units and the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up to date, resourceful training site for the PANG and for other Guard, Reserve and active forces. Further, PAARNG units would have to travel to out-of-state installations (e.g. Fort Drum, New York and/or Fort Pickett, Virginia) for MPTR training, resulting in indirect, minor, long-term adverse impacts due to increased mobile air emissions, increased fossil fuel consumption, less actual available training time, and increased chances of accidents due to increased travel.

² Per the Interagency Cooperative Agreement, the DMVA would not utilize the SDZ in SGL 211 during the regular antlered or antlerless (rifle) deer season and bear season. Prior to 31 January of each year, the DMVA would cooperate with PGC to designate, in advance, a minimum of four weekdays and one Saturday (which do not need to be consecutive) during both the Spring Gobbler season and Wild Turkey season (fall) when the SDZ in SGL 211 would not be used.



Based on the analysis presented in this SEA, Alternative 1 is the Preferred Alternative for the Proposed Action. Alternative 2 was found to satisfy the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action; however, Alternative 2 would involve the limited restriction on additional acreage, not required per the ricochet analysis. The No Action Alternative was found to not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action. Under Alternative 3, the DMVA would not establish an SDZ on a portion of SGL 211, consequently prohibiting the construction and operation of an MPTR at NGTC-FTIG, and negatively affecting the readiness of PAARNG units and the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up to date, resourceful training site for the PANG and for other Guard, Reserve and active forces.

Conclusion

The evaluation performed within the SEA concludes that no significant impact to the physical environment; water quality; groundwater; air quality; biological resources, including vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, plant communities, protected species, and wetlands; land use; socioeconomic environment; noise; hazardous and toxic, materials/wastes (HTMW); cultural resources; infrastructure; and human health and safety, including environmental justice and children's health and safety risks would be anticipated as a result of the implementation of the Preferred Alternative, provided that considerations and best management practices discussed in **Section 5.0** are implemented (see **Table ES-1**).

This analysis determines that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not necessary for the implementation of Alternative 1 and that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate.



TABLE ES-1
Summary Descriptions of Impacts
Associated with Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 at the Project Study Area

Resource Area	Alternative 1 Preferred Alternative	Alternative 2 MPTR Alternative	Alternative 3 No-Action Alternative
Land Use	●	●	○
Air Quality	○	○	●
Noise	○	○	⊙
Geology, Topography, and Soils	○	○	○
Water Resources	⊙	⊙	○
Biological Resources	○	○	○
Cultural Resources	--	--	--
Architectural Resources	○	○	○
Archaeological Resources	○	○	○
Socioeconomics	■ / ●	■ / ●	● / ⊙ / ◐
Public Safety	●	●	⊙
Environmental Justice	○	○	○
Infrastructure	--	--	--
Utility	○	○	○
Transportation	⊙	⊙	●
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes (HTMW)	○	○	○

Key to Table ES-1 Symbols

Significant Adverse Impact	Minor Adverse Impact	No Impact	Minor Positive Impact	Significant Positive Impact
Long-Term Impact				
◐	●	○	⊙	◐
Short-Term Impact				
■	■	□	■	■



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1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.1 Introduction

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) propose to establish a Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) on a portion of State Game Lands No. 211 (SGL 211) in connection with the operation of the Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) at the National Guard Training Center - Fort Indiantown Gap (NGTC-FTIG), Pennsylvania (see **Figures 1-1** and **1-2**).

A scientific analysis of the projectile ricochet from weapons systems to be used at the MPTR, conducted by the United States Army Research and Development Engineering Center (ARDEC) in Picatinny, New Jersey, demonstrated that the required SDZ extends off of NGTC-FTIG and onto a 900-acre portion of SGL 211, located to the north of NGTC-FTIG (see **Figure 1-3**). No other potential off-Post projectile escapements were identified through this detailed, Army-approved analysis. SGL 211 is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for use by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). It is part of the State Game Lands System under the management and control of the PGC. The DMVA has proposed to enter into a cooperative land use agreement with the PGC as the legal mechanism to provide the required, limited military jurisdiction and control over a portion of the SGL 211 for use as an SDZ, in order to protect the public from potential ricochets.

In accordance with applicable Army requirements, SDZs of live fire training ranges must be under military control (Army Regulation [AR] 385-63). The probability of hazardous fragment escapement from the SDZ under military control must not present a greater hazard than a one-in-one million (1:1,000,000) risk to the public, as specified in AR 385-63 and Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 385-63. Per the specified regulations and the ricochet analysis, the likelihood that any hazardous fragments or projectiles would escape this 900-acre off-Post area is less than 1:1,000,000 (ARDEC 2007).

Based on the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Enhanced Training and Operations at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap, March 2002* (DMVA/PANG 2002a), the Record of Decision (ROD) on this Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) dated 16 June 2002 (DMVA/PANG 2002b), and subsequent simulated ricochet analyses of the MPTR performed by ARDEC (performed as required by that FEIS and ROD), projectile ricochets from weapons systems to be used at the MPTR, including 7.62 millimeter (mm), .50 caliber, 25 mm, and 120 mm rounds, would have less than 1:1,000,000 possibility of exiting the designated SDZ within SGL 211 (ARDEC 2007). Based on this information, this SDZ has been specifically defined, is needed and is proposed.

The DMVA considered various alternatives to the design, construction and operation of the MPTR and redesigned the range several times in order to minimize the likelihood of ricochets from the MPTR exiting the Post and entering any off-Post lands, including SGL 211; however, ARDEC's ricochet analysis of each of these alternatives all showed a greater than 1:1,000,000 possibility that projectiles from the MPTR may ricochet into a portion SGL 211. The alternative MPTR configuration that resulted in the minimum impact on SGL 211 ultimately was selected by the DMVA as the Preferred Alternative (see **Section 2.0**). It is also noted that only training



rounds (e.g., munitions that do not contain any high explosives) would be used on the MPTR. Therefore, no explosive rounds would enter SGL 211. The projectiles that could land within this 900-acre area would include, in lay terms, inert, metal ammunition of the calibers specified above.

1.1.1 Supplemental Environmental Assessment Framework

This Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared to document the potential for environmental impacts resulting from proposed limited jurisdiction and military control over a portion of SGL 211 to support a part of the SDZ for the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. This SEA has been prepared under the provisions of, and in accordance with, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 *et seq.*), the Council of Environmental Quality [CEQ] Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and 32 CFR 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, Final Rule). In addition, the document has been prepared as prescribed in the *NGB NEPA Handbook - Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NGB 2006).

This SEA supplements data provided in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Enhanced Training and Operations at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap, March 2002* (DMVA/PANG 2002a) and the consequent ROD on that FEIS dated 16 June 2002 (DMVA/PANG 2002b). Per CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1502.10), “Agencies shall prepare supplements to either draft or FEISs if: (i) the agency makes substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns; or (iii) there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts.” In addition, this SEA tiers information from the March 2002 FEIS. Per CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1502.20), “Agencies are encouraged to tier their environmental impact statements to eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues...[W]henver a broad environmental impact statement has been prepared...and a subsequent statement of environmental assessment is then prepared on an action included within the entire program or policy...the subsequent statement or environmental assessment need only summarize the issues discussed in the broader statement.” Further, a SEA tiered upon a FEIS is supported by the recent U.S. Court of Appeals ruling in the *Arkansas Wildlife Federation v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* (8th Cir. 2005) case that found that a SEA is adequate when it is properly tiered upon a FIES and the SEA provides an updated and adequate analysis of any new environmental impacts (35 ELR 20257a 2005).

In the FEIS and ROD, the DMVA/PAARNG assessed and approved the construction and operation of the MPTR, based on data available and known at that time. As the exact nature of the potential for an off-Post SDZ was not known at that time, the DMVA/PAARNG included within the ROD the following mitigation language:

- **Step 1 (Planning and Design):** Prior to construction of the MPTR, the Pennsylvania National Guard (PANG) shall complete and document a detailed engineering design, associated safety fan study and have a ricochet analysis performed by an outside agency in accordance with AR 385-63, *Policies and Procedures for Firing Ammunition for Training, Target Practice, and Combat*, that conclusively establishes an MPTR use prescription that



will ensure no projectiles exit Post property. The MPTR will be designed in a manner that retains the safety fan within Post boundaries, including accounting for extant mountainous topography. This plan shall be subject to review and approval by the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the PANG State Safety Office. The MPTR design also shall be reviewed to determine if a waiver reducing the maximum distance of surface danger areas to be within Blue and Second Mountains may be issued by The Adjutant General (TAG) as authorized under AR 385-63. Completion of the MPTR range design and safety analysis in accordance with AR 385-63, thereby ensuring the safety of the range to off-Post land uses, is a pre-condition to the construction of the MPTR (DMVA/PANG 2002b).

- **Step 2 (Monitoring/Validation):** Once the MPTR is installed, the PANG shall monitor all firing activities for two years to validate the designed use prescription. The validation shall further ensure, under prescribed use, the range operates safely and as designed. The monitoring will not start until the safety fan study and testing by PANG is complete. All monitoring/validation data will be shared with the PGC, managing entity of SGL 211, and the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), managing entity of the Appalachian Trail (DMVA/PANG 2002b).
- **Step 3 (Acceptance):** Once the MPTR is operational, the PANG will monitor firing activities in order to ensure that no projectiles fired on the MPTR escape NGTC-FTIG property. If any projectiles exit Post property during this monitoring period, the PANG, working with NGB, Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA), PGC, and ATC, shall redesign or limit firing activities to the extent necessary to ensure all projectiles remain on Post. This adjustment shall be followed by additional monitoring until it is conclusively determined that all projectiles remain on Post property (DMVA/PANG 2002b).

Since publication of the ROD, the original FEIS-assessed MPTR configuration and an array of alternative design configurations were completed by the PAARNG and associated ricochet analyses were conducted by ARDEC on each alternative, in accordance with Step 1, above. These analyses determined no practical MPTR design alternative exists that would retain projectiles within the boundaries of NGTC-FTIG (ARDEC 2007). Therefore, no design alternative exists that would satisfy the conditions of the ROD as stated above. As a result, Steps 2 and 3, as they relate to the current situation, are no longer valid. Because the ricochet analysis conducted by ARDEC provides empirical data indicating that projectiles will ricochet into a portion of SGL 211 if the MPTR becomes operational, monitoring of firing activities to determine where projectiles from the MPTR ricochet, as described in Step 2, is no longer required. This SEA is being performed as required under CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1502).

As such, the DMVA/PAARNG has selected as their Preferred Alternative, to be assessed in this SEA, that alternative which would result in the minimum impact to SGL 211. The design configuration of the MPTR that produces this minimum of SGL 211 impact is sited within the construction footprint analyzed within the prior FEIS and ROD. Consequently, this SEA focuses on the proposed SDZ extending off of NGTC-FTIG and onto SGL 211. The impacts of the construction and operation of the MPTR within NGTC-FTIG, as analyzed within the 2002 FEIS and approved within the ROD, including approved associated on-Post mitigation measures, remain valid and are not re-evaluated herein.



1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide an adequate SDZ, based on Army requirements (AR 385-63, DA PAM 385-63) for weapons systems in the Army inventory used on the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. SDZs are part of every Army range. When a standard, two-dimensional SDZ does not fit onto the terrain of an installation, it is permissible to utilize terrain (three-dimensional) to modify/reduce the standard SDZ, and/or acquire/control the land outside of the confines of an installation (AR 385-63, DA PAM 385-63).

The standard, two-dimensional SDZ for the NGTC-FTIG MPTR does not fit within the borders of NGTC-FTIG. A scientific analysis of the projectile ricochet from weapons systems to be used at the MPTR, conducted by ARDEC demonstrated that the required, three-dimensional SDZ (i.e., when extant terrain is taken into consideration) extends off of NGTC-FTIG and onto a portion of SGL 211, located to the north of NGTC-FTIG (ARDEC 2007). Based on the recently completed ricochet analyses associated with the MPTR and applicable Army requirements, it is necessary for the PAARNG to gain limited control of the affected portion of SGL 211 to accommodate the modeled SDZ of this MPTR.

Control of the SDZ is needed to protect the public from potential ricochets as a result of military training on the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Currently, NGTC-FTIG does not have an adequate amount of land to support the MPTR SDZ; therefore, to fulfill the requirements set by the Army and to enable appropriate military training and military preparedness of the PAARNG, the PAARNG must exercise limited control over these portions of SGL 211 to support the MPTR SDZ adjacent to NGTC-FTIG.

The purpose of the land use agreement between the DMVA and the PGC is to provide a legal mechanism to facilitate the required, limited military jurisdiction and control over a portion of the SGL 211 for use as an SDZ to protect the public from potential ricochets.

1.3 Scope of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment

The scope of this SEA includes the full breadth of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts to the environment and resources within the proposed SDZ and to the immediate vicinity that could result from the establishment of a SDZ on approximately 900 acres of SGL 211 in connection with the operation of the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Analyzed resource categories include physical environment; water quality; groundwater; air quality; biological resources, including vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, plant communities, protected species, and wetlands; land use; socioeconomic environment; noise; Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Waste (HTMW); cultural resources; infrastructure; and human health and safety, including environmental justice and children's health and safety risks.

This SEA provides a full comparative analysis of three possible alternatives, summarized as follows:

- **Alternative 1: Preferred Alternative** – This alternative includes the establishment of a SDZ on a portion of SGL 211 in connection with the operation of the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Under this alternative, a 900-acre portion of SGL 211 would serve as a SDZ for the MPTR for up to 90 calendar days per year when the MPTR is in operation. A proposed



cooperative land use agreement between DMVA and the PGC would include additional limitations on the use of the 900-acre SDZ. A more detailed description of Alternative 1, including connected actions, is provided in **Section 3.1**.

- **Alternative 2: MPTR Buffer Alternative** – This alternative would involve the establishment of a slightly larger SDZ extension into SGL 211, in comparison to Alternative 1. Based on earlier MPTR designs involving various firing lane configurations, the DMVA would seek approximately 1,900 acres of SGL 211 for use as a SDZ by means of a land use agreement. A more detailed description of Alternative 2, including connected actions, is provided in **Section 3.2**.
- **Alternative 3: No-Action Alternative** – Under this alternative, the DMVA would not establish an SDZ on a portion of SGL 211. Consequently, the PAARNG would not construct and/or operate the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. A more detailed description of Alternative 3, including connected actions, is provided in **Section 3.3**.

Section 3.4 provides a description and analysis of the various alternatives that were considered but eliminated from consideration, as they do not adequately meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and were determined to be infeasible.

1.4 Agency and Public Involvement

As specified in NEPA (42 USC 4321 *et seq.*) and in NEPA's implementing regulations promulgated by the CEQ (40 CFR 1500-1508) and 32 CFR 651, public participation is a significant component of the NEPA process. The following provides a listing of key public notification and participation events that have occurred or will occur as part of this environmental review process:

- On 30 August 2005 the DMVA and PAARNG conducted a public information meeting to discuss the potential acquisition, via a "land exchange," of approximately 1,900 acres of SGL 211 by the DMVA. This meeting provided a forum for both the public and government agencies to receive additional information regarding the proposed land acquisition, as well as to provide verbal or written comments. Primary comments/concerns were the protection of Stony Creek Valley and the logistics of the training range operation (i.e., number of training days per year, ricochet analysis, noise, and signage). (**Appendix D**) Approximately 52 members of the public expressed interest in the potential acquisition of the estimated 1,900 acres of SGL 211 by the DMVA (DMVA/PANG 2004; 2005).
- On 21 March 2007 the DMVA and PAARNG held a public informational meeting for this SEA to discuss the establishment of a SDZ on a portion of SGL 211 in connection with the operation of the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. The public meeting was held in an effort to inform the public on the Proposed Action and collect comments from interested parties regarding the Proposed Action and possible alternatives. Primary comments/concerns were the protection of Stony Creek Valley and the logistics of the training range operation (i.e., number of training days per year, noise, and signage). (**Appendix D**) Approximately 100 members of the public expressed interest in the potential establishment of a SDZ on a portion of SGL 211, and the interagency cooperative land use agreement between the DMVA and the PGC.



- The DMVA conducted Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP) pursuant to the requirements of NEPA as required under Executive Order (EO) 12372, which has been superseded by EO 12416, and subsequently supplemented by EO 13132 – *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*. The list of agencies and individuals consulted is included as **Appendix A**. A representative copy of the IICEP letters submitted to the respective agencies and individuals, as well as all responses received, is included as **Appendix A** of the Draft SEA. Concerns and suggestions received through the IICEP process have been addressed in this SEA where applicable. These agencies and individuals have been furnished with copies of the Draft SEA.
- The DMVA conducted formal consultation with federally-recognized Native American tribes, as required by the Department of Defense (DoD) Annotated American Indian and Alaska Native Policy (20 October 1998 Memorandum). The DMVA also complied with DoDI 4710.02 – *DoD Interactions with Federally-Recognized Tribes*, the guidance for implementing The Secretary of Defense's policy on Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, implemented 20 October 1998. These entities were invited to participate in the SEA process per Section 101 (d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and DoDI 4710.02, as necessary. The list of federally-recognized Native American tribes consulted is included in **Appendix A**. Copies of the letters submitted to the respective federally-recognized Native American tribes, as well as the responses received, are also included in **Appendix A**. At present, two Native American tribes have responded, neither tribe has any concern regarding the proposed action. Those entities specifically requesting more information on the proposed action and/or inclusion in the NEPA process for this proposed action have been furnished copies of the Draft SEA.
- The DMVA, as the proponent of the Proposed Action, has published and distributed the Draft SEA for a 30-day public comment period which ended 15 February 2008. Notification of the availability of the Draft SEA was accomplished through publication of a legal Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Harrisburg Patriot News* and the *Lebanon Daily News*, the local newspapers that service Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, on 13 January 2008, respectfully (**Appendix E**). Further, the Draft SEA and important associated reference documents were made available for public review at the Annville Free Library. Written comments regarding the Draft SEA were submitted to: NGTC-FTIG Public Affairs Officer, DMVA Headquarters, Building 0-47, Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-5002.
- The DMVA received responses and/or comment letters from interested parties in association with the public circulation of the Draft SEA. Copies of received responses/comments on the Draft SEA, as well as responses to these comments, are provided in **Appendix F** of this Final SEA, as appropriate.
- In order to document the availability of the Final SEA and Draft FNSI, the DMVA has published a NOA of the Final SEA and Draft FNSI in a similar manner to the described above for the Draft SEA. As the proponent, the DMVA may not take any action, other than planning the proposal, until the FNSI has been signed by all appropriate Government officials.



1.5 Related National Environmental Policy Act Reviews

In March 2002, the PAARNG completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the *Enhanced Training and Operations at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap*, which addressed the proposed construction and operation of the MPTR. The study area for the FEIS included NGTC-FTIG, located to the immediate south of SGL 211. The FEIS also provided a brief description of SGL 211, as well as the use of the SGL 211 by the DMVA/PAARNG for overflight by military aviation units conducting terrain flight navigation (DMVA/PANG 2002a). The following potential impacts, due to the construction and operation of the MPTR, to SGL 211, including the project study area, were identified and addressed in that FEIS:

- **Noise** – potential exposure to off-Post land, including private residences and the Appalachian Trail, to generally unacceptable noise levels.
- **Geology, Topography, and Soils** – no impacts to SGL 211.
- **Water Resources** – no impacts to SGL 211.
- **Biological Resources** – no impacts to SGL 211.
- **Cultural Resources** – no impacts to SGL 211.
- **Socioeconomics** – potential impacts to the use of SGL 211 due to off-Post noise impacts associated with operation of the MPTR.

The PAARNG codified its decision to move forward with the construction of the MPTR as proposed (based on data available at that time) in the consequent Record of Decision (ROD) on that FEIS dated 16 June 2002 (DMVA/PANG 2002b).

In 2006, the PAARNG completed a FEIS for the *Transformation of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard 56th Brigade into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team*. The study area for this FEIS included NGTC-FTIG, and provided information pertaining to SGL 211 (DMVA/PANG 2006a). Within this FEIS, only noise impacts to SGL 211 were identified, and were fully mitigated, as codified within consequent ROD signed on 13 April 2006 (DMVA/PANG 2006b).

Based on the above, prior recent NEPA documentation prepared for actions at NGTC-FTIG identified noise impacts to SGL 211 as the only significant impact of concern. For the purposes of this SEA, and based on the RODs signed for each of these two prior EISs, these actions, fully implemented, are presumed to comprise the existing environment. As such, the noise conditions resulting from these activities are presented as the baseline conditions in **Section 4.4** of this SEA.



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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action is the establishment of a periodic safety buffer to support a part of the MPTR SDZ to the north of NGTC-FTIG, within SGL 211, for a maximum of 90 days per calendar year, over a 41 year period. Since SGL 211 is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed through the PGC, a land use agreement between the DMVA and the PGC is necessary in order for the PAARNG to gain limited jurisdiction and military control over a portion of the SGL 211 to establish this area as a SDZ. The control of this SDZ by the PAARNG is required by the following Army regulations:

- AR 385-63 – *Policies and Procedures for Firing Ammunition for Training, Target Practice, and Combat*
- DA PAM 385-63 – *Range Safety*.

The primary goal of the proposed SDZ and land use agreement is for the DMVA to gain limited jurisdiction and military control over a portion of the SGL 211 to be maintained as a safety buffer to support a part of the SDZ for the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. In this manner, the proposed safety buffer and land use agreement would assist in maintaining the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up-to-date, resourceful training site for the PANG and for other National Guard, Reserve and active forces. The proposed safety buffer would not foster additional training or use of the training site above that currently conducted or previously assessed and approved (DMVA/PANG 2002a, DMVA/PANG 2006a). Finally, only inert training rounds (e.g. munitions that do not contain high explosives) could potentially ricochet into the SDZ.

The Proposed Action would not involve any development, construction or subdivision of the proposed SDZ area within SGL 211 by the DMVA or the PAARNG. In addition, the Proposed Action would not involve any military training within the SDZ proposed on SGL 211. No roads for vehicular traffic of any kind (tracked or wheeled) would be constructed as part of the Proposed Action within the proposed SDZ in SGL 211. Additionally, the SDZ would not be fenced. The SDZ would be controlled in accordance with AR 385-63 and DA PAM 385-63.

As part of the Proposed Action, the PGC would continue to exercise administrative and management responsibility for wildlife, forest resources and other resources within the SGL 211 portion of the SDZ. The PGC would also retain all natural resource rights within the SDZ. The PGC would continue to exercise its rights, duties and responsibilities over the SGL 211, including the portion containing the SDZ, in accordance with the Stony Creek Wild and Scenic River Act of 24 March 1980 (Public Law [P.L.] 50, No. 18).

Based on the ricochet analyses conducted by the ARDEC in Picatinny, New Jersey, the following munitions would potentially enter into the SDZ within SGL 211:

- **25mm** – The 25mm round would be used with the M2 and M3 Bradley. Two types of 25mm rounds would be used, the M793 sabot round and the M910 HEAT round. The projectile is approximately 4.5 inches in length, by 25mm in diameter. The M793 Sabot projectile weighs 0.488 lb. and the M910 HEAT projectile weighs 0.255 lb. For training purposes, the 25mm round used in connection with the MPTR would be inert, steel



ammunition. A total of 651 25mm rounds (a combination of M793 and M910) could potentially ricochet into the proposed SDZ on an annual basis.

- **.50 cal.** – The .50 cal. would be used in long-range target and sniper rifles, as well as other .50 machine guns. The bullet diameter is approximately 0.511 inches, and is approximately 2.5 inches in length. The .50 cal projectile weighs 0.10 lb. The projectile is constructed of copper jacketed lead and contains no explosives. A total of 67 .50 cal. rounds could potentially ricochet into the proposed SDZ on an annual basis.
- **M831A1** – The M831A1 would be used in the M1A1 Tank. This 120mm cartridge is a target practice round which simulates ballistics of the M830 HEAT-MP-T Cartridge. The approximate length and weight of the projectile is 20.6 inches and 29.76 pounds, respectively. For training purposes, the M831A1 round used in connection with the MPTR would be inert steel. A total of 1 M831A1 round could potentially ricochet into the proposed SDZ on an annual basis.
- **M865** – The M8365 would be used in the M1A1 Tank. This 120mm cartridge is a target practice, cone stabilized, discarding sabot cartridge. The approximate length and weight of the projectile is 18.5 inches and 7.05 pounds, respectively. For training purposes, the M865 round used in connection with the MPTR would be inert steel. A total of 60 M865 rounds could potentially ricochet into the proposed SDZ on an annual basis.



3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

NEPA, CEQ regulations, and 32 CFR 651 require that all reasonable alternatives be rigorously explored and objectively evaluated. In addition, alternatives that are eliminated from detailed study must be identified along with a brief discussion of the reasons for elimination.

To meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, a suitable alternative had to:

- Prevent ricochets from exiting the NGTC-FTIG boundary, or
- Provide appropriate control of off-Post lands sufficient to safely contain the MPTR SDZ in accordance with AR 385-63 and DA PAM 385-63. Lands that have a 1:1,000,000 or greater probability of being struck by a ricochet require control and demarcation by the PAARNG when the MPTR is in use per the above regulations.

The following subsections identify alternatives to the Proposed Action that were considered by the DMVA and PAARNG.

3.1 Alternative 1 – Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative involves the establishment of an off-Post SDZ on approximately 900 acres within SGL 211 in connection with operation of the MPTR located at NGTC-FTIG (see **Figure 3-1**). Under this alternative, the DMVA would seek limited jurisdiction and military control over 900 acres of SGL 211, to establish a SDZ, by means of a cooperative land use agreement between the DMVA and the PGC.

Restrictions, established by the DMVA and the PGC, for the proposed 900-acre SDZ within SGL 211 include:

- The use of this area as an SDZ by DMVA for a 25-year term, commencing on 1 January 2008 and ending 31 December 2033, and automatically extending, without additional consideration, in five-year increments beginning on 1 January 2034 and ending on 31 December 2049. Any additional extension of use beyond 31 December 2049 would be subject to the mutual agreement of the PGC and the DMVA upon consideration as both parties determine appropriate.
- The use of this area as an SDZ by DMVA would be exclusively in connection with the operation of the MPTR, and in accordance with military directives.
- The DMVA would designate and publicize as far in advance as possible the dates on which the use of the SDZ is required. These dates will not collectively exceed 90 days per year. The publication of the required SDZ dates would be at least six months in advance; with certain military necessities, a shorter notice period may be required, but in no instance shall notice be less than 15 days prior to the use of the SDZ. The DMVA would also devise and implement a signage or other public notice plan to advise the public of when they are excluded from the SDZ.
- The DMVA would not utilize the SDZ in SGL 211 during the regular antlered or antlerless (rifle) deer season and bear season. Prior to 31 January of each year, the DMVA would



- cooperate with PGC to designate, in advance, a minimum of four weekdays and one Saturday (which do not need to be consecutive) during both the Spring Gobbler season and Wild Turkey season (fall) when the SDZ in SGL 211 would not be used.
- When ordnance is found/located in the 900-acre buffer and reported, DMVA will secure and remove/eliminate said ordnance at no cost to PGC.
 - No motorized vehicles of any kind, under the control of DMVA or the PAARNG, would enter the SDZ in SGL 211. Exceptions to this would be for fire suppression and search and rescue operations.
 - The DMVA would not develop, construct within, or subdivide the SDZ in SGL 211.
 - No on-ground military training would take place within the SDZ in SGL 211, except insofar as it functions as an SDZ.
 - No roads for vehicular traffic of any kind (tracked or wheeled) would be constructed. The DMVA would maintain Cold Spring Road and Second Mountain Fire Break using BMPs applicable to dirt and gravel roads.
 - The DMVA's use of the SDZ would not directly impact Stony Creek, the Rails to Trails or the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

In addition to the proposed cooperative agreement, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting by and through DMVA and other Commonwealth agencies and entities, will assist the PGC by assisting with or facilitating purchase of lands acceptable to the PGC, to be under the jurisdiction and control of PGC as part of the State Game Lands system. Such assistance will include assistance in the acquisition of lands with an agreed-upon value of approximately \$2 million from funds to be determined by the assisting agencies, exclusive of other grants or loans to third parties. The DMVA proposes to transfer the jurisdiction and control of 440 acres, known as Training Area Echo One (TA E-1), to compensate for land use restrictions within SGL 211 (refer to **Figure 3-2**). Currently, TA E-1 is restricted from most public use for hunting, trapping, and recreation; however, the Horse-Shoe Trail, a 140-mile recreational hiking and equestrian trail that runs from Valley Forge National Historical Park to the Appalachian Trail, traverses TA E-1 and is presently open for public use.

3.2 Alternative 2 – MPTR Buffer Alternative

This alternative would involve the establishment of a slightly larger SDZ extending further into SGL 211, in comparison to Alternative 1 (see **Figure 3-3**). Based on earlier MPTR designs involving various firing lane configurations, the DMVA would seek limited jurisdiction and military control over approximately 1,900 acres of SGL 211, for use as a SDZ, by means of a land use agreement. The land use agreement, between the DMVA and the PGC, would include restrictions similar to those presented in **Section 3.1**. In addition, the financial and land considerations (i.e., \$2M and TA E-1) proposed under Alternative 1 would be included within Alternative 2.



3.3 Alternative 3 – No-Action Alternative

As required under NEPA, CEQ regulations, and 32 CFR 651, the No-Action Alternative is retained in this SEA for comparative analysis. Under this alternative, the PAARNG would not establish a SDZ within SGL 211; therefore, a safety buffer land use agreement between the DMVA and the PGC would not be necessary. Consequently, the MPTR would not be constructed, negatively affecting the readiness of PAARNG units and the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up-to-date, resourceful training site for the PANG and for other Guard, Reserve and active forces. In addition, under the No-Action Alternative, PAARNG units would continue to accomplish MPTR-type training at Fort Drum, New York, and/or Fort Pickett, Virginia. Training at those installations requires significant logistics planning and a significant amount of additional travel (i.e., up to 5 to 8 additional hours in additional travel time each way for most units) for units to get to the training sites. This additional travel time translates into at least 31% of the total time a soldier has for training (drill) during the typical Inactive Duty Training (IDT) event. The additional travel time required to get to and return from Fort Drum and/or Fort Pickett impacts the readiness of PAARNG units due to less actual training time. AR 350-2 prohibits National Guard units from using more than 25% of their drill time for travel unless a waiver is issued by the State's Adjutant General. In addition, this increased travel results in greater potential for accidents during transportation, as well as increased mobile air emissions and increased fossil fuel consumption from involved vehicles due to the greater travel distances. This alternative is not considered a reasonable alternative, but is included as a basis for comparison as required under Federal law.

3.4 Alternatives Considered But Eliminated from Further Study

3.4.1 Lease of Land from the PGC

This alternative would involve the establishment of a lease agreement between the DMVA and the PGC for a portion of SGL 211 for use as an SDZ. The lease alternative was rejected by the PGC in favor of a land use agreement approach.

3.4.2 Land Swap between PGC and DMVA

This alternative, as originally proposed, involved a purchase of land in other, nearby areas (e.g., around DeHart Dam from the City of Harrisburg) by the DMVA. This purchased land would then be transferred to the PGC in exchange for a portion (originally estimated at approximately 2,100 acres) of SGL 211 to establish the SDZ. This proposal would have linked SGL 211 with SGL 210, thereby creating the largest contiguous gameland complex in Pennsylvania. In addition, this proposal would have provided the PGC with a larger parcel of land that has greater wildlife and recreational value due to its location and more level topography. The concept of a "land swap" encountered substantial public opposition and raised various legal and policy issues for both DMVA and the PGC. This alternative was rejected in favor of the land use agreement approach.

3.4.3 Land Purchase by DMVA from PGC

The DMVA initially proposed to purchase a portion of land from the PGC for use as a SDZ. The Pennsylvania Game and Wildlife Code (34 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes [Pa.C.S.]) does



not authorize the PGC to sell portions of State Game Lands. Therefore, this alternative was eliminated from consideration.

3.4.4 Range Re-Configuration and Barrier Wall

As a result of the numerous designs and re-designs of the MPTR, the DMVA has minimized the area within SGL 211 potentially affected by ricochets to the maximum extent possible. The results of the associated ricochet analyses performed by ARDEC indicate that ricochets from the MPTR would enter parts of SGL 211, as described in **Section 1.1**.

The DMVA considered a potential engineering solution that would have involved extensive grading of the range to alter the terrain and change the firing angles. Initial calculations by ARDEC of the vertical hazard of ricochets indicated a maximum altitude in excess of 1,000 feet above the maximum elevation of Second Mountain. To effectively reduce the ricochet potential into SGL 211, some MPTR targets would have to be lowered by 500 feet or more. This would have necessitated wholesale excavation of the south side of Second Mountain. The initial calculations also suggested that excavation and lowering of targets and firing positions, and re-configuration of topography alone would not entirely be sufficient to prevent all ricochets into SGL 211, but that a wall approximately 500 feet high would also have to be constructed along the top of Second Mountain to prevent all ricochets. This alternative was considered to have extensive environmental impacts (e.g., to the local viewshed, Indiantown Run and Manada Creek, site drainage, erosion, other biological resources, on-site cultural resources, and the like) and was considered to be cost prohibitive; thus, it was eliminated from further consideration.



4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

4.1 General Overview

This section specifically describes current baseline environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions of a southern portion of SGL 211, with emphasis on those resources potentially affected by the Proposed Action. The potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on each of the resource areas discussed in this section are presented in **Section 5.0**.

For the purposes of this assessment, the affected environment includes the following area:

- 1,900 acres of SGL 211 (herein referred to as the “project study area”), which encompasses the preferred 900 acres within the southern portion of SGL 211, between the ridgeline of Second Mountain and Stony Creek, as well as areas proximate to this project study area, including NGTC-FTIG and other portions of SGL 211, as appropriate.

4.1.1 Relationship to Prior NEPA Documentation

As noted in **Section 1.1.1**, preparation of this section has relied heavily on the 2002 *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Enhanced Training and Operations at NGTC-FTIG* (DMVA/PANG 2002a) and the 2006 *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Transformation of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard 56th Brigade into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team* (DMVA/PANG 2006a), as updated with current data, for information regarding SGL 211 and NGTC-FTIG. Both of these prior EISs are Final, and have fully implemented RODs. Please refer to **Sections 1.1.1 and 1.5** for a description of these prior documents, and how they are related to this SEA.

As summarized in **Section 1.5**, prior recent NEPA documentation prepared for actions at NGTC-FTIG identified noise impacts to SGL 211 as the only significant impact of concern. For the purposes of this SEA, and based on the RODs signed for each of these two prior EISs, these actions, fully implemented, are presumed to comprise the existing environment. As such, the noise conditions resulting from these activities are presented as the baseline conditions in **Section 4.4** of this SEA.

4.1.2 Overview of the Project Study Area

The project study area is located in south-central Pennsylvania, approximately 22 miles northeast of the State capital, Harrisburg, and north of and adjacent to Interstate (I)-81 (see **Figure 4-1**).

Within SGL 211, land use consists of public hunting, trapping, and recreational uses. SGL 211, owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the PGC, had previously been an area with numerous mining operations. In the late 1800s, the State Legislature created the PGC in order to protect and conserve Pennsylvania’s wildlife. One of the major means of wildlife management was through the creation of State Game Lands, such as SGL 211.



The project study area remains in a near natural state, as discussed in **Section 4.2**. Currently, SGL 211 is used for public hunting, trapping, and recreation. Timber is also harvested from the northern tract as a wildlife management tool and to generate revenue for the PGC. SGL 211 occupies portions of Dauphin, Lebanon, and Schuylkill Counties. SGL 211 is 44,343 acres in size and is roughly situated between Second Mountain on its south and Peters Mountain and Stony Mountain on its north. SGL 211 stretches from the Susquehanna River on the west, into the western portion of Schuylkill County on the east.

The project study area lies within East Hanover and Middle Paxton Townships in Dauphin and Cold Spring, East Hanover, and Union Townships in Lebanon Counties, bordering Second Mountain to the south and abutting Stony Creek to the north.

4.2 Land Use

SGL 211 comprises a relatively large expanse (44,343 acres) of public hunting, trapping, and recreational land. This area is maintained for public use and consists largely of undeveloped, mountainous terrain; the project study area encompasses a section of the SGL 211 that is extremely steep and difficult to access due to a lack of roads. Topography within the project study area averages 31 degrees or a 2:1 slope, which is equivalent to a very steep roof. SGL 211 is available year-round, except during hunting season, for overflight by military aviation units conducting terrain flight navigation (DMVA/PANG 2006a, NPG 1999). Specifically, the project study area is bordered by NGTC-FTIG to the south and SGL 211 to the east, north and west.

4.2.1.1 Land Cover

The project study area consists of a steep, mountainous, undisturbed area. Vegetation consists of conifer-dominated boreal forest with mixed deciduous forest communities.

4.2.1.2 Aesthetics and Visual Resources

The project study area is located along the top and north-facing slope of Second Mountain extending toward Stony Creek. Aesthetics are representative of mountainous, undeveloped areas, consisting of large amounts of vegetation and areas of exposed rock. Stony Creek is a primary visual and aesthetic resource in the vicinity of the project study area, located approximately one mile north of the boundary between NGTC-FTIG and SGL 211. The project study area resides within the Stony Creek watershed. The Stony Creek watershed was designated a Wild and Scenic River by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1980 (refer to **Section 4.6.2**).

Other notable visual and aesthetic resources in the vicinity of the project study area include:

- Second Mountain Hawk Watch, access road and parking lot, located at the summit of Second Mountain along the southern boundary of the project study area on NGTC-FTIG property, is an approximately one-acre cleared area used by the Second Mountain Hawk Watch Association (SMHWA) and the general public to view and record spring and fall hawk migration. The second Mountain Hawk Watch is designated as an important bird area by the Pennsylvania Audubon Society.



- Stony Creek Valley, also known as St. Anthony's Wilderness, is a center for numerous outdoor recreation activities including hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, and snowmobiling. This area is one of the largest continuous roadless tracts of forested land in Central Pennsylvania. Among the number of factors which greatly contribute to this popularity are abundant and diverse wildlife populations, a successful fish stocking program by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), and the dissection of the area by many trails including the Appalachian Trail, the Horseshoe Trail, and an abandoned railroad bed (Stony Valley Rail Trail) that parallels Stony Creek (PADER 1979). Stony Creek became Pennsylvania's first designated State Wild and Scenic River in 1980 (32 P.S. § 820.41 – 820.45).
- The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (ANST) is a continuous, marked, 69-year-old footpath that traverses the Appalachian Mountain chain from central Maine to northern Georgia, for a distance of 2,175 miles. As the longest unit of the National Park System, the ANST provides opportunities for millions of visitors each year to experience countless wild, scenic, and pastoral settings. It also affords opportunities for continuous long-distance hiking that are unparalleled anywhere else in the world. When Congress designated the Appalachian Trail as our nation's first national scenic trail, it did so to "provide for the maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass." The ANST traverses the ridgelines of Sharp, Second, and Blue Mountains for a distance of more than 20 miles, passing approximately 2 miles north of the existing military training facility at NGTC-FTIG. In 1995, the National Park Service (NPS), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the ATC, the Keystone Trails Association, and 12 Appalachian Trail-maintaining clubs in Pennsylvania entered into an agreement to manage the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania, consistent with the National Trails System Act (P.L. 90-543) and Pennsylvania Appalachian Trail Act (P.L. 87, No. 41). The Trail is managed by these agencies and organizations to preserve and protect the ANST for its remote recreational, scenic, and near-pristine natural resources, and to minimize noise and visual impacts to the Trail.

4.2.1.3 Building Function and Architecture

No permanent structures are located within the project study area.

4.2.1.4 Local Zoning

The project study area is physically located in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, Pennsylvania. The project study area lies within East Hanover Township in Dauphin County and Cold Springs Township in Lebanon County. SGL 211 is designated as Public/Semi Public in Dauphin County and Special Purpose Residential, Residential Forest, and Open Space – Timberland Conservation in Lebanon County.

4.2.1.5 Property Status

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting by and through the PGC, has ownership and control over SGL 211. As stated in Chapter 7 of the Pennsylvania Game and Wildlife Code (34



Pa.C.S., Ch. 7), SGL 211 is under property control by the PGC and the property use is governed by the Game and Wildlife Code.

Further, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 USC 669 *et seq.*) authorizes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish laws governing the conservation of wildlife, as well as to provide funds to develop wildlife conservation and restoration programs. These programs include the monitoring of species, wildlife recreation projects, conservation education programs, etc. According to the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, these programs may then be expanded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the management of wildlife areas and resources.

Pursuant to the interpretation of these regulations by the USFWS, assets (e.g. real estate) acquired with hunting license revenue may only be used to manage fish and wildlife-oriented resources for which the PGC has the authority under State law (50 CFR 80.4) Moreover, the PGC must maintain full management control of lands purchased with the Wildlife Restoration Act funds (50 CFR 80.14(b) (1). As owner of the 900-acres in question, the PGC has broad discretion as to how it manages the lands it owns. State fish and wildlife agencies frequently manipulate habitat for the benefit of wildlife restoration or open space and close areas of their holdings to serve a variety of management purposes. It is well within the management purview of State fish and wildlife agencies to enter into agreements with other parties, such as the DMVA, as long as the terms of 50 CFR 80 are not violated (USFWS 2008).

4.3 Air Quality

4.3.1 Ambient Air Quality

Ambient air quality in an area can be characterized in terms of whether or not it complies with the primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and with the Pennsylvania Ambient Air Quality Standards (PAAQS). The Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) requires the USEPA to set NAAQS for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set limits to protect public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. Secondary standards set limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings (USEPA 1999a, USEPA 1999b, DMVA/PANG 2006a). NAAQS are provided for six principal pollutants, called criteria pollutants (as listed under Section 108 of the CAA), including the following:

- Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Lead (Pb)
- Nitrogen oxide (NO_x)
- Ozone (O₃)
- Particulate matter (PM), divided into two size classes:
 - Aerodynamic size less than or equal to 10 micrometers (PM₁₀)
 - Aerodynamic size less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5}).
- Sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

Each state and locality has the primary responsibility for air pollution prevention and control. The State and Federal primary and secondary ambient air standards are presented in



Table 4-1. Under the Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970 and the CAAA of 1990, state and local air pollution control agencies have the authority to adopt and enforce ambient air quality standards more stringent than the NAAQS. PADEP has adopted all the NAAQS and set more stringent PAAQS. In addition to the NAAQS, the State has promulgated standards for beryllium (Be), total soluble fluorides as hydrogen fluoride (HF), and hydrogen sulfide (H₂S). These standards are also shown in **Table 4-1**.

4.3.2 Criteria for Attainment/Non-Attainment Areas

Currently, Dauphin and Lebanon Counties do not meet the NAAQS for ozone and are classified as non-attainment areas. In addition, Dauphin and Lebanon Counties are in non-attainment status for PM_{2.5}; Dauphin and Lebanon Counties are in attainment for all other criteria pollutants (USEPA 2007a).

4.3.3 General Conformity Rule

The General Conformity Provision of the CAA (42 USC 7401 *et seq.*; 40 CFR 50-87) Section 176(c), including the USEPA's implementation mechanism, the General Conformity Rule (40 CFR 51, Subpart W), requires Federal agencies to prepare written Conformity Determinations for Federal actions in or affecting NAAQS non-attainment areas or maintenance areas. The project study area is within the Ozone Transport Region (OTR), an area of the U.S. where ozone and its atmospheric behavior are of special concern. Although both Dauphin and Lebanon counties are in non-attainment for ozone and PM_{2.5}, the procedural requirements of the General Conformity Rule are not required for the Proposed Action because no activities are proposed that would result in the creation of air pollutants.

4.3.4 Local Meteorological Conditions

The local meteorological conditions within the SGL 211 and NGTC-FTIG area are typical for the region, and create no unusual circumstances with respect to air quality. Prevailing winds are ordinarily from the west and northwest at approximately 8 mph (World Climate 1999). Air masses change with some regularity, and any one weather condition does not persist for many days in succession. The Blue Mountain chain serves somewhat as a barrier to severe winter storm events; the mountain barriers occasionally prevent cold waves from reaching the Great Valley.

4.3.5 Existing Emission Sources

The project study area does not currently possess any permitted emission sources.

4.3.6 Existing Air Pollution Source Permits

The project study area does not currently possess any existing air pollution source permits.

4.3.7 Proximate Sensitive Receptors

No sensitive air quality receptors are located within one-mile of the project study area.



4.3.8 Compliance with Federal and State Regulations

Title III of the CAAA established a program for controlling emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). Under Title III, emission standards have been developed for sources that emit any of 189 chemical compounds listed in the Act. Initially, Title III will affect major industrial sources of HAPs. A major source is any facility that emits 10 tons or more per year of any HAP or 25 tons of any combination of HAPs. These sources of emissions must be identified and are required to obtain an operating permit and comply with federally mandated control technology (i.e., maximum achievable control technology) based on emission standards and other conditions. SGL 211 does not produce any HAP emissions; therefore, Title III of the CAAA does not apply to the project study area.

4.4 Noise

Under NEPA, the Noise Control Act of 1972 (42 U.S.C 4903 [P.L. 92-574]), EO 12088, AR 200-1 and 32 CFR Part 651, the DMVA/PAARNG is required to assess the environmental impact of noise produced by their activities. Within such an assessment, strategies are promulgated to establish proper land-use planning criteria that protect on-site and off-site receptors from environmental noise.

A-Weighting and C-Weighting are two different scales that are used to assess noise impacts. The A-Weighting is used to give emphasis on the frequencies that humans hear best. The C-Weighting is used for sounds that have a high content of low-frequency energy. By using the C-weighting, the results reflect vibration levels that can be felt from the low-frequency levels. A-Weighted Day-Night Average Sound Level (ADNL) is used to evaluate heavy equipment operations and small arms weapons firing (up to .50 cal). For loud, short-duration impulsive sounds, such as large caliber weapons firing (greater than 20 mm) and demolitions noise, the C-Weighted Day-Night Average Sound Level (CDNL) is used (AR 200-1).

4.4.1 Existing Noise Environment

Currently, the noise environment of the project study area is primarily affected by operations at NGTC-FTIG, including the configuration of NGTC-FTIG ranges and use of weapons, ammunition and firing points. The noise environment is also occasionally affected by hunting noise. NGTC-FTIG's ground range (impact area) firing activities include the use of artillery and large weapons.

As assessed in the 2002 *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Enhanced Training and Operations at NGTC-FTIG*, the CDNL metric was determined to exceed the Zone I noise level of 62 decibels, C-Weighted (dBC) in certain areas outside the boundaries of NGTC-FTIG (refer to **Table 4-2** for Noise Zone Classifications). The 62 dBC contour line extends less than one mile off the installation along 50 percent of the northern perimeter, including sections of the project study area. In addition, the bomb circle noise contour lines, determined in the 2002 EIS, confirm that a portion of the project study area is also subject to exposure of Zone III noise levels (85 dBC) (DMVA/PANG 2002a). Overall, the 2002 EIS identified that the noise environment of the project study area is currently affected by training operations at NGTC-FTIG at levels above acceptable standards for recreational lands.



The Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise (FICUN) has developed noise zone classifications; **Table 4-2** summarizes the FICUN Noise Zone Classifications, as presented in AR 200-1. The noise environment within a majority the project study area generally lies within noise Zone I; however, during certain training activities (i.e., large weapons firing) at NGTC-FTIG, the noise environment within particular sections of the project study area can escalate to noise Zones II and III.

As re-assessed in the *2006 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Transformation of the PAARNG's 56th Brigade into an SBCT*, the construction and operation of the MPTR would result in short-and long-term adverse noise impacts to SGL 211. The 2006 FEIS provides the noise contours of the proposed MPTR, and updates those noise contours in of the 2002 FEIS. It is noted that the revised future-case noise contours of the 2006 FEIS indicate that 2,240 acres of off-Post land, including 66 residences and 423 acres within SGL 211 (i.e., as opposed to 9,094 acres of off-Post land and 186 private residences as specified in the 2002 FEIS) are included within future Noise Zones II and III. The amount of land within these noise contours is less than was anticipated in the 2002 FEIS for the MPTR due to improved computer noise models that are now available (USACHPPM 2005). The improved noise models now can accurately incorporate NGTC-FTIG's terrain into the noise calculations; these terrain features serve to partially attenuate anticipated noise

The construction of the MPTR would result short-term, less than significant noise impacts. With multiple items of equipment operating concurrently, noise levels can be relatively high during daytime periods, however locations more than 1,000 feet (i.e., SGL 211) from construction sites seldom experience significant levels of construction noise; given the temporary nature of proposed construction activities and the limited amount of noise that construction equipment would generate, this impact is considered less than significant. Further, during particular weapons firing at the MPTR, the noise environment within particular sections of the project study area can escalate to noise Zones II and III (refer to **Figure 4-2**). Specifically, approximately 90 acres of the project study area would experience Zone II noise levels and approximately 10 acres of the project study area would experience Zone III noise levels during MPTR training activities.

4.4.2 Proximate Sensitive Receptors

There are no residences located within the project study area. Proximate sensitive noise receptors at, or in the vicinity of the project study area primarily include persons who utilize SGL 211 for recreational purposes. Public recreational areas located in close proximity to the project study area include, SGL 211 and the Stony Creek watershed, which include Rattling Run Trail and the ANST. Actual numbers and demographics of those who utilize the specific portion of SGL 211 within the project study area are not available as they are not tracked.

4.5 Geology, Topography, and Soils

The geology of the area is within the Valley and Ridge physiographic province, Appalachian Mountain Section. In general, the Valley and Ridge province is underlain by complexly faulted and folded sedimentary rocks of Paleozoic Age. A wide range of lithologic types is represented, including limestones, sandstones, and shales. Sandstone and conglomerate, resistant to weathering, comprise the ridges, while shale and limestone underlie the valleys (USDA 1981).



The project study area, as well as the northern portion of NGTC-FTIG, rests in the Appalachian Mountain section of the Valley and Ridge physiographic province, a region of northeast-southwest-oriented ridges and valleys (refer to **Figure 4-3**). The valleys within the project study area have been worn into the softer limestones and dolomites, while the ridges have formed from the more resistant shales, sandstones, and conglomerates (USDA 1981).

Two geologic units were identified within the project study area: the Mauch Chunk and Pocono Formations (see **Figure 4-3**). The Mauch Chunk Formation typically consists of sandstone, siltstone and shale, while the Pocono Formation is composed of conglomerate and sandstone (USDA 1972, USDA 1981).

4.5.1.1 Topography

Inspection of United States Geological Survey (USGS) Topographic Quadrangles shows the ridge of Second Mountain within the project study area reaches elevations of approximately 1,300 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The northern limit of the project study area near Stony Creek lies at approximately 800 feet amsl. The project study area can be characterized as extremely steep with predominant areas of loose slab rock. Topography within the project study area averages 31 degrees or a 2:1 slope, which is equivalent to a very steep roof.

The Appalachian Mountain section is considered to have a high susceptibility to landslides, with shallow, slab-type bedrock slides fairly common on dip slopes of steeply tilted strata (Shultz 1999). Steep slopes and exposed bedrock areas occur throughout the project study area, primarily on the crest of Second Mountain and in Stony Creek Valley (see **Figure 4-1**). The Stony Creek Valley drains toward the Susquehanna River to the west via Stony Creek, which runs within approximately 70 feet of the northern border of the project study area. The predominant tributary confluence within the project study area is Yellow Springs. During periods of abundant precipitation, the floodplain of Stony Creek is dominated by numerous small ponds, or vernal pools (PADER 1979).

4.5.1.2 Soil Types and Characteristics

The majority of the soils present within the project study area are members of the Laidig-Hazleton-Leck Kill association. This association is characterized by deep, nearly level to very steep, well drained soils on mountains, ridges, and summits.

Five soil types are located within the project study area:

1. **Andover gravelly loam, 0-8 percent slope (AoB)** – characterized by nearly level to moderately sloping, poorly drained soils.
2. **Dekalb and Lehigh sandy loam (DIF)** – characterized by moderately steep, extremely well drained soils.
3. **Hazleton extremely stony sandy loam (HHE)** – characterized by steep and very steep, well drained soils.
4. **Hazleton-Laidig association (HLD)** – characterized by moderately steep, well drained soils.



5. **Huntington silt loam (HegF)** – characterized by moderately steep, well drained soils.
6. **Laidig extremely gravelly loam, 8-25 percent slope (LdC)** – characterized by moderately steep, well drained soils.
7. **Laidig extremely gravelly loam, 8-25 percent slope (LdD)** – characterized by moderately steep, well drained soils.
8. **Rubble land (Ru)** – characterized as a miscellaneous area consisting of moderately steep to very steep, moderately rapid to rapid permeability soils.

Locations of soils found at the project study area are shown in **Figure 4-4**. Soil characteristics are summarized in **Table 4-3**.

The Land Use Capability Class indicates suitability of the soil for woodland and wildlife. Soils within the project study area are categorized as Class VII (soils suited for pasture lands, woodlands, and wildlife) and VIII (soils not suitable for agriculture, recommended for wildlife habitat) (see **Table 4-3**). Class VII and VIII soils have severe limitations that restrict their use for cultivation due to numerous surface stones and slope (USDA 1972, USDA 1981).

4.5.1.3 Prime and Unique Farmlands

One of the soil types within the project study area is designated as farmland of statewide importance, while none of the soil types within the project study area are designated as prime farmland (see **Table 4-3** and **Figure 4-4**).

4.5.1.4 Hydric Soils

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), two of the soils within the project study area have been identified as hydric or as having hydric components (USDA 1972, USDA 1981). Andover very stony loam and Laidig extremely stony loam both contain hydric properties and are found within the project study area; however, Laidig extremely stony loam is categorized as hydric in the Lebanon County portion of the project study area, but is not categorized as hydric in the Dauphin County portion of the project study area.

4.6 Water Resources

4.6.1 Regulatory Framework

Protection and management of water resources are mandated by a various Federal laws, regulations, and guidance. Within the U.S., waters are regulated under Sections 401 (33 USC 1341 *et seq.*) and 404 (33 USC 1344 *et seq.*) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Water features within the vicinity of the project study area are under the jurisdiction of the PADEP. The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law (35 P.S. 691.1 *et seq.*) defines “waters of the Commonwealth” as including rivers, streams, impoundments, ditches, lakes, dammed water, ponds, springs, and all other bodies or channels of surface and underground water, whether natural or artificial. These waters of the State are regulated by PADEP.



4.6.1.1 Surface Water Resources

No surface water features exist within the boundary of the project study area. However, Stony Creek is within 70 feet of the northern boundary of the Preferred Alternative (see **Figure 4-5**). The entire project study area is located within the Stony Creek watershed. The Stony Creek drains a watershed of approximately 35.6 square miles primarily within the narrow valley between Second Mountain on the south and Sharp, Stony and Third Mountains to the north. There are three predominant tributaries of Stony Creek: Rausch Creek, Yellow Springs, and Rattling Run; none of the tributaries are located in the project study area. These tributaries originate in the higher elevations of Sharp and Stony Mountains. Stony Creek flows into the Susquehanna River approximately 13 miles west of the project study area. Based on available data obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the project study area is not located within a 100- or 500-year floodplain (see **Figure 4-6**). The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map indicates that 0.976 acres of wetlands are present within the project study area (see **Figure 4-7**). These wetlands are located within the boundaries of Alternative 2. No wetlands are located within the 900-acre Alternative 1 area.

AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc. (AMEC) performed a site reconnaissance of the project study area on 1 May 2007 and concluded that there is an absence of wetlands within and around the Alternative 1 area.

4.6.1.2 Groundwater Resources

The shale and sandstone formations underneath SGL 211 are compact rocks made up of small-sized particles. This results in low groundwater permeability, or primary porosity, of these formations. Therefore, the occurrence and movement of groundwater in the project study area are largely controlled by the degree of fracturing in the bedrock, or secondary porosity. Fracturing occurs in association with faults, folds, and joints within the bedrock. Fracturing is widespread and can be attributed to the extensive structural deformation associated with the region. Consequently, groundwater occurs in low quantities within the project study area (DMVA/PANG 2006a, STI 1991).

4.6.1.3 Water Providers

No water is currently provided to the project study area.

4.6.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 USC 1271 *et seq.*) established a means of evaluating and protecting selected rivers that have particular scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar unique values. A river may be so designated by either the U.S. Congress or by a state legislature. The three administrative classifications include wild river areas, scenic river areas, and recreational river areas. Federal and State agencies must consider the significance of these designated river areas in planning for the use and development of water and land resources; this potential must be discussed in project plans. Federal agencies are prohibited in assisting in the construction of a project that would adversely affect designated rivers, and must inform and advise either the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture on proposed projects concerning designated rivers, or rivers under



consideration for such designation (16 USC 1278). Stony Creek has not been designated as a Wild and Scenic River under the federal law.

In September 1979, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (PADER, now PADEP) performed the *Pennsylvania Wild and Scenic Rivers Program: Stony Creek Study*. The study was conducted in order to determine whether or not Stony Creek, located within SGL 211, was eligible for classification and protection under the Wild and Scenic River Act. Part of the Stony Creek watershed, as defined within the *Stony Creek Study*, extends south to the ridge top of Second Mountain (PADER 1979).

Information received from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (PADCNR) indicates that the entire Stony Creek watershed (in which the project study area resides, with Stony Creek flowing parallel to the northern boundary of the project study area at a distance of approximately 70 feet) was designated a Pennsylvania Scenic River in 1980. In 1980 the General Assembly enacted the "Stony Creek Wild and Scenic River Act" (32 P.S. § 820.41 – 820.45), designating Stony Creek and the surrounding valley as the first wild river in the State. This designation includes Rattling Run and Rausch Creek, tributaries of Stony Creek. The designation is intended to ensure the preservation of the wilderness setting of the river (PaANG 1998). Stony Creek or its watershed does not have a specific Federal designation. The Stony Creek watershed is managed through the Stony Creek Management Plan. The project study area drains to Stony Creek.

4.7 Biological Resources

4.7.1 Regulatory Framework

Protection and management of biological resources within the project study area is mandated by a number of laws, regulations, and guidance. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*) regulates the protection of federally-listed species. Section 7 of the ESA dictates that Federal actions should not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of such species. In addition, protection and management of biological resources within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is regulated by PADCNR, the PFBC, and the PGC.

4.7.1.1 Local Ecosystems and Communities

Plant Communities

The project study area is comprised of undeveloped, near-natural land. SGL 211 consists of montane hardwood-conifer forests in upland areas, with northern hardwood-conifer forests along the lower, especially north-facing, slopes. These northern hardwood-conifer forests are also often found in small ravines and along stream courses, such as Stony Creek. Plant communities in the lower slopes of Stony Creek Valley are dominated by chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), with Black birch (*Betula lenta*) forming the major subdominant of the area. Further up the slope, Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) becomes more significant with the chestnut oaks still dominating the community. Finally, the ridge tops in the area include chestnut oaks, striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*) and chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*) as the dominant species (PADER 1979).



Special Habitat Areas

While not specifically designated a special habitat area, the ridgelines in the vicinity of the project study area are well known as a hawk migration corridor (PGC 2003). Autumn migrations extend from early August to mid-December, while spring migrations typically last from February through June. The Second Mountain Hawk Watch, located at the summit of Second Mountain along the southern boundary of the project study area on NGTC-FTIG property, is an approximately one-acre cleared area used by the Second Mountain Hawk Watch Association (SMHWA) to view and record spring and fall hawk migrations. The Second Mountain Hawk Watch has been designated as an important bird area by the Pennsylvania Audubon Society.

4.7.1.2 Special Status Species

Information regarding threatened or endangered species within the vicinity of the project study area was obtained through the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program's (PNHP) Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Project Environmental Review process, the PGC, the PFBC, the PADCNr, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Copies of correspondence with these agencies are presented in **Appendix A**.

The PNHP's PNDI search reported that no Federally threatened or endangered species are located within the project study area. Detailed information regarding the special status species identified by the PADCNr, as well as their typical habitat requirements and current status is presented in **Table 4-4**. As of 10 March 2008, correspondence from the USFWS has been received stating that the USFWS will review and comment on the Draft EA. At the time of this printing, a response from the USFWS concerning the presence of Federally threatened or endangered species has not been received. According to the PADCNr, four state-listed special status plant species are "known to occur in the vicinity" of the Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 locations (refer to **Table 4-4**); however, based on typical habitat requirements, the following two special status plant species identified would likely occur within the project study area:

- American holly (*Ilex opaca*), a Pennsylvania listed threatened species, grows in wetlands and sandy coastal areas from New England to Florida and along the northern the Mississippi River valley (University of Florida 2007). According to the PADCNr and the Pennsylvania Wild and Scenic Rivers Program: Stony Creek Study, there are several stands of American holly known to occur within SGL 211 (DCNR 2007, PADER 1979). Therefore, the extreme northern portion of the project study area does occur in an area with the potential habitat of the American holly.
- Forked-chickweed (*Paronychia fastigiata* var. *nuttallii*), a Pennsylvania endangered species, grows in sandy and/or rocky soils from New England west to the Great Lakes region (DNCr 2007, Connecticut Botanical Society 2005). The project study area contains suitable habitat requirements for the forked chickweed, and according to the PADCNr, is known to be within the vicinity; consequently, there is potential for the forked chickweed to occur within the project study area.

PADCNr reported that the project study area contains potentially suitable habitat for five state-listed special status butterfly species (refer to **Table 4-4**); however, based on typical habitat



requirements, the following two special status butterfly species identified would likely occur within the project study area:

- Black-waved flannel moth (*Lagoa crispate*), a Pennsylvania designated imperiled species, are commonly found in deciduous forests of the southeastern to south-central United States; however, populations are known to exist in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (DCNR 2007, Iowa State University 2007). The project study area consists of hardwood-conifer forests and, therefore, has the potential habitat for the black-waved flannel moth.
- Spiny oakworm moth (*Anisota stigma*), a Pennsylvania designated critically imperiled species, is common throughout the eastern United States, ranging from southern New England to Minnesota and south to Florida; however, the species may be rare in some areas within the range. According to the PADCNr, the Spiny oakworm moth inhabits deciduous forest, particularly with high concentrations of oak species (DCNR 2007, Hyche 2000). The hardwood-conifer forest found in the project study area contains a large community of oak species, resulting in the potential habitat of the Spiny oakworm moth.

Although AMEC has received correspondence from the USFWS, that correspondence primarily pertains to elements of the SEA as they relate to interpretation of the Wildlife Restoration Act (50 CFR 80) and does not specifically address the presence of Federally threatened or endangered species. To date, the DMVA/PAARNG have not received information from the USFWS regarding special status species that may occur within the project study area (see **Appendix A** that documents, in a *Memorandum of Record*, attempts to obtain these data); however, based on the species known to occur in the vicinity and the habitats present within the study area, the following special status species may exist within the project study area:

- The Allegheny woodrat (*Neotoma magister*), a Pennsylvania State-threatened species, is a mammal common to the area, and has been found specifically along the ridge of Second Mountain (DMVA/PAARNG 2006a). A survey conducted at NGTC-FTIG during November 1999 located signs of these large rodents in rock piles and cliffs on the southern slope of Second Mountain, including food caches containing fungi, leaves, pokeweed fruits, and grapes. Allegheny woodrats depend on fairly large, contiguous areas of forested habitat to forage for food, such as SGL 211, and tend to avoid crossing paved roads while foraging (DMVA/PAARNG 2006a, TNC 2002a).
- The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) was one of the first bat species to be recognized as an endangered species by the USFWS under the FESA. The distribution of this species includes cave regions, and areas that are relatively near cave regions, in the eastern U.S. The Indiana bat has been known to occur in central Pennsylvania, although little survey data is documented. A survey was conducted in 2004 to provide an inventory of bat species occurring in the vicinity of NGTC-FTIG. The survey concluded that no Indiana bats were located within NGTC-FTIG (BCM 2004, DMVA/PAARNG 2006a).
- The timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus h. horridus*), a Pennsylvania candidate species, has been observed to inhabit areas including the ridge of Second Mountain. This species is considered to be a candidate for potential listing as threatened or endangered in Pennsylvania (DMVA 2002). Studies of the rattlesnake population at NGTC-FTIG in 1998, 1999, 2004, and 2005 identified that snakes tended to remain in forested habitat and use small woodland and stream corridors to move throughout the area (DMVA/PAARNG



2006a, TNC 2000, HA 2004, HA 2005). Further, according to the PFBC's files, the timber rattlesnake is known to occur in the project vicinity.

4.8 Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 101 (d)(6)(b) of the NHPA and DoD 4710.02 within which the Department of Defense Annotated American Indian and Alaskan Native Policy is a component, the DMVA/PAARNG conducted formal consultation with Federally-recognized Native American tribes concerning this proposal. The tribes listed below are identified in PAARNG's Statewide Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) and through subsequent Native American Consultation Workshops conducted by the PAARNG. These entities were invited to participate in the SEA process, per Section 101 (d)(6)(b) and DoD 4710.02. The DMVA/PAARNG has completed government-to-government consultation with the following Native American tribes to acquire their input on tribal affiliation to, and any interests in, lands in the project study area and its vicinity, including SGL 211 and NGTC-FTIG:

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Shawnee Tribe
- St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Oneida Indian Nation of New York
- Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
- Tonawanda Seneca Nation
- Tuscarora Nation
- Onondaga Nation
- Cayuga Nation

In addition, the DMVA/PAARNG initiated coordination with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to obtain information regarding known cultural resource sites at or in the vicinity of the project study area. The PHMC responded in a letter dated 15 June 2007 and stated that they do not believe the proposal would have any adverse affect on cultural resources (see **Appendix A**). The PHMC will be sent a copy of this Draft SEA as part of the review process.

To date, the DMVA/PAARNG has received responses from the Oneida Indian Nation of New York and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. Neither of these Native American tribes expressed concern regarding the proposed action. Copies of the responses from these Native American entities are provided in **Appendix A**. No other responses have been received to date.

4.9 Socioeconomics

The following subsections identify and describe the socioeconomic environment in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, Pennsylvania and its surrounding areas. This region of influence includes all of the socioeconomic factors, including local businesses, local government, and local population, that may be affected by changes in activities within the project study area. Data used in preparing this section are primarily from the 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Housing. As noted previously, data on users of the resources within SGL 211 are not



maintained and therefore not available. It is reasonably presumed that a broad representation of groups typical of the region use the resources within SGL 211 from time to time.

4.9.1.1 Demographics

This subsection discusses population density and trends for the areas surrounding the project study area, including Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, the townships within which the project study area is located, and the cities of Annville, Lebanon, and Harrisburg. The information presented in **Table 4-5** indicates that the current demographics for this region are similar to the majority of Pennsylvania, with widely varying growth rates and population generally around urban areas. However, the data indicate that Lebanon and Dauphin Counties, including East Hanover Township in Dauphin County and Annville in Lebanon County, have grown in population on the order of two to five times the State average, while the populations in Harrisburg and Middle Paxton Township in Dauphin County and, Lebanon, East Hanover, and Union Townships (Lebanon County) have declined in the past 10 years. In addition, the largest population growth within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between 1990 and 2000 occurred in Cold Spring Township, Lebanon County with an increase of 1533.3 percent (U.S. Census 2007k, U.S. Census 2007l).

In addition to actual data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Federal, state, and local agencies have prepared population and other demographic projections for many areas, including those around the project study area. These projections are based on documented ingress/egress rates, building and home construction rates, employment rates, and quality-of-life ratings. Population projections for areas surrounding the project study area are shown in **Table 4-6**. These projections indicate that both Dauphin and Lebanon Counties are anticipated to grow at a rate approximately three times the State average over the next 20 years. This current and future population growth within the project study area vicinity will likely result in increased utilization of resources within SGL 211 over time, commensurate with this growth.

4.9.1.2 Regional Economy

The majority of employed persons in the vicinity of the project study area 16 years of age and older work in the services, trade, and government industries with typical commute times averaging 10 to 20 minutes (DMVA/PANG 2006a, U.S. Census 2007c, U.S. Census 2007d, U.S. Census 2007g). This corresponds closely with employment statistics for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania overall, as shown in **Table 4-7**.

NGTC-FTIG is the largest employer in Lebanon County, employing approximately 1,900 full-time employees. Additionally, approximately 150,000 persons train at NGTC-FTIG annually. Currently, over \$150 million in construction is underway at NGTC-FTIG. Further, the PANG has a \$1.3 billion economic impact statewide, with the majority impacting NGTC-FTIG, particularly Lebanon County (Cleaver 2007).

Fourteen businesses and industries are currently operating to the east of the project study area in the Lickdale/Fredericksburg area, employing approximately 5,000 workers. Additional new jobs are anticipated in the next decade. Based on recent and planned commercial and industrial development, this area is expected to continue to grow in the next several years (DMVA/PANG 2006a).



Statistics gathered from the Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State-Harrisburg indicate the per capita income for Dauphin and Lebanon Counties increased at a modest rate from 1990 to 2000 (approximately 1.5 percent per year), which corresponds closely with the State average (DMVA/PANG 2006a, Keystone Research Center 2004). According to data from the 2000 U.S. Census, median household income for Dauphin County was \$41,507, while Lebanon County was \$40,838. Median household incomes ranged from approximately \$43,000 to approximately \$54,000 for the townships surrounding the project study area. The national median household income in 1999 was \$41,994 (U.S. Census 2007a – U.S. Census 2007l). Median household income and per capita income for the areas surrounding project study area are shown in **Table 4-8**.

4.9.1.3 Housing

No housing is located within the project study area.

4.9.1.4 Schools

No schools are located within close proximity to the project study area.

4.9.1.5 Shops and Services

No shops or services are present within the project study area.

4.9.1.6 Public and Occupational Health and Safety

Police and Fire Protection

Within SGL 211, the PGC provides law enforcement and protection through the training of Wildlife Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers. Wildlife Conservation Officers also provide assistance to local and state police, as well as emergency assistance in the case of accidents and disasters. Additional police protection may also be provided to SGL 211 through the Pennsylvania State Police, local sheriff departments and municipal forces (PGC 2007).

SGL 211 does not currently have a fire department directly linked to the property. Firefighting assistance is provided by local firefighting companies through county emergency management systems. In addition, the NGTC-FTIG Fire Department has historically assisted in fire fighting efforts within SGL 211 when requested and/or when fires have escaped from NGTC-FTIG into SGL 211. The recent widening of the fire break at the crest of Second Mountain was performed to create a more effective fire break between NGTC-FTIG and SGL 211 after an earlier fire escaped from NGTC-FTIG into SGL 211. (Fronko 2007)

Medical Facilities

There are no civilian medical facilities within close proximity to the project study area.



Protection of Children

Because children suffer disproportionately from environmental health and safety risks, Executive Order (EO) 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*, was introduced on 21 April 1997. EO 13045 was intended to (1) prioritize the identification and assessment of environmental health and safety risks that may affect children and to (2) ensure that Federal agency policies, programs, activities, and standards address environmental and safety risks to children. Children are not consistently present within the project study area; however, it is possible that children could be present within the project study area for recreational purposes.

4.10 Public Safety

4.10.1 Training Safety

Training does not directly occur within the project study area at the present time; however, the airspace above the project study area is classified as Restricted Special Use Airspace R5802A. This area consists of airspace of defined vertical and lateral boundaries in which military aircraft can perform military training separated from non-military traffic. Current military training operations specific to the airspace above the project study area involves flight operations associated with the air-to-ground range at NGTC-FTIG and other military flight training activities. In addition, training operations in the 1990s at former Range 27 resulted in the ricocheting of projectiles into SGL 211. Range 27 was subsequently closed to live fire but is still open as a laser range. Further, historic training operations at Ft. Indiantown Gap, prior to the PANG assuming management of the installation in 1997, also resulted in the ricocheting of rounds into SGL 211.

4.10.2 Explosives Materials Safety

No explosive materials are currently stored within the project study area. Rounds used at former Range 27, some of which landed in SGL 211, were training rounds and did not contain any high explosives. Occasionally explosive rounds and/or suspect rounds from historic operations at Ft. Indiantown Gap are found within SGL 211 and are reported to the PAARNG. These rounds are subsequently disposed or detonated by the NGTC-FTIG Ordnance Disposal Team when such a discovery is made and reported (Fronko 2007).

4.11 Environmental Justice

4.11.1.1 Geographic Distribution of Minorities

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 251,798 individuals resided in Dauphin County and 120,327 individuals resided in Lebanon County, as represented by all races (see **Table 4-5**). Most residents are white, and minority populations are generally small. A single exception would be within the City of Harrisburg where 54.8 percent of the residents are black or African-American. **Table 4-9** presents regional race demographics for the areas surrounding the project study area. For Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, major reported ancestries included: German, Irish, Italian, English, Hispanic origin groups, and 'Unclassified', with the German ancestry by far the most dominant. The principal ancestries reported more specifically to the project study area



(East Hanover Township, Dauphin County and Cold Spring Township, Lebanon County) include German, Dutch, and Irish (City-Data 2007, U.S. Census 2007c).

4.11.1.2 Geographic Distribution of Low-Income Populations

Based upon the 2000 U.S. Census, approximately 9 percent of the 372,125 residents of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties exist at or below the poverty level. In comparison, approximately 11 percent of the total Pennsylvania population existed below the poverty level in 2000. Median household incomes and per capita incomes for residents of the townships surrounding the project study area in 2000 were slightly higher (e.g. East Hanover Township, Dauphin County contained a median household income of \$52,009) than the State average (\$40,106) (please refer to **Table 4-8** for Regional Income Information).

4.11.1.3 Consumption Patterns

Based on socioeconomic data consulted and referenced in the above sections, no identifiable populations or local groups in the vicinity of the project study area (i.e., within the defined Region of Influence [ROI]) principally rely on fish or wildlife for subsistence. As noted previously, the primary land use within SGL 211 is recreational, including hunting, trapping, and fishing. However, these activities are done for recreation, and are not known to support the primary subsistence of any population.

4.12 Infrastructure

4.12.1.1 Potable Water Supply

No potable wells are currently located within the project study area.

4.12.1.2 Wastewater Treatment

No wastewater treatment is currently provided within the project study area.

4.12.1.3 Solid Waste Disposal

No solid waste disposal is currently provided at the project study area.

4.12.1.4 Energy

Electricity

Electricity is not currently provided within the project study area. Further, no utility right-of-way or easements are located within the project study area.

Fossil Fuels

Fossil fuels are not currently located within the project study area. Further, no utility right-of-way or easements are located within the project study area.



4.12.1.5 Telecommunications

No telephone service is currently provided to the project study area. Further, no utility right-of-way or easements are located within the project study area.

4.12.1.6 Transportation

Local Roadways

Access to the project study area is limited. Cold Springs Road, a paved and sand road maintained by the DMVA, is located just east of the project study area. The PGC maintains the portion of Cold Springs Road within SGL 211. Cold Springs Road is the only access point to the project study area by road. Alternately, access by foot/hiking can be made by hiking approximately 9-10 miles from Ellendale Forge Gate, or 5-6 miles from the Gold Mine Road Gate of the Stony Valley Trail, then by crossing Stony Creek and up the north face of Second Mountain into the project area.

Passenger and Freight Rail Access and Service

No rail service is located within close proximity of the project study area.

4.13 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Waste

4.13.1.1 On-Site Storage Tanks

AMEC has located no documentation indicating that petroleum storage tanks are located within the project study area (Killough 2007).

4.13.1.2 Past Spills and Leaks

AMEC has located no documentation indicating that any spills or leaks occurred within the project study area (Killough 2007).

4.13.1.3 Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan (SPCCP)

No SPCCP has been prepared for the project study area, and none is required.

4.13.1.4 On-Site Environmental Concerns within the Project Study Area

Based on available information, there are no HTMW concerns within the project study area (Killough 2007). As discussed in Section 4.9.1.6, historical operations at Fort Indiantown Gap have resulted in rounds entering SGL 211. Occasionally, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and/or suspect rounds are found within SGL 211 and are reported to the PAARNG. These UXO rounds are subsequently disposed or detonated by the NGTC-FTIG Ordnance Disposal Team when such a discovery is made and reported. (Fronko 2007)

AMEC personnel are not aware of an Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS), Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI), or Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the project study area.



4.13.1.5 Regional Environmental Concerns

One known regional environmental concerns exist in the vicinity of the project study area. Rausch Creek, a tributary of Stony Creek, is impacted by acid mine drainage as a result of historical coal mining operations in the area. Diversion wells, a passive method for treating acid mine drainage utilizing crushed limestone to neutralize acid mine drainage, were constructed in 1986. The Pennsylvania National Guard assisted in the construction of the diversion wells. The Rausch Creek diversion wells are maintained by members of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Monitoring of water quality in Stony Creek at Allendale Forge , approximately 15 miles downstream of the Rausch Creek diversion wells, indicates that the diversion wells have been effective in raising the pH of Rausch Creek and Stony Creek to adequate levels to support year-round populations of trout. Prior to the diversion well installation, trout stocked in Stony Creek by the PFBC survived for relatively short periods due to the lower pH levels. (Arnold 1991; Trout Unlimited 2007)



5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

5.1 General Overview

This section identifies potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of each of the identified alternatives on each issue area presented in **Section 4.0**, and compares and contrasts the potential effects of those alternatives. The potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of implementing each identified alternative, as well as mitigation measures associated with each alternative, are presented. **Appendix B** provides a discussion of commonly encountered NEPA concepts and terminology.

5.2 Land Use

5.2.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

No significant adverse land use impacts would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 1. Based on an evaluation of the proposed land use agreement, the Proposed Action is consistent with current and future land use designations under the PGC. The current land use designations (Public/Semi Public, Special Purpose Residential, and Residential Forest, Open Space – Timberland Conservation) within the project study area would remain from implementation of Alternative 1. In addition, no zoning conflicts would be anticipated.

Further, the implementation of Alternative 1 would not conflict with the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 USC 669 *et seq.*), with regard to SGL 211. As stated in **Section 4.2**, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act authorizes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish laws governing the conservation of wildlife, as well as to provide funds to develop wildlife conservation and restoration programs. Pursuant to the interpretation of these regulations by the USFWS, assets (e.g. real estate) acquired with hunting license revenue may only be used to manage fish and wildlife-oriented resources for which the PGC has the authority under State law (50 CFR 80.4). Moreover, the PGC must maintain full management control of lands purchased with the Wildlife Restoration Act funds (50 CFR 80.14(b) (1)). As owner of the 900-acres in question, the PGC has broad discretion as to how it manages the lands it owns. State fish and wildlife agencies frequently manipulate habitat for the benefit of wildlife restoration or open space and close areas of their holdings to serve a variety of management purposes. It is well within the management purview of State fish and wildlife agencies to enter into agreements with other parties, such as the DMVA, as long as the terms of 50 CFR 80 are not violated (USFWS 2008). Since management of the portion of SGL 211 proposed for the SDZ would remain the authority of the PCG in accordance with the Land Use Agreement, implementation of Alternative 1 would not violate the terms of the 50 CFR 80.

However, implementation of Alternative 1 would involve the restriction of hunting, trapping, and other recreational uses of the proposed 900 acres within SGL 211 for no more than 90 calendar days per year over a 41-year period; this limited restriction would have a *direct, minor, long-term adverse* land use impact. This impact is considered minor because of the following factors:

- The limited duration (90 days/year) of the use restriction.



- The fact that the DMVA would not utilize the SDZ in SGL 211 during the regular antlered or antlerless (rifle) deer season and bear season. Prior to 31 January of each year, the DMVA would cooperate with PGC to designate, in advance, a minimum of four weekdays and one Saturday (which do not need to be consecutive) during both the Spring Gobbler season and Wild Turkey season (fall) when the SDZ in SGL 211 would not be used.
- No fishing locations are present within the SDZ.
- Based on topographic maps and site reconnaissance performed by AMEC, the SDZ area is generally very steep and difficult to access/traverse, rendering it less than ideal for recreational use.
- As part of the Proposed Action, in order to compensate for land use restrictions within SGL 211, the cooperative agreement between DMVA and the PGC would include a transfer of 440 acres of Commonwealth property, known as TA E-1, presently under the jurisdiction and control of the DMVA. Currently, TA E-1 is restricted from most public hunting, trapping, and recreational use; however, the Horse-Shoe Trail, a 140-mile recreational hiking and equestrian trail that runs from Valley Forge National Historical Park to the ANST traverses TA E-1 and is available for public use. The transfer of TA E-1 would make the remainder of that area available for public use, potentially to include additional local hunting and trapping opportunities. The transfer of jurisdiction of the 440-acre parcel, from the DMVA to the PGC, would include the transfer of management and maintenance of the trail. In addition, as additional compensation for the use of a portion of SGL 211 for up to 90-days per year, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting by and through DMVA and other Commonwealth agencies and entities, will assist the PGC by assisting with or facilitating purchase of lands acceptable to the PGC, to be under the jurisdiction and control of PGC as part of the State Game Lands system. Such assistance will include assistance in the acquisition of lands with an agreed-upon value of approximately \$2 million from funds to be determined by the assisting agencies, exclusive of other grants or loans to third parties.
- As part of the Proposed Action, prior to the performance of any activities involving the restriction to use within SGL 211, the DMVA, in conjunction with the PGC, would publicize as far in advance as possible the dates on which the use of the SDZ is required; a shorter notice period may be required, but in no instance shall notice be less than 15 calendar days prior to land use restriction.

No impacts to land cover or building function and architecture are anticipated, as no vegetation would be removed as part of the proposal and no structures are located within the SDZ. As only signage, as opposed to fencing or other more visually intrusive method, would be used to demarcate the SDZ, significant impacts to aesthetic and visual resources are not anticipated.

5.2.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts of Alternative 2 would be identical to those described for Alternative 1, with the exception that the temporary use restriction would include an additional 1,000 acres of SGL 211 under Alternative 2. While this would be a greater land use impact, the impact would still be less than significant for the reasons identified for Alternative 1.



5.2.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

No adverse land use impacts would result from the implementation of Alternative 3. Currently, SGL 211 is designated as Public/Semi Public in Dauphin County, Special Purpose Residential, and Residential Forest, Open Space – Timberland Conservation in Lebanon County. Continued use of the southern portion of SGL 211, for hunting, trapping, and recreational purposes, is consistent with current and future land use plans.

5.2.4 Mitigation Measures

None.

5.3 Air Quality

5.3.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

No adverse air quality impacts would be anticipated as a result of the implementation of Alternative 1. The establishment of a SDZ would not result in any mobile source and/or fugitive dust emissions. In addition, no construction-related activities would occur as a result of Alternative 1. The Record of Non-Applicability (RONA) satisfies the General Conformity Rule. As such, the RONA documents the ARNG's decision not to prepare a written conformity determination for the Proposed Action. A copy of the RONA is provided in **Appendix G**.

5.3.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.3.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

No direct, adverse air quality impacts would be anticipated as a result of the implementation of Alternative 3. However, minor, long-term indirect air quality impacts would be anticipated due to the increased travel for PAARNG units to out-of-state installations; Under Alternative 3, PAARNG units would have to travel to Fort Pickett, Virginia or Fort Drum, New York for MPTR training. The increase of convoys traveling to out-of-state installations would result in increased mobile source emissions.

5.3.4 Mitigation Measures

None.

5.4 Noise Environment

5.4.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

No adverse noise impacts would be anticipated to result from implementation of Alternative 1. The establishment of a SDZ would not involve any noise-generating activities. As discussed in **Sections 4.1.1** and **4.4**, noise impacts associated with construction and training operations at NGTC-FTIG, including those associated with the MPTR, were fully assessed and mitigated to



the extent possible within the EISs/RODs for the *Enhanced Training and Operations at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap* (DMVA/PANG 2002a) and the *Transformation of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard 56th Brigade into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team* (DMVA/PANG 2006a). The se impacts are not reassessed here.

5.4.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.4.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

No adverse noise impacts would be anticipated to result from implementation of Alternative 3. Training activities would continue at NGTC-FTIG, contributing to the noise environment within SGL 211. However, under the No-Action Alternative the SDZ would not be established, and consequently, the MPTR would not be constructed or operated; this would result in a minor, long-term positive impact to the noise environment.

5.4.4 Mitigation Measures

None.

5.5 Geology, Topography, and Soils

5.5.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

No adverse impacts to geology, topography, and soils would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 1. The establishment of a SDZ would not involve any ground disturbing activities. Incidents of ricochets landing into the SDZ are not expected to result in the increased potential for soil erosion.

5.5.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MTPR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.5.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

No adverse impacts to geology, topography, and soils would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 3.

5.5.4 Mitigation Measures

None.



5.6 Water Resources

5.6.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

No direct adverse impacts to surface or groundwater resources would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 1. Further, no jurisdictional wetlands, surface waters, or 100- or 500-year floodplains are located within the Alternative 1 area; therefore, no adverse impacts to these water resources would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 1.

The implementation of Alternative 1 would result in no adverse impacts to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 USC 1271 *et seq.*). The establishment of an SDZ within a portion of SGL 211 would not adversely impact a wild river area, a scenic river area, and/or a recreational river area. The northern boundary of the project study area is located approximately 70 feet from Stony Creek; however, based on the ricochet analyses conducted by the ARDEC in Picatinny, New Jersey, munitions would not enter into Stony Creek. Per the specified regulations and the ricochet analysis, the likelihood that any hazardous fragments or projectiles would escape this 900-acre off-Post area is less than 1:1,000,000 (ARDEC 2007). Further, the implementation of an SDZ within a portion of SGL 211 would not conflict with the Stony Creek Management Plan. **Section 5.2** provides information regarding limited use restriction within the proposed SDZ.

Implementation of Alternative 1 is not expected to result in metal (lead) contamination of ground or surface water resources due to use of the MPTR. Existing water quality data for Manada Creek and Indiantown Run, the two creeks that drain the main impact area and small arms ranges of NGTC-FTIG, suggest that water quality of these two water bodies has not been negatively impacted by current and historic training activities at Ft. Indiantown Gap, specifically as it relates to lead and other metals. Specifically, lead concentrations in these two creeks were found to be well below the USEPA drinking water action level of 15 micrograms per liter (ug/L). (USGS 2006) It should be noted that the impact area drained by Manada Creek and Indiantown Run receives and has historically received millions of rounds over the history of operations at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

The data for Manada Creek and Indiantown Run can be used to assess the potential impact to surface and ground water resources as it relates to Alternative 1. The ricochet analysis for the MPTR conducted by ARDEC, when applied to the training schedule for units that would use the MPTR, calculated the maximum number of projectiles could potentially land in the proposed SGL 211 SDZ per year. **Table 5-1** provides the maximum number of projectiles that could potentially land in the proposed SGL 211 SDZ per year.

Note that the calculation provided in **Table 5-1** is a worst case scenario assuming that the MPTR is utilized for the full 90 days. Based on the number of ricochets estimated to enter the proposed SGL 211 SDZ in comparison to the millions of rounds that currently and historically have entered the Impact Area at NGTC-FTIG, in conjunction with the existing water quality data for Manada Creek and Indiantown Run it can be reasonably concluded that the quantity of rounds that could enter the proposed SGL 211 SDZ would not result in adverse ground or surface water impacts to SGL 211 or Stony Creek.



Additionally, no erosion impacts would be anticipated; the DMVA would maintain Cold Springs Road using BMPs applicable to dirt and gravel roads, resulting in minor, long-term positive impacts. These BMPs would include both temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control practices, as necessary, when maintenance of Cold Spring Road is performed.

5.6.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be similar to Alternative 1, although approximately 0.976 acres of jurisdictional wetlands are located within the Alternative 2 area. No significant adverse impacts to this wetland or other water resources would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 2.

5.6.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

No adverse surface or groundwater impacts would be anticipated to result from the implementation of the No-Action Alternative

5.6.4 Mitigation Measures

None.

5.7 Biological Resources

5.7.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

Based upon the information received from the, PFBC and PADCNr, the following species of concern could be present within the project study area, based on habitat requirements:

- **Indiana bat** (*Myotis sodalis*): Federally-listed as endangered
- **Timber rattlesnake** (*Crotalus h. horridus*): State-listed as endangered, Federal candidate species.
- **Allegheny woodrat** (*Neotoma magister*): State-listed as threatened
- **Black-waved flannel moth** (*Lagoa crispata*): State-listed as imperiled
- **Spiny oakworm moth** (*Anisota stigma*): State-listed as critically imperiled
- **American holly** (*Illex opaca*): State-listed as threatened
- **Forked Chickweed** (*Paronychia fastigiata* var. *nuttallii*): State-listed as undetermined

Although the PADCNr identified that the Alternative 1 area falls within the range of additional species of concern, based on specific habitat requirements, the above-listed species are the only special-status species that could be reasonably expected to occur within the project study area. Further, AMEC personnel conducted a review utilizing the PNHP's "PNDI Project Environmental Review." According to the review, the project study area is not known to contain any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species, and is not known to contain sensitive vegetative resources (see **Section 4.7**).



No adverse impacts on the species listed above are anticipated due to the implementation of Alternative 1. Operation of the SDZ could impact special status species due to inert munitions landing in this area; however, this potential is considered remote. No impact to the general flora and fauna are anticipated due to the implementation of Alternative 1. The establishment of an SDZ would not involve the disturbance of vegetation or wildlife resources. As detailed in **Table 5-1** a maximum of 779 projectiles could potentially land in the proposed SGL 211 SDZ on an annual basis. This number is potentially less than the number of projectiles fired by the general public within SGL 211 on an annual basis in association with hunting and recreational activities. Although a small portion of the projectiles that ricochet into SGL 211 could strike trees and/or animals within the SDZ, the incidents of ricochets into SGL 211 would not be concentrated at any single given point. Projectiles that ricochet into SGL 211 could become imbedded into trees and/or knock branches off trees if struck. There is a slight possibility that a tree could be killed, especially if struck by the larger M831A 120mm round. The incidents of tree strikes would be random within the SDZ. It is possible, although unlikely, that a projectile that ricochets into the SGL 211 SDZ could strike and kill an animal. Again, the possibility of an animal strike and subsequent animal mortality is remote and would be considered an isolated incident. For comparison purposes, the biodiversity at NGTC-FTIG is dynamic, diverse, and healthy, even though portions of the installation are subject to millions of rounds of projectiles per year. There is no empirical evidence or data to suggest that there are increased incidents of wildlife mortality due to being struck by projectiles during training activities at NGTC-FTIG.

No adverse impacts to the hawk migration corridor or the Second Mountain Hawk Watch are anticipated due to the implementation of Alternative 1. Access to the Second Mountain Hawk Watch, via Cold Springs Road, would not be closed due to implementation of Alternative 1; however, vehicular traffic on Cold Springs Road could be temporally delayed for short periods of time (i.e., less than one hour), through the use of proper traffic controls (i.e., crossing guard), while training occurs at the proposed MPTR.

5.7.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.7.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

No adverse biological resource impacts would be anticipated to result from the implementation of the No-Action Alternative.

5.7.4 Mitigation Measures

None.

5.8 Cultural Resources

5.8.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

The PHMC does not have any information on historic and archaeological properties at, or in the immediate vicinity of, the Alternative 1 project study area. Correspondence received from PHMC documents that, in the PHMC's opinion, the proposed action should have no effect on



historic or archaeological resources (see **Appendix A**). Due to the lack of existence of NRHP-listed structures or other known cultural resources, no adverse cultural resource impacts would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 1.

Consultation with Native American tribes, as discussed in **Sections 1.4** and **4.8** suggest that no adverse impact to culturally significant Native American resources or sites would be expected.

5.8.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.8.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

No adverse cultural resource impacts would be anticipated to result from the implementation of the No-Action Alternative.

5.8.4 Mitigation Measures

Due to the lack of impact to known or suspected historic or archaeological resources, no mitigation measures are required. However, in the event that inadvertent discoveries of archaeological materials are made during action implementation, the project manager would contact the PAARNG Cultural Resources Manager immediately by telephone and/or radio. Work would cease in that area until specific PAARNG ICRMP SOP's are implemented and followed, including: the National Historic Preservation Act (PAARNG ICRMP SOP-3), Archaeological Resource Protection Act (PAARNG ICRMP SOP-5), and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (PAARNG ICRMP SOP-12). Furthermore, the PAARNG Cultural Resources Manager would immediately:

1. Notify the Pennsylvania SHPO, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and any other appropriate state and/or federal agencies by telephone.
2. Notify the PAARNG Judge Advocate General (JAG) and Financial Management Office (FMO).
3. Visit the finding within 24 hours with appropriate experts.

5.9 Socioeconomics

5.9.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

No significant, adverse socioeconomic impacts would be anticipated due to implementation of the Preferred Alternative. The establishment of a SDZ would not significantly impact the regional population or economy. Additionally, no direct adverse impacts to schools, children, housing, or shops and services would occur.

However, minor, short-term and long-term adverse socioeconomic impacts would be anticipated due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses of the proposed 900 acres within SGL 211 for up to 90 days per year, over a 41-year period. Further, minor, long-



term positive socioeconomic impacts would be anticipated due to the continuance of the NGTC-FTIG as a viable, up-to-date, resourceful training site for the PANG and for the National Guard, Reserve and active forces.

In order to compensate for the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses within SGL 211, the DMVA/PAARNG would implement the measures described in **Section 5.2.1** as part of the Proposed Action. These measures would further reduce this minor socioeconomic impact.

5.9.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.9.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

Minor, long-term, adverse socioeconomic impacts would result through the implementation of Alternative 3. Under this alternative, the PAARNG would be required to conduct tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle training at installations other than NGTC-FTIG (e.g. Fort Drum, New York and/or Fort Pickett, Virginia). Training at these installations, which are six to eight hours from most of the PAARNG units that would utilize the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG, would result in more logistic and travel time to get to and return from the specific training sites, thus resulting in less actual available training time and a greater potential for vehicular accidents as military units would be required to travel greater distances. Further, this situation impacts the readiness of the PAARNG units and the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up-to-date, resourceful training site for the PANG, National Guard, Reserve, and active forces.

In addition, significant long-term positive socioeconomic impacts to the project study area would be anticipated as no noise would be produced by the MPTR, since under the No-Action Alternative the SDZ would not be established, and consequently, the MPTR would not be constructed or operated. However, training activities would continue at NGTC-FTIG, contributing to the noise environment within SGL 211.

5.9.4 Mitigation Measures

None.

5.10 Public Safety

5.10.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

Implementation of Alternative 1 would result in indirect, minor, long-term adverse impacts to public health and safety. SGL 211 is a public recreational area, and it is possible that families with children may be in the vicinity during MPTR training activities. However, per the cooperative land use agreement between the PGC and the DMVA, the DMVA would designate and publicize as far in advance as possible the dates on which the use of the SDZ is required. The publication of the required SDZ dates would be at least six months in advance; with certain military necessities, a shorter notice period may be required, but in no instance shall notice be less than 15 days prior to the use of the SDZ. The DMVA would also devise and implement a



signage or other public notice plan to advise the public of when they are excluded from the SDZ. These management measures will further reduce the impacts to the public health and safety.

Additionally, only training rounds (e.g., munitions that do not contain high explosives) would be used on the MPTR. Therefore, no explosive rounds would enter SGL 211. The projectiles that could land within this 900-acre area would include, in lay terms, inert, metal ammunition. Further, per the specified regulations and the ricochet analysis, the likelihood that any hazardous fragments or projectiles would escape this 900-acre off-Post area is less than 1:1,000,000 (ARDEC 2007). The project study area encompasses a section of the SGL 211 that is extremely steep and difficult to access due to a lack of roads. Topography within the project study area averages 31 degrees or a 2:1 slope, which is equivalent to a very steep roof, making the area generally inaccessible.

5.10.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.10.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

Implementation of Alternative 3 would result in a minor long-term positive impact as it relates to public health and safety. Under this alternative, the SDZ would not be established and the MPTR would not be constructed, thus resulting in no potential for ricochets to enter SGL 211.

5.10.4 Mitigation Measures

To minimize public safety impacts and to fully comply with AR 385-63 and DA PAM 385-63, the PAARNG/DMVA will implement the following management measures:

- The MPTR and associated SDZ will be operated in accordance with DA PAM-385-63. A public notification plan will be developed as part of the operation of the new MPTR in accordance with DA PAM 385-63. The plan will detail the safety measures to be taken in and around SGL 211 to inform and protect the public when the range will be in operation.
- The DMVA will designate and publicize as far in advance as possible the dates on which the use of the SDZ is required. The publication of the required SDZ dates will be at least six months in advance; with certain military necessities, a shorter notice period may be required, but in no instance shall notice be less than 15 days prior to the use of the SDZ. The DMVA will also devise and implement a signage or other public notice plan to advise the public of when they are excluded from the SDZ.
- The FTIG website (www.dmva.state.pa.us/ftig/site/default.asp) will detail the public notification plan in addition to the times and dates the range will be in operation. Notification/warning to the public will be posted on local media, and at "normal" vehicular and foot traffic approaches into SGL 211 (i.e., signs at normal approaches into SGL 211 will have dates and times of range use, information about the range, identify the signs along the boundary of the Safety buffer/impact area, and identify the sounds/signals used when range is operating). Red flags will also be used at all normal approaches to the area to identify the range is conducting live fire activities.

These management measures will further reduce potential impacts to public health and safety.



5.11 Environmental Justice

5.11.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

No disproportionate impacts to minority populations, low-income populations, or federally recognized Native American tribes would occur due to the establishment of an SDZ. Therefore, no impact is anticipated due to the implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

5.11.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.11.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

No disproportionate impacts to minority populations, low-income populations, or federally recognized Native American tribes would occur due to the implementation of Alternative 3.

5.11.4 Mitigation Measures

None.

5.12 Infrastructure

5.12.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

5.12.1.1 Utility Infrastructure

No adverse impacts to water supply, sewer, telephone, and/or electrical service would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 1. The establishment of a SDZ would not involve the upgrade of utility infrastructure. Additionally, there are no overhead transmission lines located within the project study area.

5.12.1.2 Transportation Infrastructure

No adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure would be anticipated due to the establishment of a SDZ within SGL 211. However, the DMVA would maintain Cold Springs Road using BMPs applicable to dirt and gravel roads, resulting in minor, long-term positive impact to transportation infrastructure.

Further, Cold Springs Road would not be closed due to implementation of Alternative 1; however, vehicular traffic on Cold Springs Road could be temporally delayed for short periods of time (i.e., less than one hour), through the use of proper traffic controls (i.e., crossing guard), while training occurs at the proposed MPTR. Prior to the performance of any activities involving the temporary delay of traffic on Cold Springs Road as related to the MPTR, the DMVA, in conjunction with the PGC, would publicize as far in advance as possible the dates required. A shorter notice period may be required, but in no instance shall notice be less than 15 calendar days prior to use of the SDZ.



5.12.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

5.12.2.1 Utility Infrastructure

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.12.2.2 Transportation Infrastructure

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

5.12.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

5.12.3.1 Utility Infrastructure

No adverse impacts to water supply, sewer, telephone, and/or electrical service would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 3. However, implementation of Alternative 3 would require PAARNG units to travel to out-of-state installations, resulting in an increase in fossil fuel consumption.

5.12.3.2 Transportation Infrastructure

No direct adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure would be anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 3. However, minor, long-term indirect transportation impacts would be anticipated due to the increased travel for PAARNG units; Under Alternative 3, PAARNG units would have to travel to Fort Pickett, Virginia or Fort Drum, New York for MPTR training. The increased use of roads by convoys traveling to out-of-state installations would result in increased traffic, as well as the increased potential for accidents.

5.12.4 Mitigation Measures

None.

5.13 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes

5.13.1 Effects of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

No direct, adverse HTMW impacts are anticipated due to implementation of the Preferred Alternative. The establishment of a SDZ would not involve the use and/or storage of hazardous and/or toxic materials/wastes. However, implementation of Alternative 1 would indirectly result in munitions (i.e., 25mm, .50 cal., M831A1, M865, and 7.62mm) entering into the SDZ. Only training rounds (i.e., munitions that contain no explosives) would be used on the MPTR. Therefore, no explosive rounds would enter SGL 211. The projectiles that could land within this 900-acre area would include, in lay terms, inert, metal ammunition of the calibers specified above.

5.13.2 Effects of Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.



5.13.3 Effects of Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

No HTMW impacts are anticipated due to implementation of Alternative 3.

5.13.4 Mitigation Measures

Per the land use agreement between the DMVA and PGC, when ordnance is found/located in the 900-acre buffer and reported, DMVA will secure and remove/eliminate said ordnance at no cost to PGC.

5.14 Cumulative Impacts

This section addresses the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action. Cumulative effects are defined by the CEQ in 40 CFR 1508.7 as:

“Impacts on the environment which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.”

CEQ regulations also state that addressed cumulative impacts should not be limited to those from actual proposals, but must include impacts from actions being contemplated or that are reasonably foreseeable.

Minor, short- and long-term adverse impacts to land use and socioeconomics are likely to result from implementation of the Proposed Action under Alternatives 1 or 2, as identified in **Sections 5.2 through 5.12**, due the restriction of hunting, trapping, and other recreational uses of the proposed 900 acres within SGL 211 for no more than 90 calendar days per year over a 41-year period. However, these impacts have been determined to be less than significant, and do not require additional measures above and beyond those proposed as part of the Proposed Action and codified in the land use agreement between the DMVA and PGC.

The net positive impacts likely to result from implementation of the Proposed Action under Alternative 1 and 2, as identified in **Sections 5.2 through 5.12**, include minor positive infrastructure impacts due to the upgrading and maintenance of Cold Springs Road.

5.14.1 Projects in the Vicinity of the Project Study Area

5.14.1.1 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Activities at NGTC-FTIG

Over the past several years, a variety of activities have and will occur at NGTC-FTIG due to the need increased training facilities to support the PAARNG assigned military missions. The PAARNG completed two recent NEPA analyses for the training facilities at NGTC-FTIG; specifically, the 2002 FEIS and ROD for the Enhanced Training and Operations and the 2006 EIS and ROD for the Transformation of the 56th Brigade into an SBCT.

The PANG completed a FEIS and ROD in 2002 that evaluated 11 actions, consisting of 42 component projects; these actions/projects are being implemented as funding becomes



available. A summary of the activities associated with the Enhanced Training and Operations at NGTC-FTIG, as identified in the 2002 FEIS is presented in **Table 5-2**. A detailed description of the activities was presented in **Section 2.0** of the 2002 FEIS.

The proposed SBCT action includes all actions associated with the transformation of the 56th Brigade of the PAARNG to an SBCT. The proposed action involves an atypically large geographic area, spanning a potential seven states in the northeastern U.S. With regard to this cumulative impact analysis, only projects within the vicinity of the project study area are provided in detail and analyzed in this EA. The PANG completed a FEIS and ROD in 2006 that evaluated 17 training facilities and 4 support facilities at NGTC-FTIG; these projects are being implemented as funding becomes available. A summary of the activities associated with the proposed SBCT action at NGTC-FTIG, as identified in the 2006 FEIS is presented in **Table 5-3**. A detailed description of the activities was presented in **Section 2.0** of the 2006 FEIS.

5.14.1.2 Projects in the Vicinity of the Project Study Area

Proposed and reasonably foreseeable projects in the vicinity of the project study area are presented in **Table 5-4** and are summarized here:

- Penn National Casino and associated hotel and retail/commercial development
- I-81 Ramp improvements at Grantville exit
- Sun Microsystems distribution warehouse at I-81 Lickdale exit
- Truck stop and service area at I-81 Lickdale exit
- Commercial and retail development at I-81 Lickdale exit

5.14.2 Cumulative Impacts Associated with the Proposed SGL 211 SDZ

5.14.2.1 NGTC-FTIG Cumulative Impacts

Because of extensive direct influences within NGTC-FTIG and, indirectly, outside its boundary, cumulative effects are the most difficult to analyze. NEPA requires the analysis of cumulative environmental effects of a proposed action, or set of actions, on traffic congestion, air quality, noise, biological resources, socioeconomic conditions, utility system capacities, and other resources that may often be manifested only at the cumulative level.

Due to the complex nature of the cumulative impact analysis, coupled with the breadth of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions at, and in the immediate vicinity of NGTC-FTIG, the analysis presented here is sequenced. First, potential cumulative impacts related to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities at NGTC-FTIG are addressed. Second, potential cumulative impacts related to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities within the region of the installation are discussed. Third, the relationship of these activities in terms of their collective potential cumulative impacts is presented.



The Proposed Action analyzed in this SEA involves the establishment of a SDZ on a portion of SGL 211. With regard to reasonably foreseeable activities, the proposed actions considered in the 2002 and 2006 EISs represent the full scope of development activities planned at NGTC-FTIG over the next several years (see **Section 5.13.1.1**).

5.14.2.2 NGTC-FTIG Cumulative Impacts – 2002 FEIS and ROD

The PANG completed a FEIS and ROD in 2002 that evaluated 11 actions, consisting of 42 component projects; these actions/projects are being implemented as funding becomes available. The cumulative effects analysis for these actions was described in **Section 5.16** of the 2002 FEIS. This analysis concluded that those 11 actions would not result in significant, unmitigable cumulative impacts. The actions would, however, produce the following notable cumulative impacts:

- A collective total of 883 acres of forest impact (approximately 500 acres of this total has been cleared as of October 2005, including the above-referenced 480 acres for the MPTR);
- Localized, off-Post significant, but mitigable, noise and safety impacts from the MPTR to recreational and/or rural residential areas adjacent to the Post (i.e., including portions of SGL 211 and the ANST); and
- Positive socioeconomic impacts.

5.14.2.3 NGTC-FTIG Cumulative Impacts – 2006 EIS and ROD

The PAARNG completed a FEIS and ROD in 2006 that evaluated 17 training facilities and 4 support facilities at NGTC-FTIG; these actions/projects are being implemented as funding becomes available. The cumulative effects impact analysis for these actions is described in **Section 8.13** of the 2006 EIS. The majority of the impacts identified in the 2006 FEIS and ROD are mitigable to less-than-significant levels and would not result in significant, unmitigable individual or cumulative impacts. Potential significant, unmitigable impacts include removal of up to 745 acres of forested vegetation communities due to the proposed construction of new ranges and facilities. In addition, historic, on-going, and future training and development at NGTC-FTIG have impacted, and should continue to impact, the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic environment of the installation, both beneficially and adversely. The actions would include the following notable cumulative impacts:

- A collective total of 745 acres of forested vegetation due to new ranges and facilities. This would increase the amount of non-forested lands at NGTC-FTIG to approximately 7,000 acres when combined with the 2002 EIS proposed actions.
- Reduction in overall ecosystem value and function due to increased training at, and use of, the installation.
- Beneficial impact to the regal fritillary butterfly due to long-term conversion of forested lands to potentially suitable regal fritillary habitat.
- Noise produced primarily by artillery training in the training corridor.



- Air quality in the form of training activity-produced fugitive dust, primarily within off-road TVMA areas.
- Water quality and aquatic resource impacts from erosion caused by tactical vehicle maneuver training and stream bank erosion to some extent.
- Beneficial cumulative socioeconomic impacts to the local economy, local employment, income, and housing would be anticipated as a result of the SBCT-related activities.

5.14.2.4 NGTC-FTIG Cumulative Impacts – Proposed Establishment of an SDZ

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

The following cumulative impacts would be anticipated as a result of the implementation of alternative 1:

- Direct, minor, adverse cumulative land use impact due to the restriction of hunting, trapping, and other recreational uses of the proposed 900 acres within SGL 211 for no more than 90 calendar days per year over a 41-year period.
- Direct, minor, adverse cumulative socioeconomic impact due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses of the proposed 900 acres within SGL 211 for up to 90 days per year, over a 41-year period.
- Beneficial socioeconomic impacts due to the continuance of the NGTC-FTIG as a viable, up-to-date, resourceful training site for the PANG and for the National Guard, Reserve and active forces.
- Indirect, minor adverse cumulative impact to children and to public health and safety. SGL 211 is a public recreational area, and it is possible that families with children may be in the vicinity during MPTR training activities.
- Beneficial impact to infrastructure due to the maintenance of Cold Springs Road.
- Beneficial impacts to surface water quality due to the maintenance of Cold Spring Road. Proper maintenance of Cold Springs Road would lower the potential for soil erosion and subsequent sedimentation.

Alternative 2 (MPTR Buffer Alternative)

Cumulative impacts would be identical to Alternative 1.

Alternative 3 (No-Action Alternative)

Under the No-Action Alternative, no portions of SGL 211 would be restricted and maintained as a SDZ. However, the following cumulative impacts would occur due to the implementation of Alternative 3:

- Beneficial impact to the noise environment, since the DMVA would not establish an SDZ on a portion of SGL 211, and consequently the PAARNG would not construct and/or operate the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG.



- Indirect, minor, adverse, cumulative socioeconomic impacts would be anticipated, due the loss of maintaining the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up-to-date, resourceful training site for the PANG and other National Guard, Reserve and active forces.
- Indirect, minor, adverse cumulative air quality and transportation impacts since PAARNG units would have to travel to out-of-state installations (e.g., Fort Drum, New York and/or Fort Pickett, Virginia) for MPTR training, resulting in increased mobile air emissions, increased fossil fuel consumption less actual available training time, and increased chances of accidents due to increased travel.

5.14.2.5 Cumulative Impacts Related to the Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions and the Proposed Action

Based on comments received during the NEPA process, several residents and groups expressed concern over the cumulative impact to SGL 211, including the Stony Creek Valley Watershed, from all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions at NGTC-FTIG. As described in this SEA, the proposed establishment of an SDZ within a portion of SGL 211 would not produce significant individual or cumulative impacts to this off-Post area, or to any other property located outside of the boundaries of the installation.

However, the MPTR would produce impacts to SGL 211 as detailed in the 2002 FEIS, the MPTR (Preferred Project Alternative) would produce a significant off-Post noise impact that, according to the 2002 FEIS within **Section 5.6.4.1**, would place 9,094 acres of off-Post land, including 186 private residences, within unacceptable noise zones (i.e., Noise Zones II and III) (DMVA/PANG 2002). The majority of this land includes SGL 211 property.

As mentioned throughout this SEA, since publication of the 2002 ROD, the original FEIS-assessed MPTR configuration and an array of alternative design configurations were completed by the PAARNG and associated ricochet analyses were conducted by the ARDEC on each alternative. These analyses determined no practical MPTR design alternative exists that would retain projectiles within the boundaries of NGTC-FTIG (ARDEC 2007). It is anticipated that the MPTR would produce increased individual impacts on SGL 211. These impacts would be in the form of land use, noise, recreational, and public safety; noise impacts attributable to the MPTR were assessed and quantified in the 2002 FEIS, are described below.

Since publication of the ROD, the original FEIS-assessed MPTR configuration and an array of alternative design configurations were completed by the PAARNG and associated ricochet analyses were conducted by United States Army Research and Development Engineering Center (ARDEC) on each alternative. These analyses determined no practical MPTR design alternative exists that would retain projectiles within the boundaries of NGTC-FTIG (ARDEC 2007). Therefore, no design alternative exists that would satisfy the conditions of the ROD as stated above and this SEA is being performed as required under Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1502).

With regard to potential cumulative noise impacts at NGTC-FTIG, including the noise impacts from the 2002 FEIS actions (including the MPTR) and the proposed SBCT Action, the United States Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (USACHPPM) conducted



a comprehensive potential future case noise analysis.³ This future case noise analysis includes use of the MPTR, as that use was proposed in the 2002 FEIS. The 2006 FEIS provides the noise contours of the proposed MPTR, and updates those noise contours from the 2002 FEIS.

It is noted that the revised future-case noise contours in the 2006 FEIS indicate that 2,240 acres of off-Post land, including 66 residences and 423 acres within SGL 211 (i.e., as opposed to 9,094 acres of off-Post land and 186 private residences as specified in the 2002 FEIS) are included within future Noise Zones II and III. The amount of land within these noise contours is less than was anticipated in the 2002 FEIS for the MPTR due to improved computer noise models that are now available (USACHPPM 2005). The improved noise models now can accurately incorporate NGTC-FTIG's terrain into the noise calculations; these terrain features serve to partially attenuate anticipated noise (see **Figure 4-2**).

Further, the 2006 FEIS provides the future case noise contours of the proposed MPTR as combined with the Proposed SBCT Actions. As discussed in the 2006 FEIS, the proposed SBCT actions would **not** cumulatively increase the noise impacts resultant from operations at NGTC-FTIG to surrounding off-Post areas. The mitigation measures specified in the 2002 FEIS and incorporated into the ROD remain applicable to the MPTR, and would serve to mitigate these identified off-Post noise impacts to less-than-significant levels.

5.14.3 Regional Cumulative Impacts

As is occurring throughout the United States, primarily in areas proximate to major cities, development of the area surrounding NGTC-FTIG is increasing annually, due chiefly to its proximity to Harrisburg and major interstates. New residential, light industrial and commercial facilities have recently been constructed in the vicinity of the installation, and more are planned. Cumulatively, this additional development reduces the quality of the natural ecosystem and increases population, traffic congestion, air pollution, and demand on utility systems and public health and safety service providers. Major development actions in the vicinity of NGTC-FTIG that contribute to regional cumulative impacts include:

- Penn National Casino and associated hotel and retail/commercial development
- I-81 Ramp improvements at Grantville exit
- Sun Microsystems distribution warehouse at I-81 Lickdale exit
- Truck stop and service area at I-81 Lickdale exit
- Commercial and retail development at I-81 Lickdale exit

To maintain or control the socioeconomic, infrastructure, and natural resource impacts associated with this regional increased development, local and regional planning agencies have prepared transportation, land use, and natural resource management plans. The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS), and

³ The noise analysis presented in **Section 5.4** of the 2006 EIS was conducted by assessing the current (i.e., 2004) noise environment at NGTC-FTIG as described in **Section 3.4**, and as modified by the Proposed SBCT Action.



Lebanon County Planning Department (LCPD), combined with local townships, have prepared long-range plans to control the increasing development of the region, with the goal of maintaining the quality of life for residents while allowing for economic development. The Swatara Creek Watershed Association (SCWA) has prepared a conservation plan designed to both preserve and improve natural resources within the Swatara Creek watershed (SCWA 2000). In addition, the Chesapeake Bay Program is a multi-level, regional partnership created to preserve and protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed in which NGTC-FTIG is located. Finally, the Stony Creek Wild River Management Plan and the Stony Creek Study have been prepared to preserve and manage the character and natural value of the Stony Creek watershed to the north of NGTC-FTIG. These plans and organizations aid in minimizing cumulative impacts in the region.

The combined forces of on-going and increasing development of the region would continue to increase the population and socioeconomic pressures surrounding the installation. With the implementation of, and adherence to, proactive land use management plans, this development would be controlled to the extent possible. However, it can be reasonably anticipated that, due to the installation's proximity to Harrisburg, other developing cities and towns, and major transportation thoroughfares (i.e., I-81 and I-78), in the development of the local area would continue to increase in the coming years.

Recognizing this potential, the SCWA prepared the Swatara Creek Watershed Conservation Plan "to develop a comprehensive, long-term management plan that addresses the problems and concerns...in the watershed...." Development of the watershed was identified as responsible for "greater runoff, increased flooding, damage to riparian areas, and less groundwater recharge from precipitation falling in the watershed" (SCWA 2000). Implementation of the plan is designed to preserve natural resources within the watershed while allowing development to continue. The PAARNG's Proposed Action would not interfere with or significantly adversely impact the SCWA's Swatara Creek Watershed Conservation Plan or its implementation

5.14.4 Interrelated Cumulative Impacts

The environment within and surrounding NGTC-FTIG is changing. Within the installation, a need for increased training facilities to support the PAARNG assigned military missions, including the Enhanced Training Operations and the SBCT, would produce environmental effects. Within the surrounding region, a need for land to accommodate the area's increasing population and economic development, including additional businesses, homes, and related services and infrastructure, would produce environmental effects. These two factors are mainly interrelated in two ways: (1) a primary mission of the PAARNG is to service the emergency needs of the people of the Commonwealth, and land and facilities are necessary to accommodate training to enable the PAARNG to service the community, as well as the entire country, in terms of national defense, effectively. The growth of the region, of Pennsylvania, and of the nation as a whole drives the need for this additional training capability; and (2) both factors produce pressures on the environment within the region of the installation.

Within the installation's boundaries, management of environmental resources would continue to be achieved through implementation of the NGTC-FTIG INRMP (natural resources) and the PAARNG's statewide ICRMP (cultural resources), as well as through implementation of the



measures outlined in this SEA as well as the 2002 and 2006 EISs. Within the region, growth management would be controlled through adherence to applicable local and regional long-range plans, including those focusing on both growth management and natural resources management.

However, cumulative impacts to the region would be anticipated, due to both increasing military and civilian needs. The region surrounding and including the installation could likely experience an on-going decline in the natural ecosystem, as well as increased demands on utilities, infrastructure, and services. While the on-going and proposed activities at NGTC-FTIG would individually produce a negligible contribution to adverse impacts on area infrastructure, traffic congestion, and air quality, the cumulative effect of these combined on- and off-Post pressures would increase these impacts, notably in terms of infrastructure. Current development plans to improve I-81 and State Route (SR) 443 would reduce this impact by providing improved access to the installation.

Training-related noise and dust impacts would be anticipated, and a significant increase in noise levels would be anticipated if the Revised MPTR Action is implemented. Significant increases in local or regional noise levels, however, are not anticipated with implementation of the SDZ in itself. Off-road training would increase fugitive dust amounts and would decrease local air quality during training operations. However, these emissions would be controlled to the extent possible, as the PANG has done successfully in the past. Based on the analyses conducted for the 2006 EIS, these emissions are not anticipated to be significant, and are anticipated to be readily controlled through existing best management practices.

Net positive socioeconomic impacts to the region, as associated with on-going and future operations, would be anticipated. However, the installation's consumption of forested lands and natural resources to provide adequate training facilities would contribute to the cumulative degradation of the area's natural ecosystem. Currently, approximately 6,000 acres within the boundaries of the NGTC-FTIG are cleared for development or other military activities, and approximately 11,000 acres remain forested; this total includes the 334 acres recently cleared for the MPTR and other projects. Implementation of other approved actions will clear another approximately 635 acres of forest. In total, implementation of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within NGTC-FTIG would cumulatively result in about 7,000 acres of non-forested lands and 10,000 acres of forested lands within NGTC-FTIG. This would represent a cumulative future net reduction of less than 6% of forested lands within NGTC-FTIG.

Furthermore, military and civilian needs could result in conflicts. Additional new development proximate to the installation would be anticipated to increase complaints, primarily regarding noise associated with military training activities. Conversely, additional new development outside of the installation's boundaries could hinder access to the facility, affect historically available utility services, and diminish the quality of military training. However, these impacts are speculative, and reasonably foreseeable actions in the area would not produce such cumulative infrastructure or socioeconomic impacts.

Significant cumulative impacts associated with localized noise and potential land use conflicts occur in the vicinity of the NGTC-FTIG. However, implementation of the Proposed SDZ would not be anticipated to add to these impacts. Close coordination between the PAARNG, local



township representatives, and interest groups serve to control identified and potential future land use and noise conflicts. Implementation of land use and resource management plans would serve to control the extent of environmental impacts. As such, proper planning would ensure that future socioeconomic conditions maintain the quality of life that the area's residents currently enjoy.



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6.0 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Comparison of Alternatives

As a result of the implementation of Alternative 1 (the Preferred Alternative), the following impacts would be anticipated:

- Minor, short-term, adverse land use impact due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses for up to 90 days per year of the proposed 900 acres within SGL 211.⁴
- Minor, short- and long-term, adverse socioeconomic impacts due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses of the proposed 900 acres within SGL 211 for up to 90 days per year over a 41-year period.
- Minor, long-term adverse public safety impact due to potential ricochets entering SGL 211.
- Minor, long-term, positive impact to transportation infrastructure due to the maintenance of Cold Springs Road using the best management practices (BMPs) applicable to dirt and gravel roads.
- Minor, long-term positive impacts to surface water quality due to the maintenance of Cold Spring Road. Proper maintenance of Cold Springs Road would lower the potential for soil erosion and subsequent sedimentation.

The following impacts would be anticipated as a result of the implementation of Alternative 2 (the MPTR Buffer Alternative):

- Minor, short-term, adverse land use impact due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses for up to 90 days per year of the proposed 1,900 acres within SGL 211.⁴
- Minor, short- and long-term, adverse socioeconomic impacts due to the limited restriction of hunting, trapping, and recreational uses of the proposed 1,900 acres within SGL 211 for up to 90 days per year over a 41-year period.
- Minor, long-term adverse public safety impact due to potential ricochets entering SGL 211.
- Minor, long-term, positive impact to transportation infrastructure due to the maintenance of Cold Springs Road using BMPs applicable to dirt and gravel roads.
- Minor, long-term positive impacts to surface water quality due to the maintenance of Cold Spring Road. Proper maintenance of Cold Springs Road would lower the potential for soil erosion and subsequent sedimentation.

⁴ Per the Interagency Cooperative Agreement, the DMVA would not utilize the SDZ in SGL 211 during the regular antlered or antlerless (rifle) deer season and bear season. Prior to 31 January of each year, the DMVA would cooperate with PGC to designate, in advance, a minimum of four weekdays and one Saturday (which do not need to be consecutive) during both the Spring Gobbler season and Wild Turkey season (fall) when the SDZ in SGL 211 would not be used.



No direct impacts would be anticipated as a result of the implementation of Alternative 3. However, implementation of Alternative 3 would result in an indirect, minor, long-term positive impact to the noise and safety environment, since the DMVA would not establish an SDZ on a portion of SGL 211, and consequently the PAARNG would not construct and/or operate the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Therefore, noise impacts and potential ricochet impacts associated with the MPTR would not be realized. In addition, since the DMVA would not establish an SDZ on a portion of SGL 211 and the PAARNG would not construct and/or operate the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG, indirect, long-term significant adverse socioeconomic impacts would be anticipated, affecting the readiness of PAARNG units and the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up to date, resourceful training site for the PANG and for other Guard, Reserve and active forces. Further, PAARNG units would have to travel to out-of-state installations (e.g. Fort Drum, New York and/or Fort Pickett, Virginia) for MPTR training, resulting in indirect, minor, long-term adverse impacts due to increased mobile air emissions, increased fossil fuel consumption, less actual available training time, and increased chances of accidents due to increased travel.

6.2 Conclusion

Based on the analysis presented in this SEA, Alternative 1 is the Preferred Alternative for the Proposed Action. Alternative 2 was found to satisfy the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action; however, Alternative 2 would involve the limited restriction on additional acreage, not required per the ricochet analysis. The No Action Alternative was found to not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action. Under Alternative 3, the DMVA would not establish an SDZ on a portion of SGL 211, consequently prohibiting the construction and operation of an MPTR at NGTC-FTIG, and negatively affecting the readiness of PAARNG units and the viability of NGTC-FTIG as an up to date, resourceful training site for the PANG and for other Guard, Reserve and active forces.

The evaluation performed within the SEA concludes that no significant impact to the physical environment; water quality; groundwater; air quality; biological resources, including vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, plant communities, protected species, and wetlands; land use; socioeconomic environment; noise; hazardous and toxic, materials/wastes (HTMW); cultural resources; infrastructure; and human health and safety, including environmental justice and children's health and safety risks would be anticipated as a result of the implementation of the Preferred Alternative, provided that measures codified within the land use agreement between the DMVA and PGC, and incorporated into the Proposed Action are implemented.

This analysis determines that an EIS is not necessary for the implementation of Alternative 1 and that a FONSI is appropriate. **Table 6-1** summarized potential impacts of each alternative.



TABLE 6-1
Summary Descriptions of Impacts
Associated with Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 at the Project Study Area

Resource Area	Alternative 1 Preferred Alternative	Alternative 2 MPTR Alternative	Alternative 3 No-Action Alternative
Land Use	●	●	○
Air Quality	○	○	●
Noise	○	○	⊙
Geology, Topography, and Soils	○	○	○
Water Resources	⊙	⊙	○
Biological Resources	○	○	○
Cultural Resources	--	--	--
Architectural Resources	○	○	○
Archaeological Resources	○	○	○
Socioeconomics	■ / ●	■ / ●	● / ⊙ / ◐
Public Safety	●	●	▣
Environmental Justice	○	○	○
Infrastructure	--	--	--
Utility	○	○	○
Transportation	⊙	⊙	●
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes (HTMW)	○	○	○

Key to Table 6-1 Symbols

Significant Adverse Impact	Minor Adverse Impact	No Impact	Minor Positive Impact	Significant Positive Impact
Long-Term Impact				
◐	●	○	⊙	◐
Short-Term Impact				
▣	■	□	▣	▣



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- 16 USC 1278 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1986. United States Code 1278.
- 33 USC 1341 Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1977. United States Code 1341 *et seq.*
- 33 USC 1344 Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1977. United States Code 1344.
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8.0 GLOSSARY

A-Weighted Decibels (dBA) – An expression of the relative loudness of sound in air detected by the human ear.

Adverse – A harmful or undesired effect.

Aesthetics – Defined as the theory of beauty, or the philosophy of art, explaining concepts of sublime, representation, aesthetic value and expression.

Ambient – The environment as it exists around people, plants, and structures.

Ambient Air Quality Standards – Those standards established according to the CAA to protect health and welfare (AR 200-1).

Aquifer – An underground geological formation containing usable amounts of groundwater that can supply wells and springs.

Attainment Area – A region that meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for a criterion pollutant under the Clean Air Act (CAA).

Bedrock – The native consolidated rock underlying the earth's surface.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – Methods, measures, or practices to prevent or reduce the contribution of pollutants to United States waters. May be imposed in addition to, or in the absence of, effluent limitations, standards, or prohibitions (AR 200-1).

C-Weighted Decibel – The method of measuring sound which takes into account the low frequency components of noise sources, such as large weapons and demolition activities, and reflects their contribution to the environment.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) – An odorless, colorless gas produced as a result of the incomplete burning of carbon or carbonaceous materials such as fossil fuels from automobiles, buses, trucks, small engines, boilers and from certain industrial processes (see *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*).

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) – An Executive Office of the President composed of three members that the President appoints, subject to Senate approval. Each member shall be exceptionally qualified to analyze and interpret environmental trends, and to appraise programs and activities of the Federal government. Members are to be conscious of, and responsive to, the scientific, economic, social, esthetic, and cultural needs of the Nation, and formulate and recommend national policies to promote quality improvement of the environment.

Criteria Pollutants – The Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970 required the USEPA to set air quality standards for common and widespread pollutants in order to protect human health and welfare. The six "criteria pollutants" are: ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), lead (Pb), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and particulate matter of less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM-10).

Cultural Resources – The physical evidence of our Nation's heritage, including archaeological sites; historic buildings, structures, and districts; and localities with social significance to the human community.



Cumulative Impact – Environmental impact that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

Deciduous – Defined as plant species, typically trees and shrubs, which lose all of their foliage for part of the year.

Direct Effects - Effects that an action causes, and that occur at the same time and same place [40 CFR 1508.8 (a)].

Emission – A release of a pollutant.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – An environmental analysis prepared pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act to determine whether a federal action would significantly affect the environment and thus require a more detailed environmental impact statement. An EA is a concise public document that determines whether to prepare an EIS, or a FONSI (see *National Environmental Policy Act*).

Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) – A survey conducted to characterize the existing environmental conditions on and around a certain area or property.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A document required of federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act for major projects or legislative proposal significantly affecting the environment. A tool for decision making, it describes the positive and negative effects of the undertaking and cites alternative actions. An EIS documents the information required to evaluate the environmental impact of a project. It informs decision makers and the public of the reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the environment (see *National Environmental Policy Act*).

Erosion – The wearing away of land surface by wind and water.

Farmland – Cropland, pastures, meadows, and planted woodland.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – An agency within the United States government, established to coordinate the response to a disaster that has occurred within the United States.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) – A document prepared pursuant to NEPA, preceded by an EA, that supports that a proposed action would not have a significant impact on the environment and thus would not require preparation of an EIS. A FONSI is based on the results of the EA.

Floodplain - Nearly flat plain along the course of a stream that is naturally subject to flooding.

Geology - Science that deals with the physical history of the earth, the rocks of which the earth is composed, and the physical changes in the earth.

Hazardous Substances – A substance as defined by section 101(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA):

- a. For the purpose of this regulation, a hazardous substance is any one of the following: 1) Any substance designated pursuant to section 311(b)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (CWA). 2) Any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance designated



pursuant to Section 102 of CERCLA. 3) Any hazardous waste having the characteristics identified under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). 4) Any toxic pollutant listed under TSCA. 5) Any hazardous air pollutant listed under Section 112 of CAA. 6) Any imminently hazardous chemical substance or mixture with respect to which the EPA Administrator has taken action pursuant to fraction subsection 7 of TSCA.

- b. The term does not include: 1) Petroleum, including crude oil or any thereof, which is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance in paragraph "a" above. 2) Natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquefied natural gas, or synthetic gas usable for fuel (or mixtures of natural gas and such synthetic gas).
- c. A list of hazardous substances is found in 40 CFR 302.4 (AR 200-1).

Hazardous Waste – A solid waste that, when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed, poses a substantial hazard to human health or the environment. Hazardous wastes are identified in 40 CFR section 261.3 or applicable foreign law, rule, or regulation (see also Solid Waste) (AR 200-1).

Hazardous Waste Storage – As defined in 40 CFR 260. 10, ". . . the holding of hazardous waste for a temporary period, at the end of which the hazardous waste is treated, disposed, or stored elsewhere" (AR 200-1).

Indirect Effects – Effects that are caused by the action and that occur later in time or farther removed in distance but that are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate; and related effects on air, water, and other natural systems, including ecosystems [40 CFR 1508.8 (b)].

Installation – A grouping of facilities, located in the same general vicinity, over which the installation commander has authority (AR 200-1).

Land Use Capability Class – The Land Use Capability Class System predicts the suitability of soils for cultivation based on erodibility, droughtiness, excessive wetness, or salinity.

Lead (Pb) – An odorless, gray heavy metal found in the atmosphere as a result of man-made processes such as the extraction and processing of metallic ores, incineration of solid waste, and fuel combustion. The State of Connecticut has been in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for lead since 1990 (see *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*).

Less-than-significant – Being too small to signify importance.

Long-term – Involving or lasting for a relatively long period of time.

Meteorological – A scientific study on the atmosphere that focuses on weather processes and forecasting.

Mitigation – Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.

Monitoring – The assessment of emissions and ambient air quality conditions. Monitoring techniques used are emission estimates, visible emission readings, diffusion or dispersion estimates, sampling, or measurement with analytical instruments (AR 200-1).



National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) – Nationwide standards set up by the USEPA for widespread air pollutants, as required by Section 109 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Six pollutants are currently regulated by primary and secondary NAAQS: carbon monoxide (CO), lead, (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM-10), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – United States statute that requires all Federal agencies to consider potential effects of Proposed Actions on the human and natural environment (AR 200-1).

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) – A yellowish-brown gas found in high concentrations of ground-level ozone, formed as a result of high temperature combustions such as power plants and automobile engines (see *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*).

Non-Attainment Area – An area that has been designated by the EPA or by the appropriate state air quality agency as exceeding one or more national or state ambient air quality standards.

Ozone (O₃) – A colorless gas that attributes to the majority of unhealthy air quality. Ozone forms in the atmosphere from the release of other pollutants; including volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides.

Particulates/Particulate Matter – Fine liquid or solid particles, such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog found in air.

Pollutant – A substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.

Potable Water - Water that is suitable for drinking.

Precipitation – Any type of product of condensation from atmospheric water vapor that is deposited on the earth's surface.

Sensitive Species – Species occurring at the Site listed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and/or the Pennsylvania National Diversity Inventory (PNDI) as a species of concern. While these species may not be threatened or endangered at this time, they may become so in the near future because of humans or nature.

Significant Impact – According to 40 CFR 1508.27, "Significantly" as used in NEPA requires consideration of both context and intensity:

- a. *Context* - The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts, such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the Proposed Action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant.
- b. *Intensity* - Refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action.

Short-term – Involving or lasting for a relatively brief period of time.

Socioeconomics – Economic and social structure of communities, tax rates, and characteristic types of development.



Soil – The mixture of altered mineral and organic material at the earth's surface that supports plant life.

Solid Waste – Any discarded material that is not excluded by section 261.4(a) or that is not excluded by variance granted under sections 260.30 and 260.31 (40 CFR 261.2).

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) – An odorless, colorless gas at low concentrations with a very pungent odor in very high concentrations. Sulfur dioxide is produced as a result of the burning of fuels that contain sulfur, such as oil and coal (see *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*).

Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) – The area designated on the ground of a training complex (to include associated safety areas) for the vertical and lateral containment of projectiles, fragments, debris, and components resulting from the firing or detonation of weapon systems. Army Regulation and Department of the Army Pamphlet 385-63 describes and illustrates weapon-system SDZs.

Topography – Relief features or surface configuration of an area.

Toxic Substance – A harmful substance that includes elements, compounds, mixtures, and materials of complex composition.

United States Census Bureau – A Federal agency that collects, processes, analyzes, disseminates statistical data on the American public.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) – A Federal agency established to protect human health and the environment within the borders and territories of the United States.

Wetlands – Areas that are regularly saturated by surface or groundwater and are therefore characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Some examples are swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries.



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9.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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Bureau for Historic Preservation
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The Manada Conservancy

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Attn: John Conner, President

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Lebanon, PA 17042

Stony Creek Valley Coalition, Inc.

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Harrisburg, PA 17104-2130
Attn: Joan Renninger and Mike Kneasel, Chairmen

Trout Unlimited

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P.O. Box 1295
Harrisburg, PA 17108



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TABLES



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**TABLE 4-1:
National and State Ambient Air Quality Standards**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Standard	
		Value	Type
National and State Standards			
CO	1 hour	35 ppm	Primary
	8 hours	9 ppm	Primary
Pb	30 days	-	-
	1 quarter	1.5 µg/m ³	Primary & Secondary
NO ₂	1 hour	-	-
	1 year	0.053 ppm	Primary & Secondary
O ₃ *	8 hours	0.08 ppm	Primary & Secondary
Particulate matter ≤ 10 µm diameter (PM ₁₀) ¹	24 hours	150 µg/m ³	Primary & Secondary
	1 year	50 µg/m ³	Primary & Secondary
Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 µm diameter (PM _{2.5}) ¹	24 hours	35 µg/m ³	Primary & Secondary
	1 year	15 µg/m ³	Primary & Secondary
SO ₂	3 hours	0.5 ppm	Secondary
	24 hours	0.14 ppm	Primary
	1 year	0.03 ppm	Primary
State Standards			
Be	24 hours	0.01 µg/m ³	NA
Total soluble fluorides as HF	24 hours	5 µg/m ³	NA
H ₂ S	1 hour	0.1 ppm	NA
	24 hours	0.005 ppm	NA

Source: USEPA 2007b, PADEP 2007

Notes:

ppm = parts per million

µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter

NA = PAAQS are not assigned a designation of primary or secondary.



**TABLE 4-2:
Noise Zone Classification**

Noise Zone	Description	Equipment Operations, Transportation, Aircraft, and Small Arms (ADNL)	Impulsive Noise from Large Caliber Weapons (>20mm) and Demolitions (CDNL)
I	Acceptable	<65 dBA	<62 dBC
II	Normally Unacceptable	65-75 dBA	62-70 dBC
III	Unacceptable	>75 dBA	>70 dBC

Source: AR 200-1, Chapter 7

Notes:

dBA = decibels, A-weighted

dBC = decibels, C-weighted

**TABLE 4-3:
Soil Types Present Within the Project Study Area**

Soil Type	Symbol	Slope (%)	Agriculture Status	Hydric Status
Andover gravelly loam	AoB	0 to 8	NA	NA
Dekalb and Lehigh sandy loams	DIF	NA	NA	NA
Dekalb and Lehigh sandy loams	DlgB	NA	NA	NA
Hazleton very channery loam	HegD	NA	NA	NA
Huntington silt loam	HegF	NA	NA	NA
Hazleton-Laidig Association	HLD	NA	NA	NA
Laidig extremely stony loam	LdC	8 to 25	NA	H*
Rubble land	Ru	NA	NA	NA

Sources: USDA 1972, USDA 1981, USDA 2008.

Notes:

*Laidig extremely stony loam (LdC) is classified as a hydric soil within Lebanon County; however, not in Dauphin County.

H – Hydric Soil.

NA = Not Applicable



Table 4-4:
Summary of PADCNR Identified Special Status Species in the Project Study Area Vicinity

Species	Common Name	Status	Habitat	Potential to Occur in Project Study Area Based on Habitat Requirements
Plants				
<i>Gentiana villosa</i>	Striped Gentian	U	Dry open woods and edges, also thickets on serpentine barrens	No
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	ST	Moist alluvial woods and wooded slopes	Yes
<i>Paronychia fastigiata</i> var. <i>nuttallii</i>	Forked-chickweed	U	Open woods and edges in dry, rocky, or sandy soils	Yes
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	Netted Chainfern	ST	Moist woods, in humus-rich, strongly acidic soils	No
Insects				
<i>Anisota stigma</i>	Spiny Oakworm Moth	CI	Deciduous woods	Yes
<i>Euphyes conspicua</i>	Black Dash	V	Boggy marshes, wet fens and marshy stream banks	No
<i>Hesperia leonardus</i>	Leonard's Skipper	V	Open grassy areas including native prairies, fields, barrens and meadows	No
<i>Lagoa crispata</i>	Black-waved Flannel Moth	I	Deciduous Woods	Yes
<i>Speyeria idalia</i>	Regal Fritillary	I	Tall-grass prairie and other open sites including damp meadows, marshes, wet fields, and mountain pastures	No

Source: DCNR 2007.

Notes:

CI – Critically Imperiled

I – Imperiled

ST – State threatened

U – Undetermined

V – Vulnerable



TABLE 4-5:
Regional Population for Areas Peripheral to the Project Study Area

Area	1990	2000	Change, 1990-2000 (%)
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	11,881,643	12,281,054	3.4
County			
Dauphin	237,813	251,798	5.9
Lebanon	113,744	120,327	5.8
Township			
East Hanover ¹	4,569	5,322	16.5
Middle Paxton	5,129	4,823	-5.9
East Hanover ²	3,058	2,858	-6.5
Cold Spring	3	49	1533.3
Union	2,755	2,562	-7.0
City			
Annville	4,294	4,518	5.2
Harrisburg	52,376	48,950	-6.5
Lebanon	24,800	24,461	-1.4

Sources: U.S. Census 1990, U.S. Census 2007a, U.S. Census 2007b, U.S. Census 2000

Notes:

1. Dauphin County
2. Lebanon County

TABLE 4-6:
Regional Population Projections for Areas Peripheral to the Project Study Area

Area	Population from Census Data		Population Projections ¹		Projected Change 2000-2020 (%)
	1990	2000	2010	2020	
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	11,882,842	12,281,054	12,407,000	12,569,000	2.3
Dauphin County	237,813	251,798	264,378	273,483	8.6
Lebanon County	113,744	120,327	126,489	129,472	7.6

Sources: U.S. Census 2007c, Pennsylvania State Data Center 2004

Note:

1. Population Projections are based on 6.5 percent per year change.



TABLE 4-7:
Employment Level by Industry for Areas Peripheral to the Project Study Areas

Industry	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Dauphin County	Lebanon County
Services	33.8%	30.8%	26.3%
Trade	21.2%	19.2%	24.2%
Manufacturing	13.6%	9.3%	18.7%
Government	11.2%	20.9%	13.2%
Mining and Construction	5.7%	4.7%	5.5%
Other	14.5%	15.1%	12.1%

Sources: U.S. Census 2007g, U.S. Census 2007c, U.S. Census 2007d

TABLE 4-8:
Regional Income Information for Areas Peripheral to the Project Study Areas (2000)

Area	Number of Households	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Percent of Population below Poverty Level
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	4,777,003	\$40,106	\$20,880	11.0%
County				
Dauphin	102,670	\$41,507	\$22,134	9.7%
Lebanon	46,551	\$40,838	\$19,773	7.5%
Township				
East Hanover ¹	1,966	\$52,009	\$23,296	2.8%
Middle Paxton	1,906	\$54,619	\$28,146	5.2%
East Hanover ²	1,034	\$50,579	\$22,108	5.5%
Cold Spring ³	49	-	-	-
Union	1,017	\$42,669	\$19,896	6.5%
City				
Annville	1,452	\$37,415	\$16,586	6.3%
Harrisburg	20,561	\$26,920	\$15,787	24.6%
Lebanon	10,266	\$27,259	\$15,984	16.2%

Sources: U.S. Census 2007c, U.S. Census 2007d

Notes:

1. Dauphin County.
2. Lebanon County.
3. U.S. Census data unavailable for Cold Spring Township.



TABLE 4-9:
Percentage of Regional Population by Race¹ in 2000 for Areas Peripheral to the Project Study Areas

Area	White	Black or African-American	American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	Asian or Pacific Islander	Other Race ²	More Than One Race ³	Hispanic Origin ⁴	Percent Minority
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	85.4	10.0	0.1	1.8	1.5	1.2	3.2	17.2%
County								
Dauphin	77.1	16.9	0.2	0.9	2.0	1.9	4.1	25.2%
Lebanon	94.5	1.3	0.1	0.9	2.3	0.9	5.0	10%
Township								
East Hanover ⁵	97.0	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.9	4.8%
Middle Paxton	98.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	2.6%
East Hanover ⁶	96.8	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.9	2.2	5.1%
Cold Spring ⁷	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	98.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.8	2.3%
City								
Annaville	95.4	1.1	-	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.8	6.3%
Harrisburg	31.7	54.8	0.4	2.9	6.5	3.6	11.7	71%
Lebanon	85.5	3.2	0.3	1.1	8.1	1.8	16.4	26.5%

Source: U.S. Census 2007a – U.S. Census 2007g; Pennsylvania State Data Center 2004

Notes:

1. The racial classifications used by the Census Bureau were issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on October 30, 1997. The OMB requires five minimum category of race, including White, African American, American Indian and Alaska Native or Pacific Islander."
2. The "Other Race" category approved by OMB, includes all other responses not included in "White, African American, American Indian and Alaska Native or Pacific Islander." This category also includes entries such as multiracial, mixed, interracial, or a Hispanic/Latino group.
3. For data purposes, this category refers to combinations of two or more of the first six categories.
4. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
5. Located in Dauphin County.
6. Located in Lebanon County.
7. U.S. Census data unavailable for Cold Spring Township.



TABLE 5-1:
Maximum Number of Projectiles that could potentially Land in the Proposed SGL 211 SDZ Annually

Projectile Type	Annual Total Projectiles Fired	Probability of Projectile Escapement into SGL 211	Potential Total Rounds Landing in SGL 211 Annually
7.62 MM	298,200	0	0
.50 Cal.	16,800	4/1,000	67
25mm	65,142	1/100	651
120mm Heat (M831A1)	1,008	5/10,000	1
120mm Sabot (M865)	3,024	2/100	60
TOTAL	384,174	N/A	779

Source: ARDEC 2007; Yearwood 2007

TABLE 5-2:
Activities Associated with the Enhanced Training and Operations at NGTC-FTIG¹

Facility	Location	Approximate Distance to Project Study Area (miles)	Existing, New, or Upgrade	Approximate Acreage Required	Status
Tracked Vehicle Training Complex (TVTC)	TAs A-11, A-13, B-1 through B-7, C-3 through C-5, D-1 and D-3	1 - 7	New and Upgrade	1,103	Not Initiated ²
Ammunition Supply Point	TAs C-3 and C-10	2	Upgrade	50	In-Progress
Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR)	TAs C-4, C-5 and F-1	1	New	480	In-Progress ³
Artillery Training Support Facilities	TAs D-1, D-3 and D-9	2.5	Upgrade	6	Not Initiated
NGTC-FTIG Garrison	CA 4, 5, 10 and 14, TA B-5, and Ranges 10 and 11	4	Upgrade	112	Complete
Muir Army Airfield (MAAF) Complex	TA A-15 through A-17, MAAF, EAATS, and AASF #1	5	Upgrade	265	Complete
Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System	WWTP Site	5	Upgrade	22	In-Progress
Integrated Natural Resource Management	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Implemented



Facility	Location	Approximate Distance to Project Study Area (miles)	Existing, New, or Upgrade	Approximate Acreage Required	Status
Plan (INRMP)					
Air Guard Station	Areas 1 and 2	5	Upgrade	17	Complete
Air-to-Ground Range	TA C-3 and C-8	1.5	Upgrade	4	Complete
Regional Equipment Operator Training School (REOTS)	REOTS	5.5	Upgrade	4	Complete

Notes:

1. These activities were presented in **Section 2.0** of the 2002 FEIS.
 2. Portions of TVMA C and TVMA D have been replaced by proposed SBCT projects (see Table 5-3), including the "full" CACTF and the MK-19 Range, respectively. The previously assessed Infantry Squad Battle Course has been replaced by the proposed Infantry Squad Battle Course assessed in the 2006 EIS within TA C-8.
 3. Land clearing within the 480-acre MPTR footprint has been completed; however, further development of this site is pending the approval of this SEA.
- CA = Cantonment Area
TA = Training Area

TABLE 5-3:
Activities Associated with the SBCT Action at NGTC-FTIG¹

Facility	Location	Approximate Distance to Project Study Area (miles)	Existing, New, or Upgrade	Approximate Acreage Required	Status
Training Facilities					
Urban Assault Course (UAC) Complex	TA C-9	2	New	9	In-Progress
Live-Fire Shoot House (LFSH)	TA C-9	2	New	1	In-Progress
Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF)	TVMA B, TA B-12	1	New	646	In-Progress
Live-Fire Exercise Breach Facility (LFEBF)	TA C-9	2	New	2	Not Initiated
40mm Machine Gun Qualification Range (MGQR)	TAs D-1, D-5	2	New	390	Not Initiated
Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMGR)	Range 25	1.5	New	126	In-Progress
Automated Sniper Field Fire Range (ASFF)	TA D-2	3.5	New	85	In-Progress
Infantry Squad Battle	TA C-8	1	New	230	Complete



Facility	Location	Approximate Distance to Project Study Area (miles)	Existing, New, or Upgrade	Approximate Acreage Required	Status
Course (ISBC)	(ISBC only)				
Combat Pistol Qualification Course (CPQC)	Range 7	5	Upgrade	0	Not Initiated
Modified Record-Fire Range (MRFR)	Range 11	4	Upgrade	0	Complete
Air Deployment Trainer Site	TA A-16	5	New	2	Not Initiated
Rail Deployment Trainer Site	TA A-16	5	New	2	Not Initiated
Tactical Maneuver Land	TVMAs A, B, C, D	N/A	Existing	0	NA/Existing
Driver Training /Certification Course	TAs B-9, B-10, B-11, and B-12	2	Existing and New	1 (3,025 linear feet)	Complete
Battle Command Training Center (BCTC)	Area 5	5	New	3	In-Progress
Battalion Training Complex	Area 6	5	New	10	In-Progress
Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (TUAV) Platoon Training Facility	TA A-16	5.5	New	5	In-Progress
Support Facilities					
Antenna Sites	TA B-11 (Second Mountain), Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) area (Blue Mountain), and Area 5 (3 sites)	2 - 3	New	1.5 (3 sites at 0.5 acre each)	In-Progress
Ammunition Supply Point	Existing ASP	3	Upgrade	1-5	In Design
Unit Storage Site	Area 6	3	New	1-2	Complete

Notes:

1. These activities were presented in **Section 2.0** of the 2006 FEIS.

TA = Training Area

TVMA = Tactical Vehicle Maneuver Area



TABLE 5-4:
Additional Proposed Projects in the Vicinity of the Project Study Area

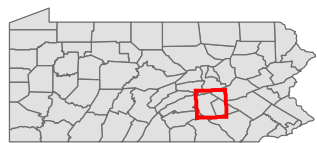
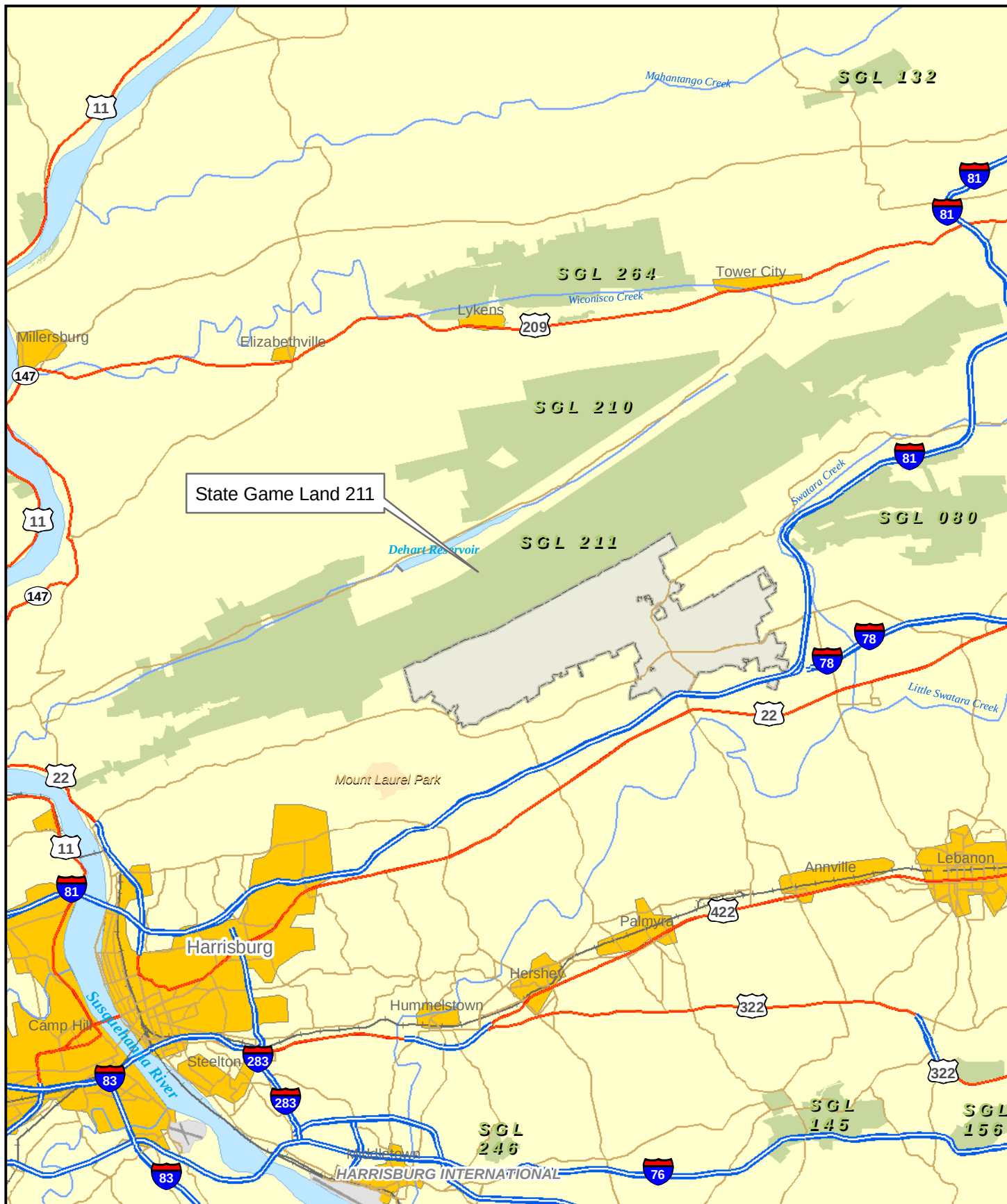
Project Name	Description	Location	Approximate Distance to Project Study Area (miles)	Status
Penn National Race Course and Casino	Casino, Hotel, Retail	PA Route 743 - Grantville	7 Miles SW	In Construction
I-81 Ramp Improvement	Widening of Ramps	I-81 Grantville Interchange	7 Miles SW	In Construction
Truck Stop and Service Area	Truck Stop	I-81 Lickdale Interchange	6 Miles SE	In Construction
Sun Microsystem Warehouse	Warehouse and Distribution	I-81 Lickdale Interchange	6 Miles SE	In Construction
Retail and Commercial	Bank and Other Retail	I-81 Lickdale Interchange Area	6 Miles SE	In Construction



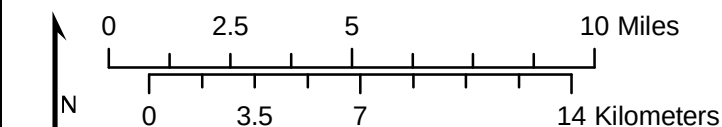
FIGURES



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Sources: FTIG GIS, Pennsylvania GeospatialData Clearinghouse (PASDA) & ESRI.

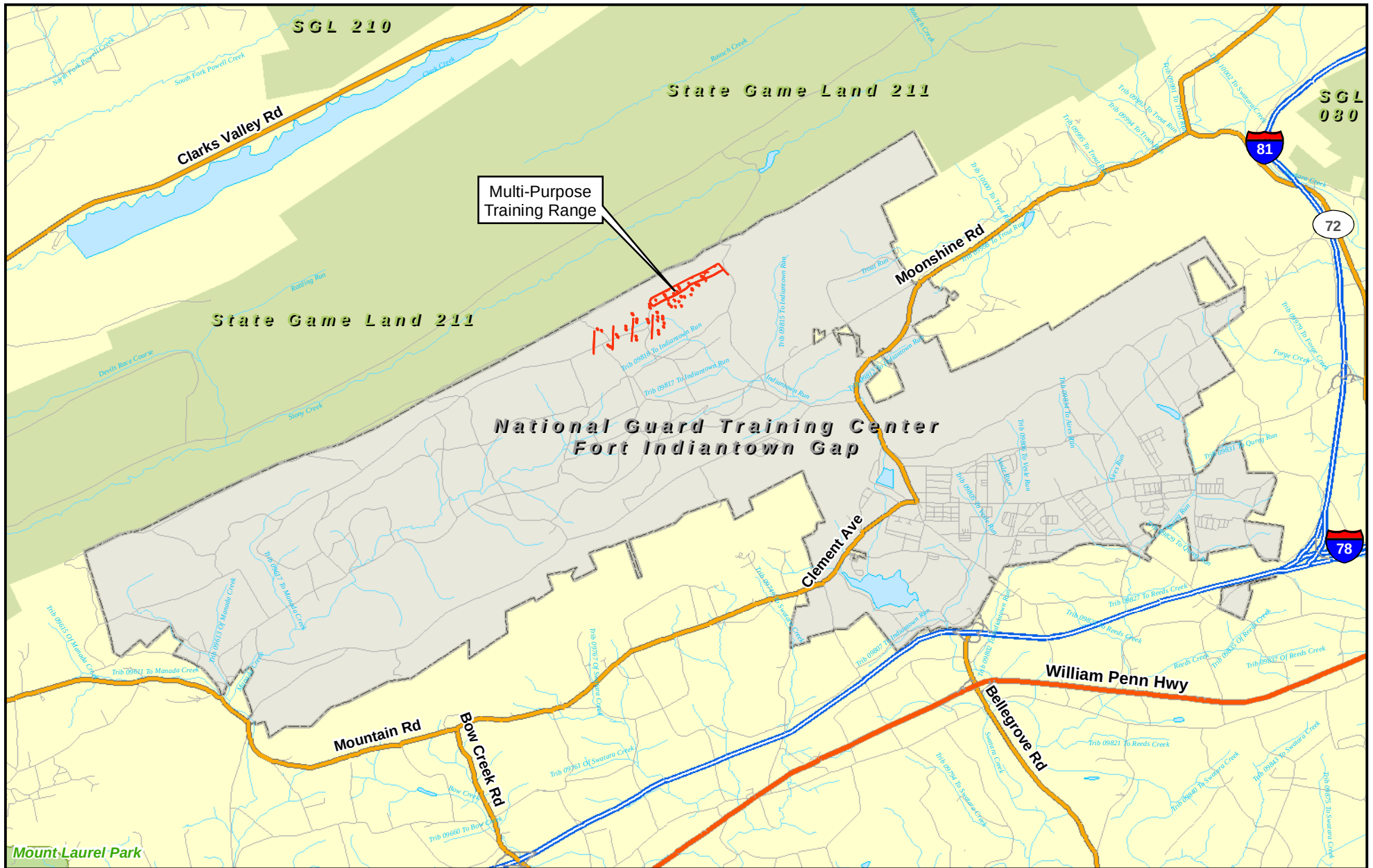


Legend

- Installation Boundary
- PA State Game Land

Figure 1-1
Regional Location Map
Ft. Indiantown Gap &
State Game Land 211
Pennsylvania

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EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462



Sources: FTIG GIS, ESRI
Pennsylvania Geospatial
Data Clearinghouse (PASDA).

Legend

- Multi-Purpose Training Range
- PA State Game Land



Installation Boundary

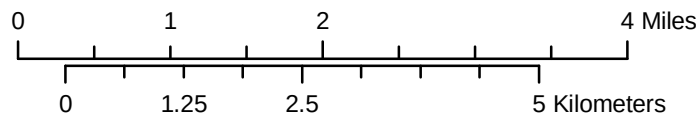
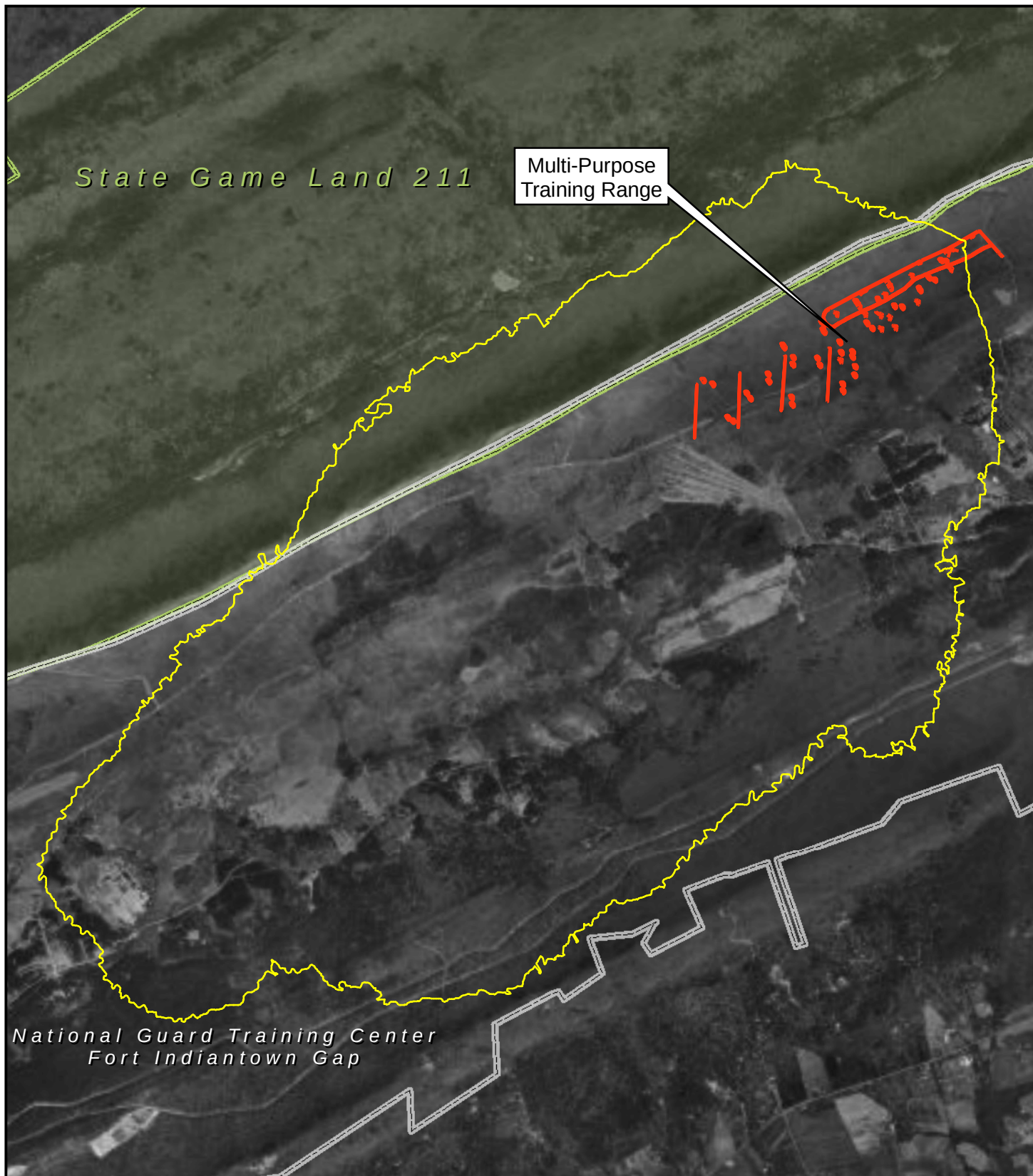


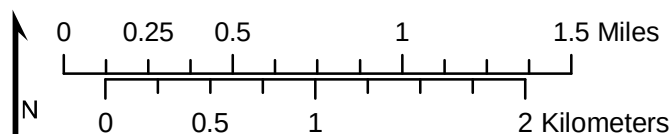
Figure 1-2
Multi-Purpose Training Range
Fort Indiantown Gap
Pennsylvania



EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462



Sources: FTIG GIS, PA
Geospatial Data Clearinghouse,
& TerraServer Imagery dated
April 08, 1993.

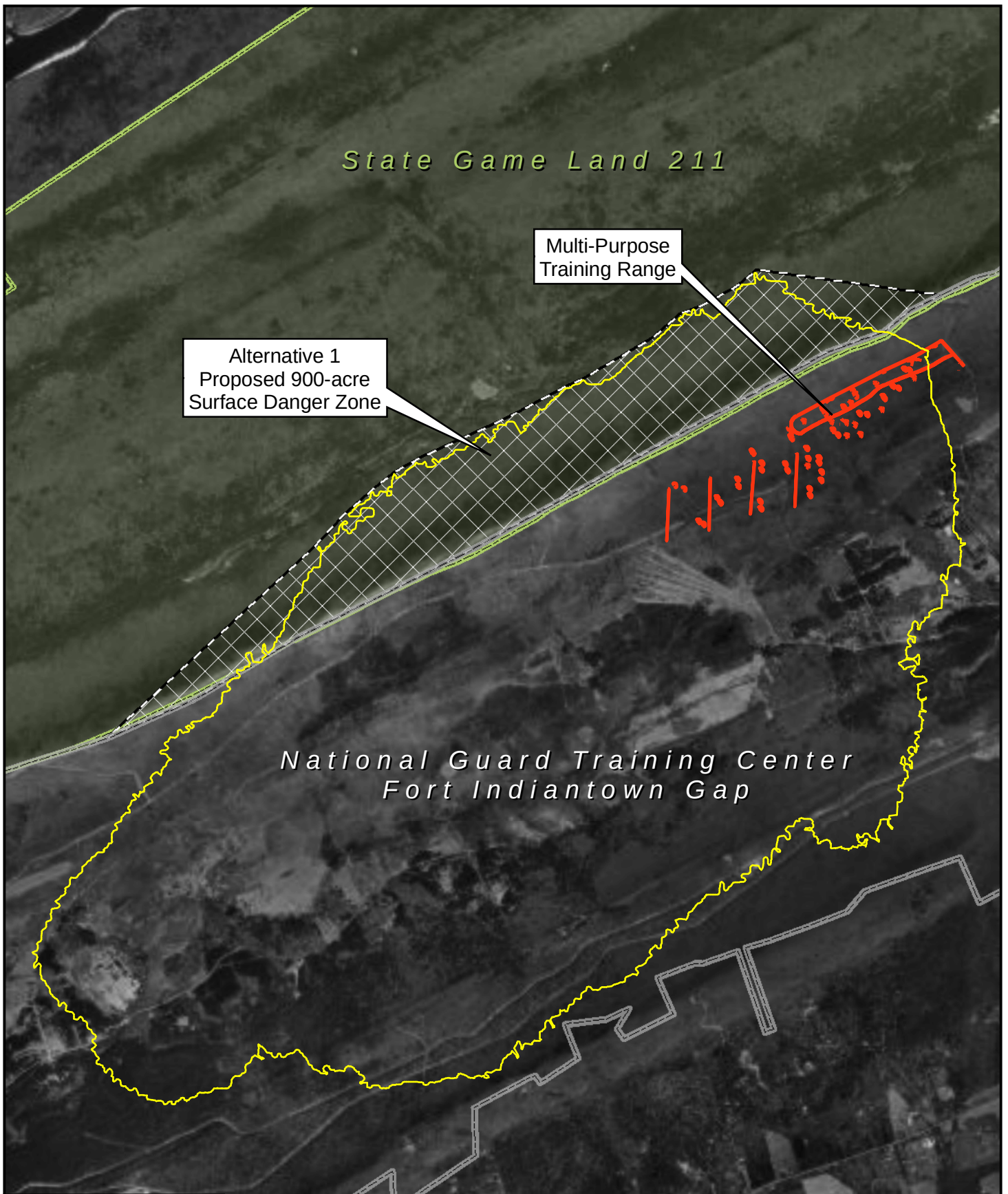


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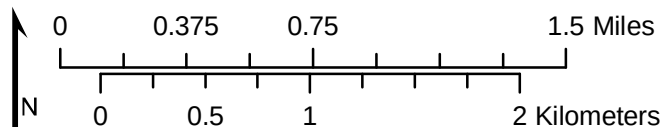
- Multi-Purpose Training Range
- Ricochet Contours
- Installation Boundary
- PA State Game Land

Figure 1-3
MPTR Ricochet Analysis
New Multi-Purpose Training Range
Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania

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Sources: FTIG GIS, PA Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, & TerraServer Imagery dated April 08, 1993.



Legend

- Ricochet Contours
- Multi-Purpose Training Range

- Alternative 1
- Installation Boundary
- PA State Gameland

Figure 3-1
Alternative 1
Preferred Project Alternative
900-Acre Surface Danger Zone
Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania

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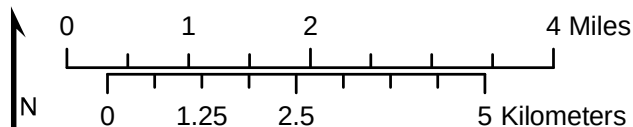
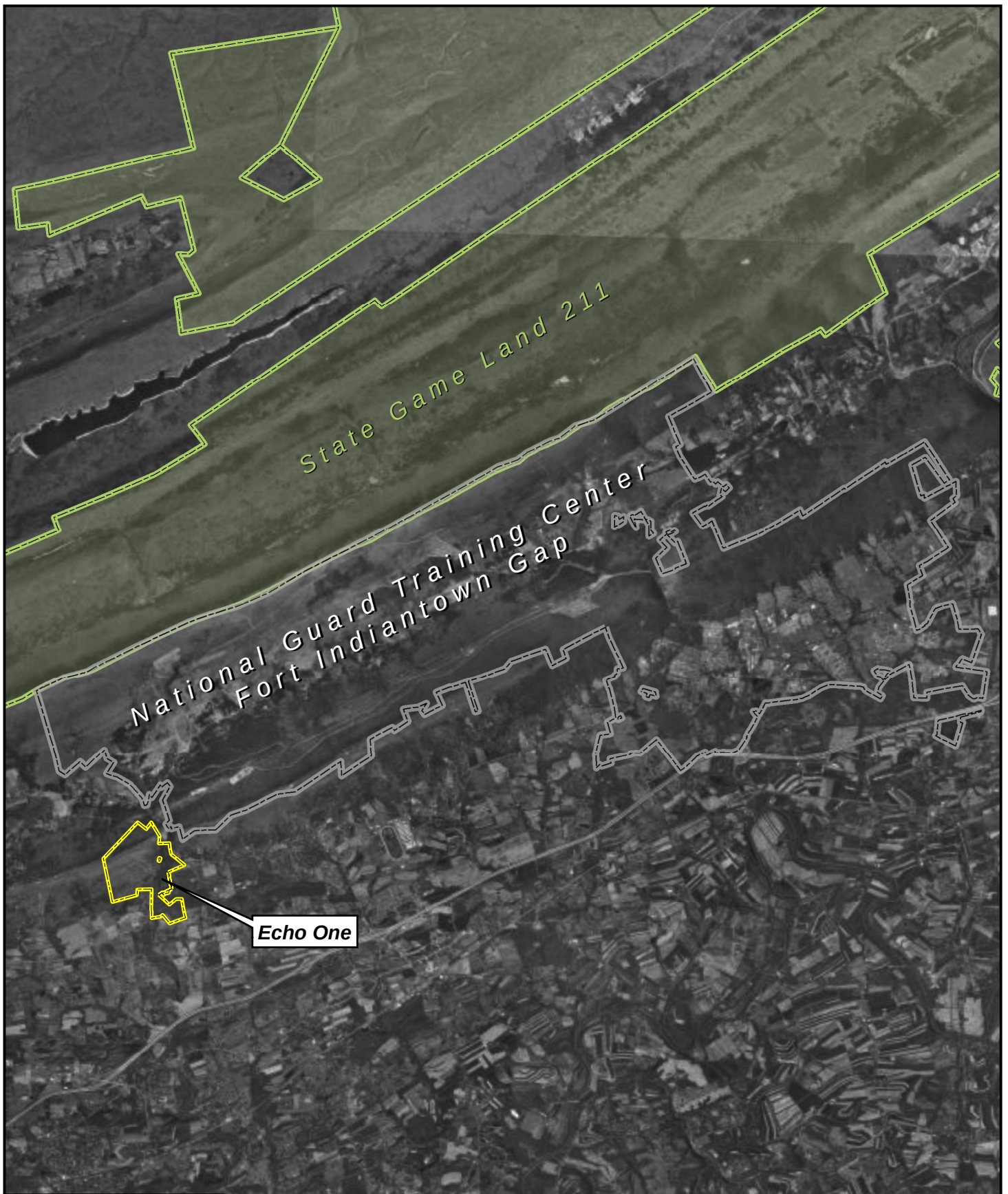


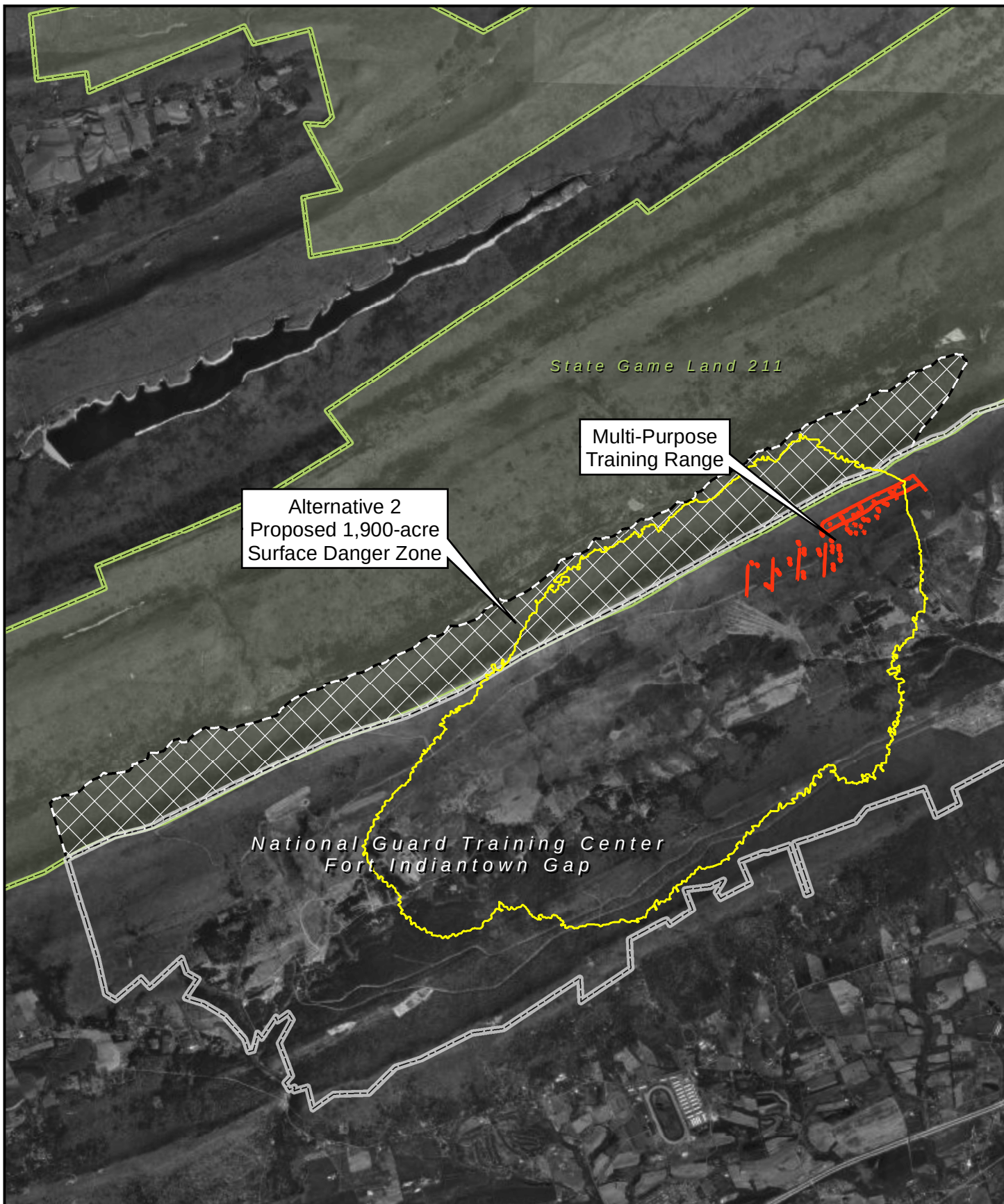
Figure 3-2
Echo One Location
Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania

Sources: FTIG GIS, PA
Geospatial Data Clearinghouse,
& TerraServer Imagery dated
April 08, 1993.

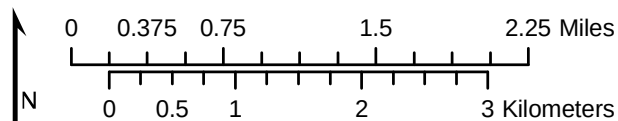
Legend

- Echo One Boundary
- Installation Boundary
- PA State Gameland

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Sources: FTIG GIS, PA GeospatialData Clearinghouse & TerraServer Imagery dated April 08, 1993.

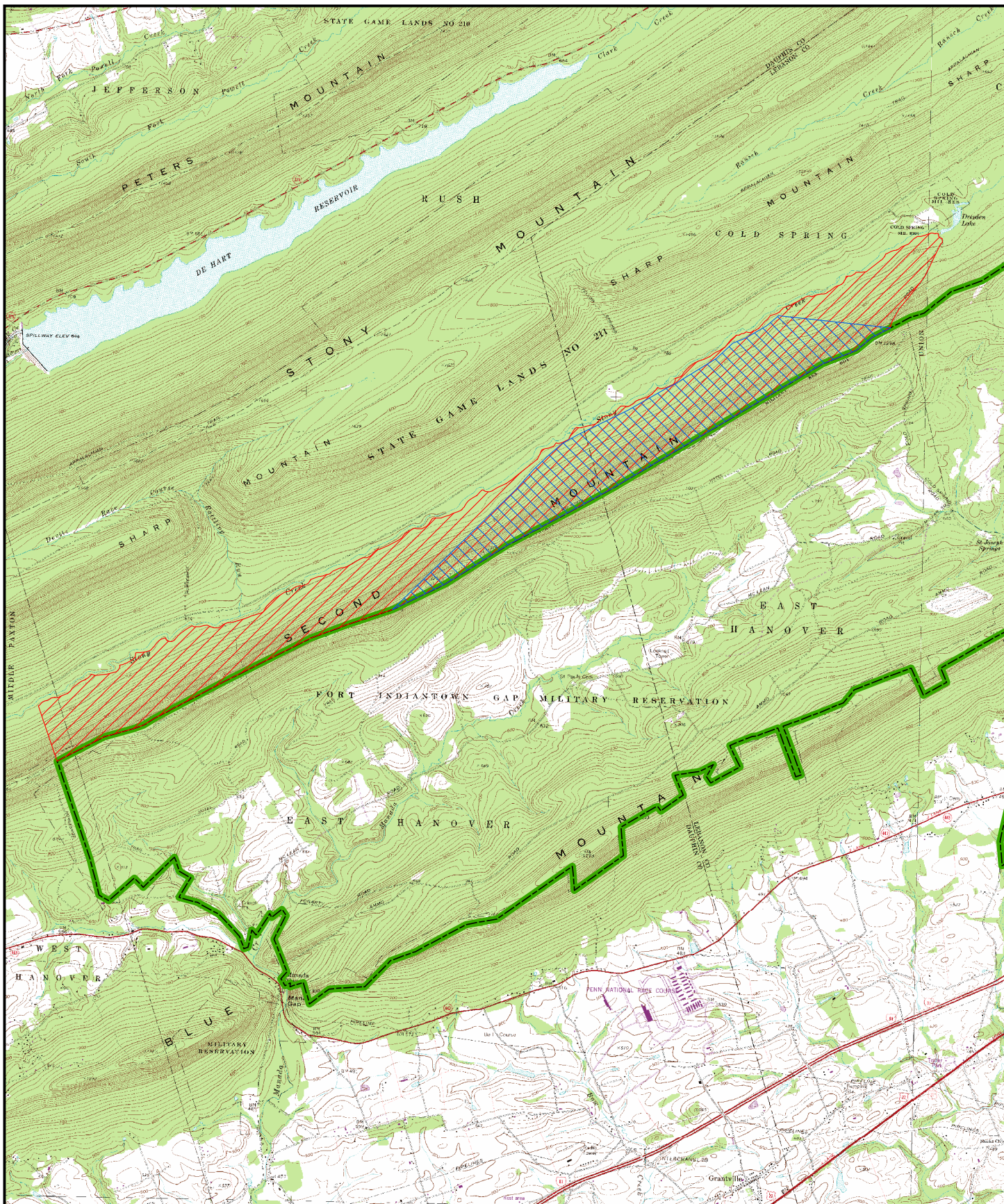


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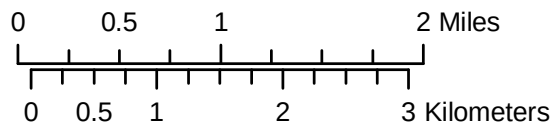
- Ricochet Contours
- Multi-Purpose Training Range
- Installation Boundary
- Alternative 2
- PA State Gameland

Figure 3-3
Alternative 2
MPTR Buffer Alternative
1,900-Acre Surface Danger Zone
Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania

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Sources: FTIG GIS & PA
Geospatial Data Clearinghouse.



Legend

-  Alternative 1 Boundary
-  Alternative 2 Boundary
-  Installation Boundary

Figure 4-1
Topographic Contour Map
State Game Land 211
Pennsylvania



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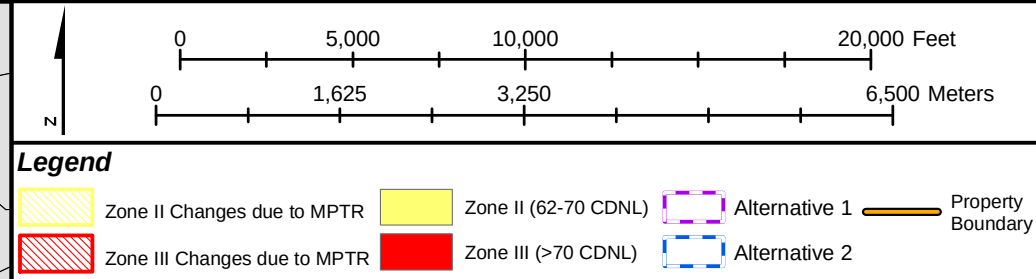
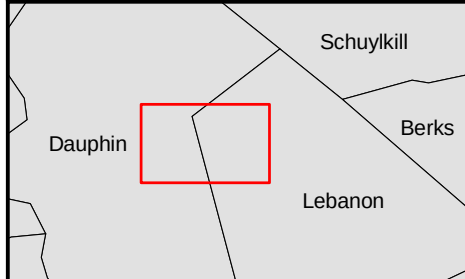
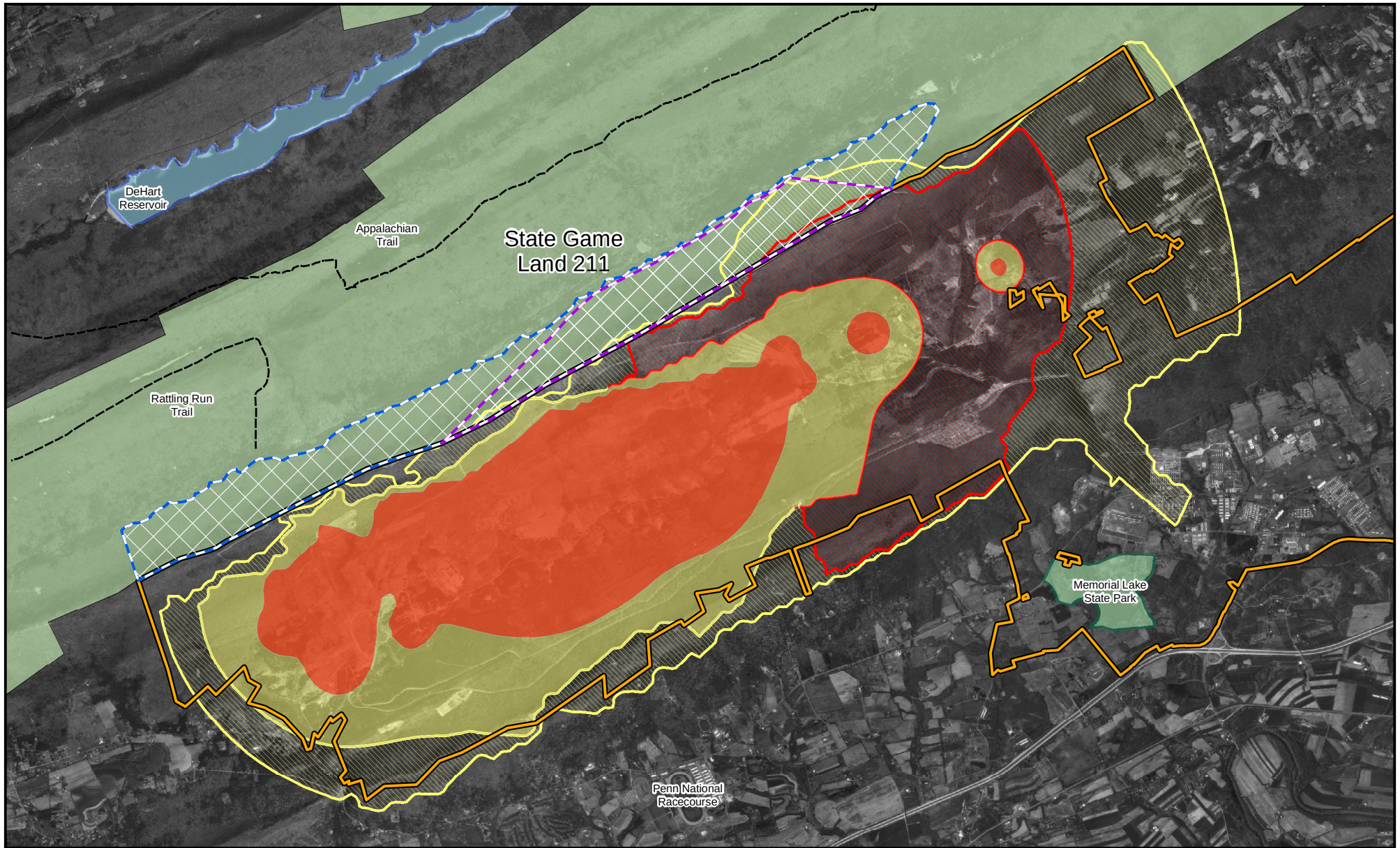
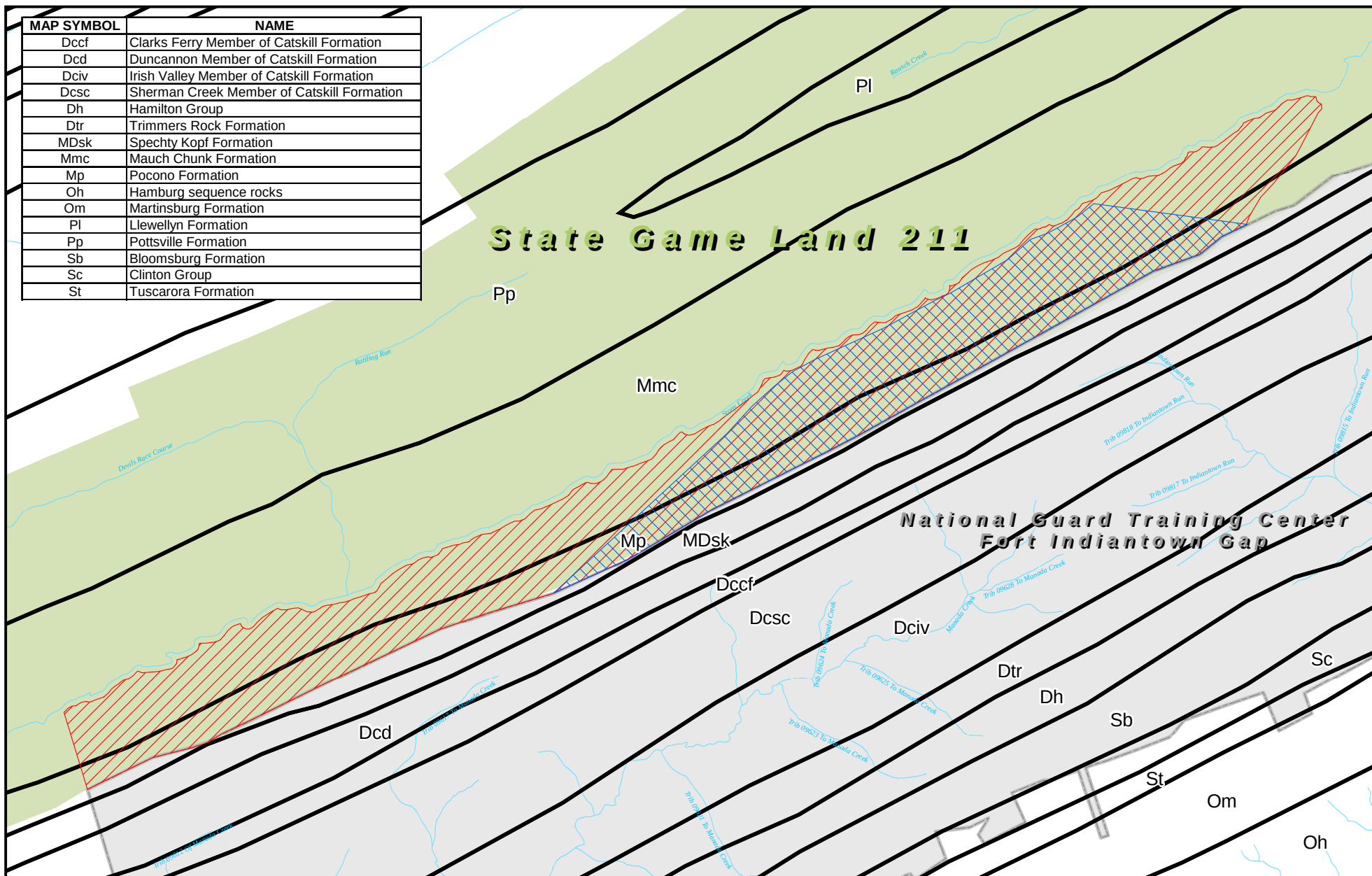


Figure 4-2
Regional Noise Environment
Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania

Source Data: Fort Indiantown Gap Range Control, USACHPPM

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MAP SYMBOL	NAME
Dccf	Clarks Ferry Member of Catskill Formation
Dcd	Duncannon Member of Catskill Formation
Dciv	Irish Valley Member of Catskill Formation
Dcsc	Sherman Creek Member of Catskill Formation
Dh	Hamilton Group
Dtr	Trimmers Rock Formation
MDsk	Spechty Kopf Formation
Mmc	Mauch Chunk Formation
Mp	Pocono Formation
Oh	Hamburg sequence rocks
Om	Martinsburg Formation
Pl	Llewellyn Formation
Pp	Pottsville Formation
Sb	Bloomsburg Formation
Sc	Clinton Group
St	Tuscarora Formation



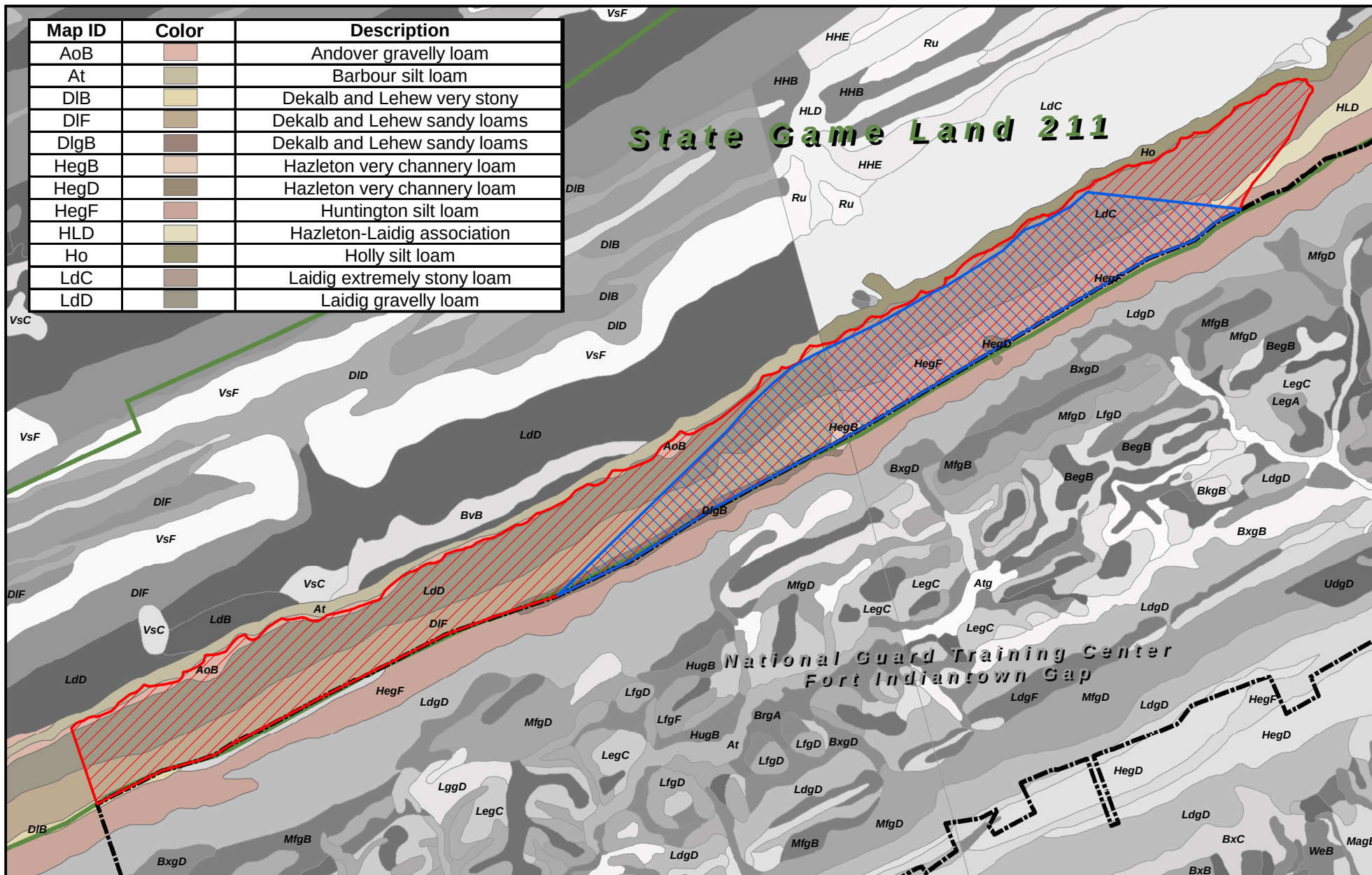
Sources: FTIG GIS & PA Geospatial Data Clearinghouse.

Legend

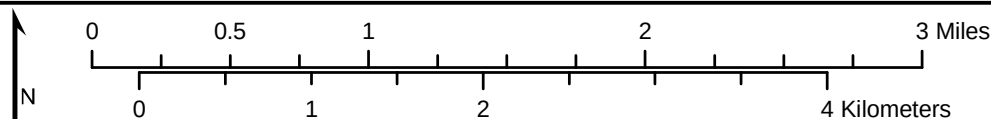
Geology	PA State Gameland	Alternative 2 Boundary
Installation Boundary	Alternative 1 Boundary	

Figure 4-3
Regional Geologic Map
State Game Lands 211
Pennsylvania

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One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462



Sources: FTIG GIS & PA Geospatial Data Clearinghouse.



Legend

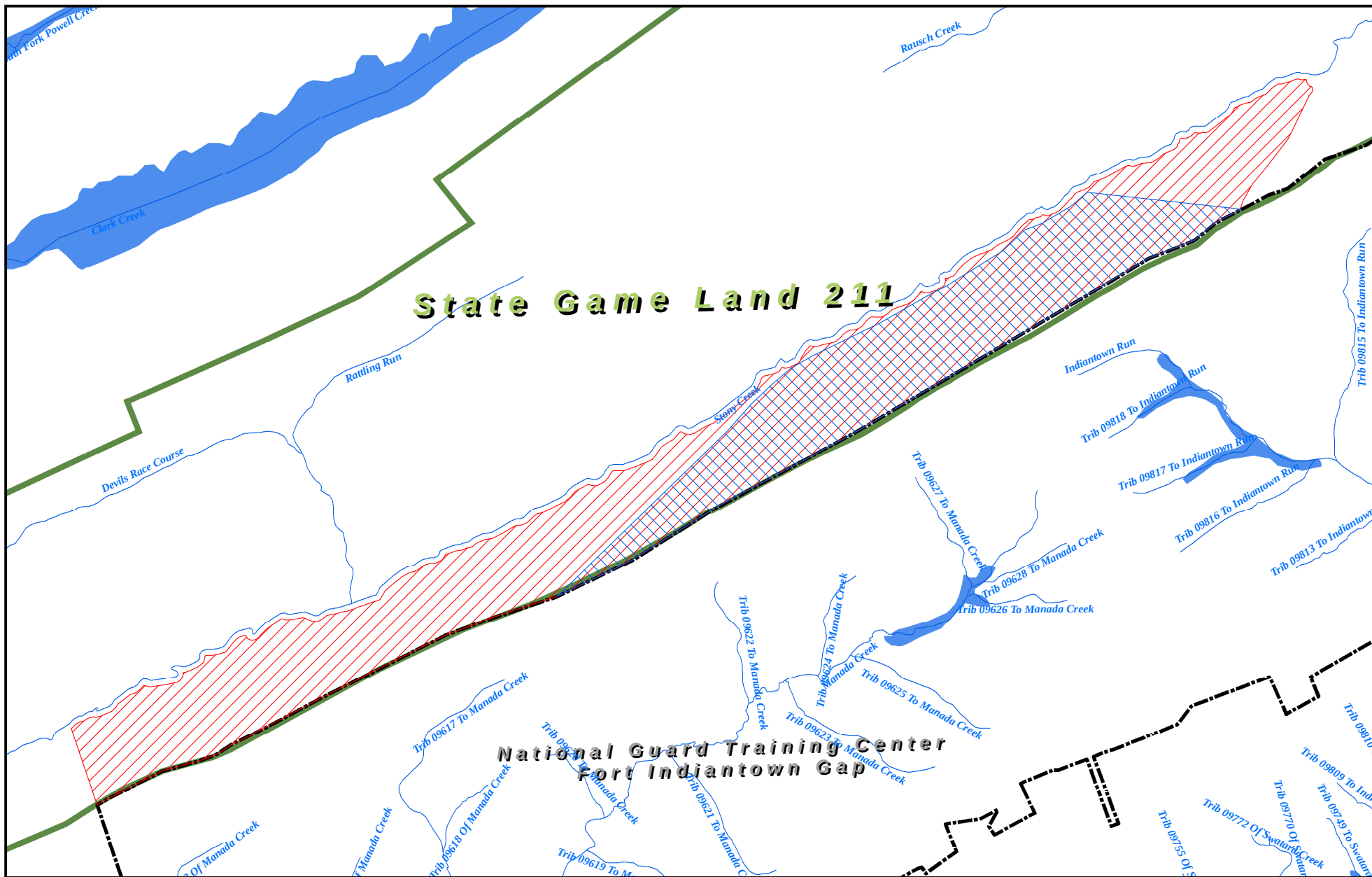
- Alternative 1 Boundary
- Alternative 2 Boundary

- Installation Boundary
- PA State Gameland

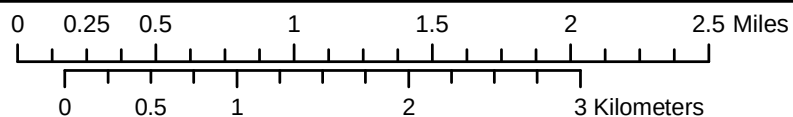
Soils Outside Project Study Area (Not Described in Table Above)

Figure 4-4
Regional Soils Map
State Game Lands 211
Pennsylvania

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Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462



Sources: FTIG GIS & PA Geospatial Data Clearinghouse.



Legend



Installation Boundary



PA State Gameland



Alternative 1 Boundary



Alternative 2 Boundary



100 Year Floodplain

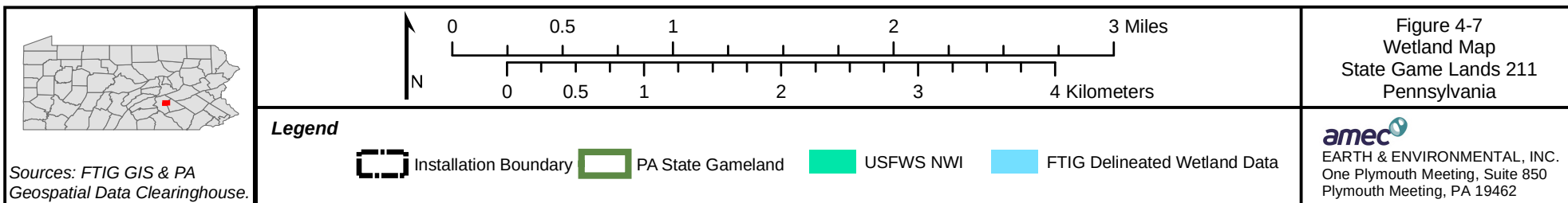
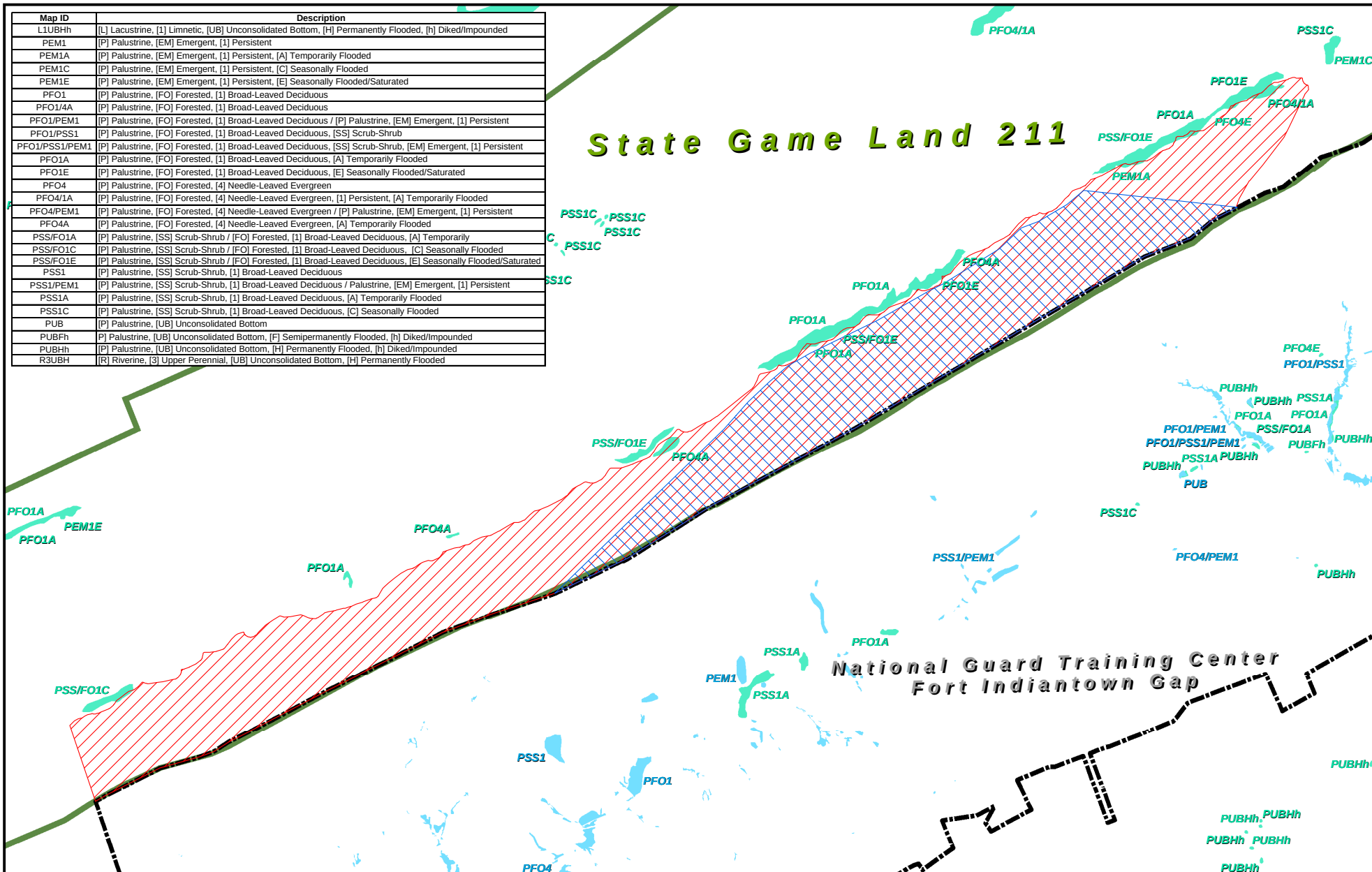


Stream

Figure 4-6
Regional Floodplain Map
State Game Lands 211
Pennsylvania



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Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462





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APPENDIX A

Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning



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Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning Contact List

Federal and Regional Agencies

Appalachian Regional Commission

1666 Connecticut Ave. NW, Room 623
Washington, DC 20009
Attn: Program Operations Division

National Park Service

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
Harpers Ferry Center
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425
Attn: Pamela Underhill, Park Manager

United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993
Attn: State Conservationist

United States Department of Environmental Protection

Office of Environmental Programs
Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Attn: NEPA Coordinator

United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, PA 16801-4850
Attn: David Densmore, Supervisor

Northeast Regional Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589
Attn: Loraine Thomas



Federally-Recognized Native American Tribes

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801-9318
Attn: Karen Kaniatove, THPO

Delaware Nation

P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005
Attn: Phyllis Wahahrockah-Tasi M.H.R., NAGPRA Director

Delaware Tribe of Indians

220 NW Virginia
Bartlesville, OK 74003
Attn: Joe Brooks, Chief

Delaware Tribe of Indians

C/O Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Emporia State University
Roosevelt Hall, Rm 121
1200 Commercial, Box 4022
Emporia, KS 66801
Attn: Dr. Brice Obermeyer, NAGRPA Director

Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma

Executive Committee
P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005
Attn: Bruce Gonzeles, President

Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865
Attn: Charles D. Enyart, Principal Chief

Shawnee Tribe

P.O. Box 189
Miami, OK 74335
Attn: Ron Sparkman, Chief

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655
Attn: James W. Ransom, Chief



Seneca Nation of Indians

12837 Route 438
Irving, NY 14081
Attn: Maurice A. John, President

Oneida Indian Nation of New York

Genesee Street, Ames Plaza
Oneida, NY 13421
Attn: Mr. Raymond Halbritter
Oneida Nation Representative and CEO of the Oneida Nation Enterprises

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

PO Box 1283
Miami, OK 74355
Attn: Leroy Howard, Chief

Tonawanda Seneca Nation

7027 Meadville Road
Basom, New York 14013
Attn: Roger Hill, Chief

Tuscarora Nation

5616 Walmore Road
Lewiston, New York 14092
Attn: Leo R. Henry, Chief

Onondaga Nation

Box 319B
Nedrow, New York 13120
Attn: Irvin Powless, Jr., Chief

Cayuga Nation

P.O. Box 11
Versailles, NY 14168
Attn: Clint Half Town, Representative



State and Local Agencies

**Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry
Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources**

Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Attn: State Forester

Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
Attn: Kathy Prowant, Biodiversity Coordinator, Ecological Services Unit Leader

**Pennsylvania Bureau of Land Management
Pennsylvania Game Commission**

2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Attn: Bill Capouillez, Chief, Environmental Planning Division

2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Attn: Gary Camus, Chief, Federal Aid and Public Access

Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105
Attn: The Hon. Kathleen McGinty, Secretary

South Central Regional Office
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200
Attn: Rachel Diamond, Regional Director

Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

Rachel Carson Office Building
P.O. Box 8767
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767
Attn: The Hon. Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary

**Pennsylvania Bureau of Land Management
Pennsylvania Game Commission**

2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Attn: Carl G. Roe, Executive Director



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

1601 Elmerton Avenue
P.O. Box 67000
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000
Attn: Dr. Douglas J. Austen, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

State Historic Preservation Officer
300 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
Attn: Barbara Franco, Executive Director

Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
Attn: Jean Cutler, Director

Division of Archaeology and Protection
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
Attn: Kurt W. Carr, Chief

The Nature Conservancy

Pennsylvania Field Office
15 East Ridge Pike, Suite 500
Conshohocken, PA 19428

Appalachian Trail Conference

766 Washington Street
P.O. Box 807
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425-0807
Attn: David Startzell, Executive Director

The Manada Conservancy

P.O. Box 25
Hummelstown, PA 17036-0025
Attn: John Conner, President

Swatara Creek Watershed Association

2501 Cumberland Street, Suite 2
Lebanon, PA 17042

Trout Unlimited

Doc Fritchey Chapter
2319 Valley Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17104-1433



State and Local Elected Officials and Governments

State Senator Mike Folmer

Senate District 48
Senate Box 203048
457 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3048

State Senator Jeffrey Piccola

Senate District 15
Senate Box 203015
173 Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3015

Representative Rose Marie Swanger

428 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202102
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2102

Representative Ron Marsico

218 Ryan Office Building
P.O. Box 202105
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2105

East Hanover Township Board of Supervisors

8848 Jonestown Road
Grantville, PA 17028

Lebanon County Board of Commissioners

Rm 207, Municipal Building
400 South 8th Street
Lebanon, PA 17042-6794

Dauphin County Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 1295
Harrisburg, PA 17108

The following letter is an example of the IICEP letter sent to each Government Office and Agency listed above.

17 May 2007

United States Fish & Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, PA 16801-4850
Attn: David Densmore,
Supervisor

RE: Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the establishment of a Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) on approximately 900 acres of State Game Lands (SGL) 211 in connection with the operation of the Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) at the National Guard Training Center - Fort Indiantown Gap (NGTC-FTIG), Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Densmore:

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) propose to establish a SDZ on approximately 900 acres of SGL 211 in connection with the operation of the MPTR at the NGTC-FTIG, Pennsylvania (**Figures 1 and 2**). The EA is being prepared under the provisions of, and in accordance with, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 *et seq.*), the Council of Environmental Quality [CEQ] Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and 32 CFR 651 (Environmental Effects of Army Actions). In addition, the document is being prepared as prescribed in the *NGB NEPA Handbook - Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (Army National Guard [ARNG] NEPA Manual) (NGB 2006).

This EA provides a full comparative analysis of the following three alternatives:

- **Alternative 1: Preferred Alternative** – This alternative includes the establishment of a SDZ on a portion of SGL 211 in connection with the operation of the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Under this alternative, a 900-acre portion of SGL 211 would serve as a SDZ for the MPTR for up to 90 days per calendar year when the MPTR is in operation. A proposed cooperative land use agreement between DMVA and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) would include additional limitations on the use of the 900-acre SDZ and provide for consideration for the PGC allowing this military use of SGL 211 (**Figure 3**).
- **Alternative 2: MPTR Buffer Alternative** – This alternative would involve the establishment of a somewhat larger SDZ extension into SGL 211. Based on earlier MPTR designs involving different firing lane configurations, DMVA would seek approximately 1,900 acres of SGL 211 as a SDZ by means of a land use agreement.

This approach provided for consideration to be paid or given to the PGC in return for establishing the SDZ on SGL 211 (**Figure 4**).

- **Alternative 3: No-Action Alternative** – Under this alternative, the PAARNG would not construct or operate the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG, and no additional SDZ would be required on SGL 211.

A more detailed description of the Proposed Action is provided in the attached Fact Sheet (**Attachment 1**).

The DMVA and PAARNG are currently identifying environmental resources, issues, and constraints associated with the proposed project area, as identified above, in order to effectively assess potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. The DMVA and PAARNG is requesting baseline information regarding any concern that your Agency may have as related to the potential environmental issues at, or in the vicinity of, the proposed action. Specifically any information your Agency can provide about threatened or endangered species or other sensitive environmental resources at or in the vicinity of the sites would be appreciated.

If you are aware of other individuals, organizations, or resource agencies that may have additional environmental information or other pertinent knowledge that may assist us in preparing the EA, please contact us or forward this letter for their review, and include any returned comments with your response. **Attachment 2** provides a list of agencies/offices with which consultation has been initiated.

We, in cooperation with the DMVA and PAARNG, look forward to your participation in this NEPA review process. Your response on or before 18 June 2007 will enable us to complete this phase of the project within the scheduled time frame. If you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (610) 828-8100, or the mailing address listed below. If preferable, you may fax your response to us at (610) 828-6700.

Sincerely,



Brian Sariano
Senior Project Manager
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA. 19462-1308
Tel. (610)828-6126

cc:

John Fronko, *PA DMVA*
Patricia Rickard, *PA DMVA*

MEMORANDUM OF RECORD

Page 1 of 1

DATE: 24 October 2007

PROJECT NAME: Ft. Indiantown Gap – SGL 211 EA

PROJECT #: 37913-0033

RECORDED BY: Brian Sariano

TITLE: Project Manager

COMPANY: AMEC Earth & Environmental

TOPIC: USFWS IICEP

This memorandum documents AMEC's attempt to solicit input from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in association with the above-referenced project. The following is a summary chronology regarding our efforts to contact USFWS and in getting a response:

17 May 2007 - Mail out the original IICEP Letter to both the USFWS office in Hadley MA, and State College, PA.

July-August 2007- Several attempts to call David Densmore at USFWS to inquire about response. Left messages in all cases, no calls back were received.

8 August 2007 - Still no response from USFWS - AMEC calls Densmore and the general number at USFWS, finally contacts Tammy Palmater who says they never received the original letter. AMEC faxes a copy of the letter over right away.

2 October 2007 - Call USFWS, no answers. AMEC left messages.

3 October 2007 - Fax USFWS another copy of the letter (the third time we sent out).

5 October 2007 - AMEC calls USFWS and is directed to Bonnie (no last name) who supposedly deals with information requests letters. No answer, left message.

10 October 2007 – AMEC calls USFWS and is directed to Pamela Shellenberger. Ms. Shellenberger states that no letter request had been received. AMEC immediately emails a copy of the original IICEP letter and a return receipt was received. Ms. Shellenberger replies through email stating that Jennifer Kagel is working on the IICEP response letter; however, Ms. Kagel was not in the office at the moment. Ms. Kagel was sent an email about the request.

12 October 2007 – AMEC spoke with Ms. Kagel at USFWS in State College, PA. Ms. Kagel indicated that the IICEP letter had been forwarded on to the Regional USFWS Office in Hadley, MA. Ms. Kagel also stated that the person in the regional office who is working on the project and will be responding would be Mr. Paul O'Neil. Telephone and fax number for Mr. O'Neil was also provided.

15 October 2007 – AMEC contacts Paul O'Neil at USFWS in Hadley MA. Mr. O'Neil explained that the IICEP request has been directed to him. The State College, PA USFWS was apparently reluctant respond to the IICEP request. Mr. O'Neil indicated that he had been contacted a while back by State College USFWS regarding our IICEP request and had submitted an internal memo with his office's recommended in-put, but that State College office had apparently not made a reply. State College USFWS decided to not respond.

24 October 2007 – As of this date no official response from USFWS has been received.

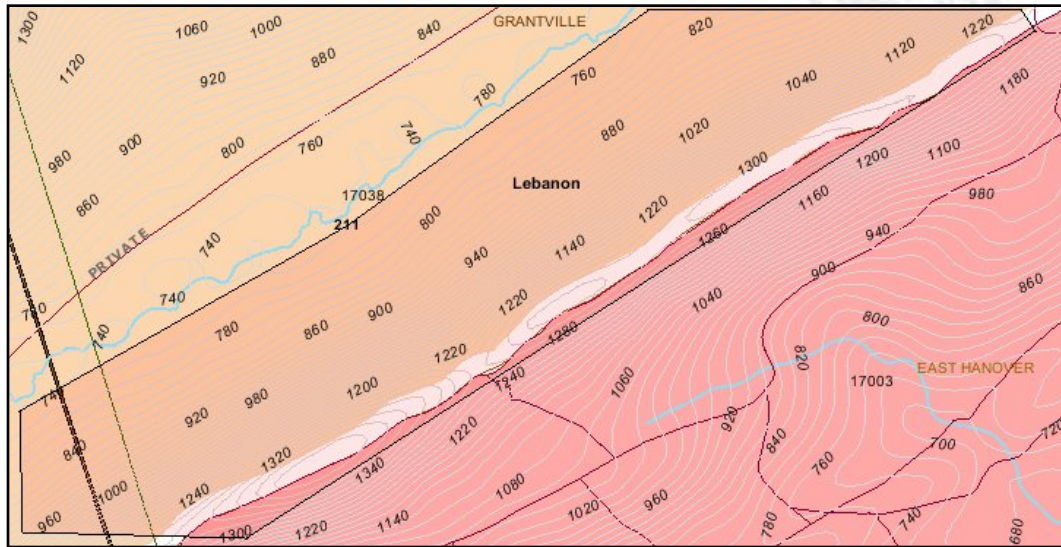
PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt

Project Search ID: 20070509090948

Project Name: SGL 211

Date: 5/9/2007 10:49:55 AM

Project Location



Project Name: SGL 211

On Behalf Of: Self

Project Search ID: 20070509090948

Date: 5/9/2007 10:49:37 AM

of Potential Impacts: 5

Jurisdictional Agency:

Pennsylvania Game Commission,

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Project Category: Military and Law Enforcement Activities, Training-on ground

Project Location

Decimal Degrees: 40.45352 N, -76.67405 W

Degrees Minutes Seconds: 40° 27' 12.7" N, 76° 40' 26.6" W

Lambert: 374535.84822459, 534143.89180678 ft

ZIP Code: 17028, 17003, 17038

County: Dauphin, Lebanon

Township/Municipality: EAST HANOVER, COLD SPRING, EAST HANOVER

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle ID: 166

Quadrangle Name: GRANTVILLE

Project Area: 674.4 acres

Location Accuracy

Project locations are assumed to be both precise and accurate for the purposes of environmental review. The creator/owner of the Project Review Receipt is solely responsible for the project location and thus the correctness of the Project Review Receipt content.

5 Potential Impacts

Under the Following Agencies' Jurisdiction:
Pennsylvania Game Commission,
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources,
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP)

Please note that regardless of PNDI search results, projects requiring a Chapter 105 DEP individual permit or GP 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 11 in certain counties (Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill and York) are required by DEP to comply with the bog turtle habitat screening requirements of the PASPGP.

PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt

Project Search ID: 20070509090948

Project Name: SGL 211

Date: 5/9/2007 10:49:55 AM

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate there are potential impacts on special concern species and resources within the project area. If the project is pursued, the jurisdictional agency/agencies indicated require that the instructions below regarding potential impacts and/or avoidance measures be followed in their entirety.

Q1: Will the entire project occur within an existing building, parking lot, driveway, road, street, or maintained (periodically mowed) lawn?

Your answer is: **2. No**

Please initial here signifying that you have provided the most accurate answer to the question as possible.

APPLICANT INITIALS: _____

AVOIDANCE AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory records indicate there are potential impacts on special concern species and resources within the project area. One or more of these potential impacts may be resolved by following required Avoidance Measures. An Avoidance Measure is an action to be taken or a guideline to be followed during the completion of the project. The intent of an Avoidance Measure is to minimize the impact of the project on ecological resources. Avoidance measures, where indicated, are required by DEP and the jurisdictional agencies in order to avoid further consultation regarding this potential impact.

If the applicant initials this receipt certifying that the avoidance measure will be taken, no contact with the jurisdictional agency is required for that potential impact to be considered resolved.

If the applicant cannot certify that the avoidance measure can be carried out, the applicant is required by the jurisdictional agency/agencies to contact the agency/agencies. The contact information for each agency is located at the end of the receipt.

Conservation measures are activities recommended by the jurisdictional agencies. Conservation measures are encouraged but not required and may be pursued at the discretion of the DEP program based on their knowledge of the project and site. It is not necessary to initial this receipt for conservation measures.

Listed below are Avoidance Measures and/or Conservation Measures generated by this proposed project.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission : Avoidance Measure: Maintain a 100-foot buffer between the proposed activity and any spring seeps, sinkholes, and caves.

To certify that you will carry out the Avoidance Measure listed PLEASE INITIAL HERE : _____ (You do not need to initial for Conservation Measures)

If there are potential impacts listed in the following section, the applicant is required by the jurisdictional agencies to contact each of the listed agencies, regardless of the listed Avoidance and/or Conservation Measures.

These determinations were based on the project-specific information you provided, including the exact project location; the project type, description, and features; and any responses to questions that were generated during this search. If any of the information you provided does not accurately reflect this project, or if project plans change, DEP and the jurisdictional agencies require that another PNDI review be conducted.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is good for one(1) year from the date of this PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt.

PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt

Project Search ID: 20070509090948

Project Name: SGL 211

Date: 5/9/2007 10:49:55 AM

1 potential impact

The Applicant should MAIL/FAX a copy of this Project Environmental Review Receipt, a cover letter with project narrative, acreage to be impacted, how construction/maintenance activity is to be accomplished, township/municipality and county where project is located, and a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle with project boundary and quad name marked on the map.

Bureau of Land Management
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Division of Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
FAX Number: (717) 787-6957

Please mail or fax only one (1) copy of the project review request. Do not email the project information. The search results provided by this review are specific to species of special concern. The Pennsylvania Game Commission reserves the right to comment on additional aspects of this project (Ex. wetland or stream impacts).

2 potential impacts

The Applicant should MAIL/FAX a copy of this Project Environmental Review Receipt, a cover letter with project narrative, acreage to be impacted, how construction/maintenance activity is to be accomplished, township/municipality and county where project is located, and a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle with project boundary and quad name marked on the map.

Ecological Services Section
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry
P.O. Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
FAX Number: (717) 772-0271

1 potential impact

The Applicant should MAIL/FAX a copy of this Project Environmental Review Receipt, a cover letter with project narrative, acreage to be impacted, how construction/maintenance activity is to be accomplished, township/municipality and county where project is located, and a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle with project boundary and quad name marked on the map.

Natural Diversity Section
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Division of Environmental Services
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Please mail only one (1) copy of the project review request. Do not email the project information. Allow 30 days for completion of the project review from the date of PFBC receipt of the project review request.

Based on the project-specific information you provided, no impacts to federally listed, proposed, or candidate species are anticipated. Therefore, no further consultation under the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.* is required with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Because no take of federally listed species is anticipated, none is authorized. For a list of species that could occur in your project area (but have not been documented in PNDI), please see the county lists of threatened, endangered, and candidate species. A field visit or survey may reveal previously undocumented populations of one or more threatened or endangered species with a project area. If it is determined that any federally listed species occur in your project area, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires that you initiate consultation to identify and resolve any conflicts. This response does not reflect potential Fish and Wildlife Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or other authorities.

PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt

Project Search ID: 20070509090948

Project Name: SGL 211

Date: 5/9/2007 10:49:55 AM

DISCLAIMER

The PNDI environmental review website is a preliminary environmental screening tool. It is not a substitute for information obtained from a field survey of the project area conducted by a biologist. Such surveys may reveal previously undocumented populations of species of special concern. In addition, the PNDI only contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program.

Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP)

Please note that regardless of PNDI search results, projects requiring a Chapter 105 DEP individual permit or GP 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 11 in certain counties (Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill and York) are required by DEP to comply with the bog turtle habitat screening requirements of the PASPGP.

TERMS OF USE

Upon signing into the PNDI environmental review website, and as a condition of using it, you agreed to certain terms of use. These are as follows:

The web site is intended solely for the purpose of screening projects for potential impacts on resources of special concern in accordance with the instructions provided on the web site. Use of the web site for any other purpose or in any other way is prohibited and subject to criminal prosecution under federal and state law, including but not limited to the following: Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986, as amended, 18 U.S.C. § 1030; Pennsylvania Crimes Code, § 4911 (tampering with public records or information), § 7611 (unlawful use of computer and other computer crimes), § 7612 (disruption of service), § 7613 (computer theft), § 7614 (unlawful duplication), and § 7615 (computer trespass).

The PNHP reserves the right at any time and without notice to modify or suspend the web site and to terminate or restrict access to it.

The terms of use may be revised from time to time. By continuing to use the web site after changes to the terms have been posted, the user has agreed to accept such changes.

This review is based on the project information that was entered. The jurisdictional agencies and DEP require that the review be redone if the project area, location, or the type of project changes. If additional information on species of special concern becomes available, this review may be reconsidered by the jurisdictional agency.

PRIVACY and SECURITY

This web site operates on a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania computer system. It maintains a record of each environmental review search result as well as contact information for the project applicant. These records are maintained for internal tracking purposes. Information collected in this application will be made available only to the jurisdictional agencies and to the Department of Environmental Protection, except if required for law enforcement purposes—see paragraph below.

This system is monitored to ensure proper operation, to verify the functioning of applicable security features, and for other like purposes. Anyone using this system consents to such monitoring and is advised that if such monitoring reveals evidence of possible criminal activity, system personnel may provide the evidence to law enforcement officials. See Terms of Use.

In order for this project to be considered for subsequent review, a signed and initialed copy of this receipt is required by the agency or agencies indicated. DEP requires that a signed and initialed copy of this receipt, along with any required documentation from jurisdictional agencies

PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt

Project Search ID: 20070509090948

Project Name: SGL 211

Date: 5/9/2007 10:49:55 AM

concerning resolution of potential impacts, be submitted in applications for permits requiring PNDI review. See DEP PNDI policy at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us or visit the following websites for further information.

Regional Offices

[Http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/fieldops/map.pdf](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/fieldops/map.pdf)

District Mining Operations

[Http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/Districts/homepage/Default.htm](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/Districts/homepage/Default.htm)

Oil and Gas Management

[Http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/OILGAS/CustomerNeeds.htm](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/OILGAS/CustomerNeeds.htm)

Print this Project Review Receipt using your Internet browser's print function and keep it as a record of your search.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Project applicant on whose behalf this search was conducted:

APPLICANT

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PERSON CONDUCTING SEARCH (if not applicant)

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The following contact information is for the agencies involved in this Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory environmental review process. Please read this entire receipt carefully as it contains instructions for how to contact these agencies for further review of this particular project.

Bureau of Land Management
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Division of Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
FAX Number: (717) 787-6957

Ecological Services Section
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry
P.O. Box 8552

PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt

Project Search ID: 20070509090948

Project Name: SGL 211

Date: 5/9/2007 10:49:55 AM

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

FAX Number: (717) 772-0271

Natural Diversity Section

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Division of Environmental Services

450 Robinson Lane

Bellefonte, PA 16823





Bureau of Forestry

June 26, 2007

Brian Sariano
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1308

<i>Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Review, PNDI Number 19249</i>
Establishment of Surface Danger Zone on State Gamelands 211 at Multi-Purpose Training Range at the National Guard Training Center—Fort Indiantown Gap
Dauphin & Lebanon Counties

Dear Mr. Sariano,

This responds to your request about a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) ER Tool "Potential Impact" or a species of special concern impact review. We screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of special concern under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' responsibility, which includes plants, natural communities, terrestrial invertebrates and geologic features only.

PNDI records indicate that species and communities of special concern under DCNR's jurisdiction are known to occur in the vicinity of the above-mentioned project. **Please see the attached list for species found in the project area. If any earth disturbance is planned or more detailed project information becomes available, please submit this project to our office for further review of potential impacts to the attached species list.**

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is good for one (1) year from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on-site. A field survey of any site may reveal previously unreported populations. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This finding applies to impacts to plants, natural communities, terrestrial invertebrates and geologic features only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed species of special concern, please be sure the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission has been contacted regarding this project either directly or by performing a search with the online PNDI ER Tool found at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Rebecca H. Bowen, Environmental Review Specialist

DCNR/BOF/PNDI, PO Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105 ~ Ph: 717-772-0258 ~ F: 717-772-0271 ~ crbowen@state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Review, PNDI Number 19249
ALTERNATIVE 1:
Plant Species of Special Concern

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status	Proposed Status	Habitat	Flowering Time/Survey Time
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	PA Threatened	PA Threatened	moist alluvial woods and wooded slopes	flowers May - early June, fruits October - winter
<i>Paronychia fastigiata</i> var. <i>nuttallii</i>	Forked-chickweed	Tenatively Undetermined	PA Endangered	open woods and edges in dry, rocky, or sandy soils	flowers July - September
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	Netted Chainfern	Not Protected	PA Threatened	moist woods, in humus-rich, strongly acidic soils	

Butterfly Species of Special Concern

Species Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Habitat	Larval Host	Adult Food
<i>Anisota stigma</i>	Spiny Oakworm Moth	Secure	Imperiled to Critically Imperiled	deciduous woods	various oaks	Adults do not feed
<i>Euphyes conspicuus</i>	Black Dash	Apparently Secure	Vulnerable	boggy marshes, wet fens and marshy streambanks	Sedges (<i>Carex</i>), upright sedge and others	nectar from flowers including buttonbush, jewelweed and swamp thistle
<i>Hesperia leonardus</i>	Leonard's Skipper	Apparently Secure	Vulnerable to Apparently Secure	Open grassy areas including native prairies, fields, barrens and meadows	Various perennial grasses including little bluestem (<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>), blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>), and bent grass (<i>Agrostis</i>).	Flower nectar, especially from blazing star (<i>Liatris punctata</i>), but also thistles, asters, teasel, and others.
<i>Lagoa crispata</i>	Black-waved Flannel Moth	Secure	Imperiled	deciduous woods	Larvae feed on many different trees and shrubs, willow, iris, cattails	Adults do not feed
<i>Speyeria idalia</i>	Regal Fritillary	Vulnerable	Imperiled	Tall-grass prairie and other open sites including damp meadows, marshes, wet fields, and mountain pastures.	Violets (<i>Viola</i>)	Nectar from flowers of milkweeds, thistles, red clover, and mountain mint.

<i>Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Review, PNDI Number 19249</i>
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ALTERNATIVE 2:**Plant Species of Special Concern**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status	Proposed Status	Habitat	Flowering Time/Survey Time
<i>Gentiana villosa</i>	Striped Gentian	Tentatively Undetermined	PA Endangered	dry open woods and edges, also thickets on serpentine barrens	Flowers September - October
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	PA Threatened	PA Threatened	moist alluvial woods and wooded slopes	flowers May - early June, fruits October - winter
<i>Paronychia fastigiata</i> var. <i>nuttallii</i>	Forked-chickweed	Tentatively Undetermined	PA Endangered	open woods and edges in dry, rocky, or sandy soils	flowers July - September
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	Netted Chainfern	Not Protected	PA Threatened	moist woods, in humus-rich, strongly acidic soils	Found in Spring & Summer

Butterfly Species of Special Concern

Species Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Habitat	Larval Host	Adult Food
<i>Anisota stigma</i>	Spiny Oakworm Moth	Secure	Imperiled to Critically Imperiled	deciduous woods	various oaks	Adults do not feed
<i>Euphyes conspicuus</i>	Black Dash	Apparently Secure	Vulnerable	boggy marshes, wet fens and marshy streambanks	Sedges (<i>Carex</i>), upright sedge and others	nectar from flowers including buttonbush, jewelweed and swamp thistle
<i>Hesperia leonardus</i>	Leonard's Skipper	Apparently Secure	Vulnerable to Apparently Secure	Open grassy areas including native prairies, fields, barrens and meadows	Various perennial grasses including little bluestem (<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>), blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>), and bent grass (<i>Agrostis</i>).	Flower nectar, especially from blazing star (<i>Liatris punctata</i>), but also thistles, asters, teasel, and others.
<i>Lagoa crispata</i>	Black-waved Flannel Moth	Secure	Imperiled	deciduous woods	Larvae feed on many different trees and shrubs, willow, iris, cattails	Adults do not feed
<i>Speyeria idalia</i>	Regal Fritillary	Vulnerable	Imperiled	Tall-grass prairie and other open sites including damp meadows, marshes, wet fields, and mountain pastures.	Violets (<i>Viola</i>)	Nectar from flowers of milkweeds, thistles, red clover, and mountain mint.

ALTERNATIVE 3: No Impact since no SDZ is being proposed.

June 10, 2007

Brian Sariano
Senior Project Manager
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting PA 19462-1308

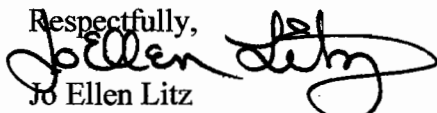
Dear Sir:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning knowledge of any environmental issues related to baseline information at, or in the vicinity of 900 acres of State Game Land 211, which would be managed by the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. My understanding of the facts concerning the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs (DMVA) and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's (PAARNG) proposal are as follows:

1. This is an interagency and intergovernmental cooperative effort that is necessary to protect the public from potential ricochets and is a safety danger zone (SDZ) for a maximum of 90 days annually.
2. There would be no development, construction or subdivision of the proposed SDZ within SGL 211, and there would be no military training within the SDZ on SGL 211.
3. No roads would be built.
4. There would be no direct impact on Stony Creek, the Rails to Trails, or the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Through my work with the Swatara Creek Watershed Association and in my position as a Lebanon County Commissioner, I am not aware of any environmental issues related to baseline information at, or in the vicinity of 900 acres of State Game Land 211.

Respectfully,


Jo Ellen Litz
2501 Cumberland St., Suite 4
Lebanon Pa 17042

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

July 16, 2007

Mr. Brian Sariano
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1308

Re: Surface Danger Zone SGL 211
Lebanon County, PA

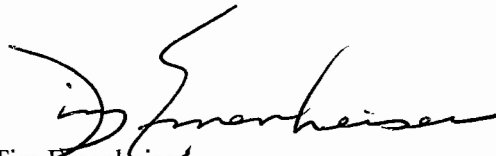
As requested in a letter dated May 17, 2007, we have reviewed the project location for possible areas of concern to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The project is entirely within the boundaries of SGL 211 and does not involve any significant earth disturbances. No federally-designated farmlands exist in the proposed project area.

Many of the soil mapping units in the project area are not classified as wetlands themselves, but may have small inclusions of wetlands within them that are too small to identify on a map at the scale of the soil survey map. An on-site investigation should be done to determine the presence of wetlands.

As for any project involving earthmoving, both temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control practices should be planned, implemented and maintained. We recommend consultation with appropriate county conservation districts for review of erosion and sedimentation control plans and practices.

Contact me at (717) 237-2218; FAX (717) 237-2238; email:timothy.emenheiser@pa.usda.gov if you need more information.



Tim Emenheiser
Resource Conservationist

cc: Matt McCourt, Supervising DC (Acting), Lebanon, PA

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An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



ONEIDA INDIAN NATION



LAURA MISITA
PARALEGAL/LAND ADMINISTRATOR

DIRECT DIAL: (315) 361-8188
FACSIMILE: (315) 361-8009
E-MAIL: lmisita@oneida-nation.org

ONEIDA NATION HOMELANDS

June 28, 2007

Rita L. Meneses
Cultural Resources Manager
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Adjutant General's Office
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Fort Indian Gap
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-5002

Re: Establishment of a Surface Danger Zone on approximately 900 acres of State Game Lands 211 in connection with the operation of the Multi-Purpose Training Range at the National Guard Training Center-Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Meneses,

Thank you for inviting the Oneida Indian Nation to consult on this project. We know of nothing culturally significant to the Oneida Indian Nation at the location you indicated.

Although there appears to be no planned construction or land altering activities, please notify us in the event Native cultural materials are encountered during any phases of the project.

Very truly yours,

ONEIDA INDIAN NATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Misita".

Laura Misita
Paralegal/Land Administrator

cc: Brian Patterson, Bear Clan Representative
Peter Carmen, General Counsel, Oneida Indian Nation

PO Box 126 • 5218 Patrick Road • Verona, New York 13478



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 2063

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

June 20, 2007

Secretary

717-787-2814

Mr. Brian Sariano
Senior Project Manager
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1308

Dear Mr. Sariano:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide baseline information and comments on environmental issues associated with the potential establishment of a Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) on State Game Lands (SGL) 211 in connection with the operation of the Multi-Purpose Training Range at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The Southcentral Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has the following information available regarding streams in the vicinity. If you are interested in this material, please contact Mr. Robert Schott in the Water Management Program by e-mail at rschott@state.pa.us or by phone at 717-705-4707.

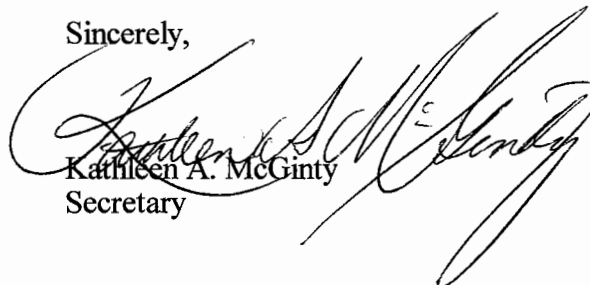
- Aquatic biology investigation reports on Stony Creek dated September 10, 1996, and May 18, 1999
- Additional information on Stony Creek dating back to the 1970's
- An aquatic biology investigation report on Indiantown Run dated October 1995

As you proceed with preparing the Environmental Assessment, please consider the types and amounts of hazardous fragments that would be landing along the strip of SGL 211 bordering Stony Creek and possibly in Stony Creek. Stony Creek is acidic, and possible mobilization of lead in ammunition components may be a concern should fragments fall into the stream.

Also, please consider whether the State Game Lands areas within the SDZ will be prone to accelerated erosion due to the impact of fragments disturbing the ground surface.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Michael D. Sherman, Deputy Secretary for Field Operations, by e-mail at msherman@state.pa.us or by phone at 717-787-5028 or Ms. Rachel Diamond, Director of the Southcentral Regional Office, by e-mail at rdiamond@state.pa.us or by phone at 717-705-4704.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Secretary

cc: John Fronko, PA DMVA
Patricia Rickard, PA DMVA





Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us

June 15, 2007

Brian Sariano
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1308

TO EXPEDITE REVIEW USL
BHP REFERENCE NUMBER

Re: File No. ER 91-3046-075-NNN
DOD: Establishment of Surface Danger
Zone on Approx. 900 Acres of State
Game Lands 211, Operation of
Multi-Purpose Training Range at
National Guard Training Center, Fort
Indiantown Gap, Annville, Lebanon
County

Dear Mr. Sariano:

The Bureau for Historic Preservation (the State Historic Preservation Office) has reviewed the above named project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992, and the regulations (36 CFR Part 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These requirements include consideration of the project's potential effect upon both historic and archaeological resources.

There may be historic buildings, structures, and/or archaeological resources located in the project area. In our opinion the activities described in your proposal should have no effect on these resources. Should you become aware, from any source, that unidentified historic buildings, structures, and or archaeological resources are located at the project site, or that the project activities will have an effect on these properties, the Bureau for Historic Preservation should immediately be contacted.

If you need further information regarding archaeological survey please contact Doug McLearn at (717) 772-0924. If you need further information concerning historic structures please consult Susan Zacher at (717) 783-9920.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. McLearn, Chief
Division of Archaeology &
Protection

DCM/tmw



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

Bureau of Fisheries
Division of Environmental Services
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-359-5115
July 3, 2007

Brian Sariano
Senior Project Manager
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1308

Re: Dauphin and Lebanon Counties
National Guard Training Center
Fort Indiantown Gap
Proposed Surface Danger Zone

Dear Mr. Sariano:

Reference is made to your recent memo concerning the proposal to designate 900 acres of State Game Lands 211 as a Surface Danger Zone. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has reviewed the 900 acre site and has two concerns, which are as follows:

1. Stony Creek is an approved stocked trout stream from Cold Spring Road (T-340) downstream to the mouth. This stream provides recreational angling throughout the year and a walking/biking trail through State Game Lands 211 is used to access to the upper portion of the watershed.
2. Based on records maintained in the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) and PFBC files, the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*, PA candidate) is known to occur from the project vicinity.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to comment and please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

David E. Spotts, Chief
Watershed Analysis Section

Our Mission:

www.fish.state.pa.us

To provide fishing and boating opportunities through the protection and management of aquatic resources.

ROSEMARIE SWANGER, MEMBER
102ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
PO BOX 202102
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2102
717-787-2686
FAX 717-772-8418

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2134 W. MAPLE ST.
LEBANON, PA 17046
717-277-2101
FAX 717-277-2105



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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WWW.REPSWANGER.COM
RSWANGER@PAHOUSEGOP.COM

June 13, 2007

Mr. Brian Sariano
Senior Project Manager
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1308

Dear Mr. Sariano:

Thank you for your May 17 letter concerning the establishment of a Surface Danger Zone on the State Game Lands at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap.

I would like to add 2 organizations to your list of contacts for this area. One is the Stony Creek Valley Coalition, Inc. Stony Creek Valley is a 45,000 acre wilderness and is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as Gameland 211. The contacts for Stony Valley Coalition are:

Randall Hurst, 3629 N. 6th St., Harrisburg, PA 17110-1517,
717-231-5215, fax 236-1816, rghurst@mette.com
Michael Kneasel, 2202 Weavertown Rd., Lebanon, PA 17046
717-821-1388 cell, 717-273-7822 home, cycle17046@aol.com
Joan Renninger, 174 Brownstone Park, Hummelstown, PA 17036
717-566-3460, GRAYJAY175@comcast.net
Dale Ibberson, 445 Hale Ave., Harrisburg, PA 170104
717-238-2198, ibberson@paonline.com

The second organization I would suggest contacting is the US Fish & Wildlife Services. The contact there is:

Mr. Marvin Moriarity, Regional Director, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Mass. 01035-9589.

Thank you for the opportunity to put you in touch with these organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. M. Swanger".

RoseMarie Swanger
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
102nd Legislative District



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
 2001 ELMERTON AVENUE, HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

June 15, 2007

COPY

Mr. Brian Sariano
 AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
 One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

In re: Surface Danger Zone for Multi-Purpose Training Range
 Located on State Game Land #211
 National Guard Training Center - Fort Indiantown Gap
 Dauphin & Lebanon Counties, PA

Dear Mr. Sariano:

This is in response to your letter dated May 17, 2007 requesting information concerning state listed endangered and threatened species of birds and mammals as related to this project.

The Allegheny woodrat (*Neotoma magister*) occurs in close proximity to the Surface Danger Zone. Based on the current level of information that we have, there will be no direct impacts to woodrat habitat so the project should not have any known impact on state listed bird and mammal species based on our office review. Should project plans extend beyond the present study area, or if additional information on endangered or threatened species of birds or mammals becomes available, this review may be reconsidered. This reply relates only to species of special concern and does not address other potential concerns of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Attachment 2 (Agency Consultation) does not include the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and they should be contacted in regards to potential impacts to species of special concern under their jurisdiction.

Please contact me at (717) 783-5957 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Kevin L. Mixon
 Division of Environmental
 Planning and Habitat Protection
 Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUS:

PERSONNEL: 717-787-7836 ADMINISTRATION: 717-787-5670 AUTOMOTIVE AND PROCUREMENT DIVISION: 717-787-6594
 LICENSE DIVISION: 717-787-2084 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 717-787-5529 INFORMATION & EDUCATION: 717-787-6286 LAW ENFORCEMENT: 717-787-5740
 LAND MANAGEMENT: 717-787-8818 REAL ESTATE DIVISION: 717-787-8568 AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS: 717-787-4076 FAX: 717-772-2411

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief James W. Ransom
Chief Lorraine M. White
Chief Barbara A. Lazore
Sub-Chief Ronald LaFrance, Jr.
Sub-Chief Donald D. Thompson, Sr.
Sub-Chief Stacy A. Adams

May 24, 2007

Rita Meneses
Cultural Resource Manager
DMV-VA
Adjunct General's Office
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5002

She:kon/ Greetings Ms. Meneses,

Thank you for your letter dated May 17, 2007 regarding the establishment of a Surface Danger Zone at the National Guard Training Center -Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pennsylvania.

This project is outside the area of concern for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. We respectfully defer to the Onondaga Nation, the Oneida Nation, the Seneca Nation and the Delaware Nation on projects in Pennsylvania.

Sken:nen/Peace,

Sheree Bonaparte
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, New York 13655
Phone: 518-358-2272
Fax: 518-358-3203



APPENDIX B

NEPA Concepts and Terminology



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APPENDIX B NEPA CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGY

B.1 Definition of Key Terms

B.1.1 Land Use

Land use includes natural conditions or human-modified conditions and activities occurring at a particular location. Human-modified land use categories include residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, communications, utilities, agricultural, institutional, recreational, and other developed use areas. Management plans and zoning regulations determine the type and extent of land use allowable in specific areas and are often intended to protect specially designated or environmentally sensitive areas.

B.1.2 Aesthetics and Visual Resources

Visual resources are defined as the natural and manufactured features that comprise an area's aesthetic qualities. These features form an observer's overall impression of an area or of its landscape character. Landforms, water surfaces, vegetation, and manufactured features are considered characteristic of an area if they are inherent to the structure and function of a landscape.

B.1.3 Floodplains

Floodplains are generally areas of low, level ground located on one or both sides of a stream channel that are subject to either periodic or infrequent inundation by floodwaters. Floodplains are most likely the result of the natural processes of lateral erosion and deposition that occur as a river valley widens. The porous material that composes the floodplain is conducive to retaining water that enters the soil via flooding events and elevated groundwater tables. Periodic inundation dangers associated with floodplains have prompted Federal, state, and local legislation to limit development in these areas to recreation, agriculture, and preservation activities. FEMA regulates floodplains with standards outlined in 44 CFR 60.3.

B.1.4 Wetlands

Wetlands are defined as areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do or would support, a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth/reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas, such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds.

B.1.5 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are prehistoric and historic sites, structures, districts, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or a community for



scientific, traditional, and/or religious reasons (36 CFR 64). For the purposes of this SEA, based on statutory requirements, the term cultural resources is defined to include:

- Historic properties, as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended
- Cultural items, as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)
- Archaeological resources, as defined in the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA)
- Historic and paleontological resources, as defined by the Antiquities Act of 1906, as amended
- Sites that are scientifically significant, as defined by the Archeological and Historic Data Preservation Act (AHPA)
- Sacred sites, as defined in EO 13007, to which access and use is permitted under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA)
- Collections, as defined in 36 CFR 79, Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Collections.

In brief, cultural resources include archaeological, architectural, and traditional resources:

- **Archaeological resources** consist of locations where prehistoric or historic activity measurably altered the earth or produced deposits of physical remains, such as arrowheads and bottles.
- **Architectural resources** include standing buildings, districts, bridges, dams, and other structures of historic or aesthetic significance. Architectural resources generally must be more than 50 years old to be considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), an inventory of culturally significant resources identified in the United States. However, more recent structures, such as Cold War-era resources, may warrant protection if they have the potential to gain significance in the future.
- **Traditional resources** include locations of historic occupations and events, historic and contemporary sacred and ceremonial areas, prominent topographical areas, traditional hunting and gathering areas, and other resources that Native Americans or other groups consider essential for the survival of their traditional culture.

B.1.6 Direct Versus Indirect Impacts

The terms *impact* and *effect* are used synonymously in this SEA. Impacts may be determined to be beneficial or adverse, and may apply to the full range of natural, aesthetic, historic, cultural, and economic resources of the project study area and its environment. Definitions and examples of direct and indirect impacts are used in this SEA as follows:

- **Direct Impact:** A direct impact is caused by the Proposed Action, and occurs at the same time and place as the Proposed Action.



- **Indirect Impact:** An indirect impact is caused by the Proposed Action and occurs later in time, or is farther removed in distance, but is still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect impacts may include induced changes in land use pattern, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air, water, and other natural and social systems.
- **Application of Direct Versus Indirect Impacts:** For direct impacts to occur, a resource must be present in a particular study area. For example, if vegetation resources were disturbed in a particular area, a direct impact to wildlife would occur as a result of displacement from available habitat. This displacement from habitat would indirectly affect habitat in adjacent areas by increasing the wildlife population in those areas.

B.1.7 Short-Term Versus Long-Term Impacts

In addition to indicating if impacts are direct or indirect, this SEA differentiates between short- and long-term impacts, where appropriate. In this context, “short term” and “long –term” do not refer to any rigid time period and are determined on a case-by-case basis in terms of anticipated consequences of the Proposed Action.

B.1.8 Cumulative Impacts

As described in **Section 2.0**, the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, National Guard Training Center - Fort Indiantown Gap propose alterations to the project study area to provide a state of the art training facility to help ensure the National Guard and military readiness. **Sections 5.2** through **5.12** identify potential direct and indirect, short-term and long-term impacts associated with proposed actions under each of the specific project alternatives as identified in **Section 3.0**. **Section 5.13** evaluates the cumulative impact of these proposed actions within the proposed State Game Lands 211 Surface Danger Zone combined with known existing, potential, or anticipated impacts associated with other local or regional activities currently being undertaken or anticipated by other landowners and decision-making authorities.

B.1.9 Significance Criteria

The term *significance* as used in NEPA requires consideration of both the context and intensity of the impact or effect under consideration. Significance can vary in relation to the context of the Proposed Action, the context of which may include consideration of effects on a national, regional, and/or local basis. Both short- and long-term effects may be relevant. Impacts are also evaluated in terms of their intensity. Factors contributing to the intensity of an impact include:

- The degree to which the action affects public health or safety
- The proximity of the action to resources that are legally protected by various statutes, such as wetlands; resources listed in, or eligible for, the NHRP; regulatory floodplains; and federally listed threatened or endangered species
- The degree to which the effects of the action on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly uncertain or controversial



- Whether or not the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts
- Whether or not the action threatens to violate Federal, state, or local law imposed for the protection of the environment.

B.1.10 Mitigation

Mitigation measures are discussed for each alternative, as appropriate. Where adverse impacts are identified, this document describes measures that would be used to mitigate and/or manage these effects to acceptable levels, where possible. Mitigation/ Management measures generally include:

- Avoiding the impact altogether by stopping or modifying the Proposed Action
- Minimizing the impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation
- Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment
- Reducing or eliminating the impact over time through preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action, such as implementation of appropriate and accepted Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Mitigation and/or management of adverse impacts associated with alterations to the project study area are generally the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, National Guard Training Center - Fort Indiantown Gap. The mitigation measures taken to reduce or avoid the selected alternative's adverse environmental effects are included in the FONSI that will be prepared after a public review and a comment period are completed for the Draft SEA (i.e., if the Draft SEA determines that an EIS is not required). The FONSI will be included as an attachment to the Final SEA. Only those mitigation measures that are practicable (i.e., can be accomplished as part of the primary action) have been identified.



APPENDIX C

Applicable Laws and Executive Orders



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APPENDIX C

Applicable Regulations

EXECUTIVE ORDERS (EO)	
EO 11593 – Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment	All federal agencies are required to locate, identify, and record all cultural and natural resources. Cultural resources include sites of archaeological, historical, or architectural significance. Natural resources include the presence of endangered species, critical habitat, and areas of special biological significance.
EO 11988 – Floodplain Management	Requires federal agencies to provide leadership and to take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains in carrying out its responsibilities for (1) acquiring, managing, and disposing of Federal lands and facilities; (2) providing Federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and (3) conducting Federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land resources planning, regulating, and licensing activities.
EO 11990 – Protection of Wetlands	Requires federal agencies to avoid undertaking or providing assistance for new construction located in wetlands unless there is no practicable alternative, and all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands have been implemented.
EO 12088 – Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards	Requires federal agencies to ensure that all necessary actions are taken for the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution with respect to federal facilities and activities.
EO 12372 – Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (as amended by EO 12416)	Requires federal agencies to foster an intergovernmental partnership and to strengthen federalism by relying on state and local processes for state and local coordination and review of proposed federal financial assistance.
EO 12856 – Federal Compliance with Right-to-Know Laws and Pollution Prevention Requirements	Requires federal agencies to plan for chemical emergencies. Facilities that store, use, or release certain chemicals are subject to various reporting requirements. Reported information is made available to the public.



EO 12898 – Environmental Justice	Requires certain federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to the greatest extent practicable permitted by law, to make environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.
EO 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites	Requires federal agencies to accommodate access to, and ceremonial use of, sacred sites by practitioners and avoid adversely affecting physical integrity of such sites.
EO 13045 – Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks	Makes it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children. It also directs agencies to ensure that policies, programs, activities, and standards address such risks if identified.
EO 13112 – Invasive Species	Requires federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species and to provide for their control and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause.
EO 13148 – Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management	Requires federal agencies to ensure that all necessary actions are taken to integrate environmental accountability into agency day-to-day decision making and long-term planning processes, across all agency missions, activities, and functions. Environmental management considerations must be a fundamental and integral component of federal government policies, operations, planning, and management.
EO 13186 – Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds	Requires federal agencies to take steps to protect migratory birds, including restoring and enhancing habitat, preventing or abating pollution affecting birds, and incorporating migratory bird conservation into agency planning processes whenever possible.



FEDERAL LAWS	
American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 United States Code (USC) 1996, Public Law (P.L.) 95-341)	Protects and preserves the rights of American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians to exercise their traditional religions. These rights include, but are not limited to, access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremony and traditional rites.
Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 USC 431-433, P.L. 59-209)	Provides and preserves historical and prehistoric ruins and objects of antiquity on lands owned or controlled by the federal government. Authorizes scientific investigation of antiquities on federal lands. Authorizes the establishment of national landmarks.
Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act, 16 USC 469.	Protects and preserves historical and archaeological data. Requires federal agencies to identify and recover data from archaeological sites threatened by their actions.
Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 USC 470 et seq., P.L. 96-95)	Enacted to preserve and protect resources and sites on federal and Indian lands. Fosters cooperation between governmental authorities, professionals, and the public. Prohibits the removal, sale, receipt, and interstate transportation of archaeological resources obtained illegally from public or Indian lands.
Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401-7671q) July 14, 1955, as amended	This Act, as amended, is known as the Clean Air Act of 1970. The amendments established the core of the clean air program. The primary objective is to establish federal standards for air pollutants. It is designed to improve air quality in areas of the country, which do not meet federal standards and to prevent significant deterioration in areas where air quality exceeds those standards.
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) (42 USC 9601-9675, P.L. 96-510) amended by Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) (P.L. 99-499)	Also known as "Superfund," provides for liability, compensation, cleanup, and emergency response for hazardous substances released into the environment and cleanup of inactive hazardous substances disposal sites. Also established a fund financed by hazardous waste generators to support cleanup and response actions.



Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq., P.L. 93-205)	Protects threatened, endangered, and candidate species of fish, wildlife, and plants and their designated critical habitats. Under this law, no federal action is allowed to jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered or threatened species. The Endangered Species Act also requires consultation with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) and the preparation of a biological assessment when such species are present in an area that is affected by governmental activities.
Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949.	Guides the process for transferring government property.
Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended	Requires federal agencies to preserve federal records of potential historic value.
Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) (33 USC 1251-1387)	The Clean Water Act is a comprehensive statute aimed at restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. Primary authority for the implementation and enforcement rests with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act Coordination Act (16 USC 661 et seq., P.L. Chapter 55)	The purpose of this Act is to ensure that wildlife conservation receives equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water-resources development programs.
Historical Sites Act of 1935 (16 USC 461-467, P.L. Chapter 593)	Establishes a national policy to preserve for public use, historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance.
Historical and Archaeological Data-Preservation (16 USC 469 et seq., P.L. 93-291)	Protects and preserves historical and archaeological data caused as a result of federal construction projects. Directs federal agencies to notify the Secretary of the Interior when the construction project may cause irreparable loss or destruction of significant resources or data. Provides a mechanism through which resources can be salvaged from a construction site.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-712)	Implements various treaties and is for the protection of migratory birds. Under the Act, taking, killing, or possessing migratory birds is unlawful.



National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (P.L. 91-190, 42 USC 4321 et seq.)	Requires federal agencies to utilize a systematic approach when assessing environmental impacts of government activities. NEPA proposes an interdisciplinary approach in a decision-making process designed to identify unacceptable or unnecessary impacts to the environment.
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 USC 470 et seq.)	Requires federal agencies to take account of the effect of any federally assisted undertaking or licensing on any district, site, building, structure, or object eligible or listed for inclusion in the NRHP. Provides for the nomination, identification (through listing on the NRHP), and protection of historical and cultural properties of significance.
Noise Control Act of 1972 (42 USC 4901-4918, P.L. 92-574)	Establishes a national policy to promote an environment free from noise that jeopardizes their health and welfare. Authorizes the establishment of federal noise emissions standards and provides information to the public.
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (42 USC 6901, P.L. 94-580)	Establishes requirements for safely managing and disposing of solid and hazardous waste and underground storage tanks. Federal agencies must comply with waste management requirements.
Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 USC 669 et seq.)	Authorizes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish laws governing the conservation of wildlife, as well as, providing funds to develop wildlife conservation and restoration programs. These programs include the monitoring of species, wildlife recreation projects, conservation education programs, etc.

STATE LAWS

Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 1277, Act No. 283)	Establishes a policy for the Commonwealth to protect the outstanding aesthetic and recreational values, and to practice sound conservation policies and practices, within the Scenic Rivers System. To implement these policies it is the purpose of this Act to establish the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers System by prescribing the procedures and criteria for protecting and administering the system and for adding new components to it from time to time.
--	--



Stony Creek Wild and Scenic River Act (P.L. 50, No. 18) of 1980	The Department of Environmental Resources has, in accordance with the act of December 5, 1972 (P.L. 1277, No. 283), known as the "Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act, " fulfilled its obligations and responsibilities prerequisite to the designation of Stony Creek as a component of the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers System. The designation of Stony Creek by this act is for the purpose of conserving and enhancing its Scenic quality and promoting public recreational enjoyment in accordance with the provisions of the "Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act."
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APPENDIX D

Public Comments from the Informational Public Meetings held on 30 August 2005 and 21 March 2007



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**Public Comments from the Informational Public Meeting
held on 30 August 2005**



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ORIGINAL

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

PLACE: FORT INDIANTOWN GAP COMMUNITY CLUB
BUILDING 9-65 FISHER AVENUE

DATE: AUGUST 30, 2005, 6:00 P.M.

HILLARY HAZLETT, REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC
RAMONA L. DEVLIN, REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC



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1 MR. SAYLOR: The environmental guy tells me
2 I can still get the Environmental Impact Statement for
3 Fort Indiantown Gap, the one that was conducted
4 several ago that involves this range, not the
5 Strykers. (Jay Saylor, [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]) (FITG EIS).

7 MS. DEIS: I am opposed to the swap. I'd
8 like to see the scenic river area and the entire
9 wilderness area staying intact.

10 I believe that it is the Game Commission's
11 responsibility to maintain their ownership of the
12 area, as part of their charge of taking care of the
13 scenic river area.

14 I do think it's a very special place and
15 remarkably close to a huge population. At the moment,
16 it's underutilized by the public in general because
17 the Game Commission is not in the business of trying
18 to get more people there. Of course, they try to
19 manage the amount of people there.

20 It's a fabulous area that is available to
21 all of the citizens of Pennsylvania whenever they want
22 to go. And ideally, they will learn more about how
23 close it is to us.

24 If they would swap the land, the chances of
25 it being so close to Harrisburg and having a wild and

1 scenic river running through it are zero. (Debra
2 Deis.)

3 MR. MCKINNE: I'm in opposition to the land
4 swap in any way, shape or form. My biggest concern is
5 that we do not want to lose the large wilderness area
6 at the present time.

7 It is totally uninterrupted. There are too
8 many species that need an uninterrupted woodland area
9 and cannot adapt to smaller areas.

10 As far as this particular issue is
11 concerned, I think asking for 2,100 acres is going to
12 be pretty much a wedge issue.

13 That 2,100 acres is probably going to
14 change into many more acres sometime down the road.
15 And once you have 2,100 acres, there is not going to
16 be any way that we can back out of it at that point in
17 time.

18 The biggest concern though, again, is that
19 this is a very unique area. It's unique in that Stony
20 Creek is a part of the scenic river system.

21 The habitat is unique because it's a very,
22 very large, uninterrupted woodlands and it cannot be
23 replaced by gaining woodlands somewhere else. It is
24 not part of the same package. (Tom McKinne [REDACTED])

25 [REDACTED])

1 MR. SCOTT: My name is Tom Scott. I live
2 in Dauphin County, Middle Paxton Township, [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]. And I want to make comments
4 concerning the proposed land swap between the Game
5 Commission and the Department of Military and Veterans
6 Affairs and also the relationship between that land
7 swap and the Stryker EIS.

8 Obviously, I am opposed to any activities
9 on Fort Indiantown Gap that would require the National
10 Guard to expand the boundaries of the Gap.

11 The first thing you have to start with is
12 to acknowledge that the adjacent land to the north,
13 Stony Creek Valley, which runs from the top of Second
14 Mountain -- I'm sorry -- from the top of Second and
15 Blue Mountain to the top of Stony Mountain is
16 designated state wild river area.

17 It was the first designated wild river
18 area. It is the largest wild river area. It is the
19 only wild river area that encompasses an entire
20 watershed.

21 It begins at the top of Second Mountain,
22 runs cross the valley floor up to the top of Stony
23 Mountain; and it runs from the headwaters of Stony
24 Creek Valley approximately 16 and a half miles to the
25 west, to where the Game Commission gate at Ellendale

1 is located.

2 There is no other place in Pennsylvania
3 where you can walk for 18 miles in an entire mountain
4 valley and not have any cars or power lines or
5 buildings. There is no nothing.

6 And it is the absence of everything except
7 history and nature that makes that a unique area
8 within Pennsylvania. About two-thirds of the
9 population of the United States is located within a
10 two-hours drive of Stony Creek Valley.

11 Thousands of people a year go there and
12 disappear into that wilderness because that's a
13 valuable recharge area for people. It should never
14 become a buffer zone for bombs.

15 When the Valley was designated as a wild
16 river area, it acquired protection of law to be
17 maintained as a wilderness area.

18 The Game Commission, unfortunately, has let
19 it be known that they are willing to trade that land
20 or part of Stony Creek Valley to the military if the
21 military can acquire for them other lands that they
22 deem to be "more valuable".

23 From my perspective, that is like the Shah
24 of Iran approaching the Queen of England and saying to
25 her, I have jewels that I would like to -- I would

1 like to acquire your crown jewels and I have other
2 jewelry that I'm prepared to give you in exchange for
3 your crown jewels. That would be a very short
4 conversation.

5 New England would say, no thank you, Shah.
6 I am not interested in your family's jewels. That's
7 what the Game Commission should be saying.

8 They don't have any other land that has the
9 wilderness characteristics of Stony Creek Valley, the
10 accessibility of Stony Creek Valley, the location of
11 Stony Creek Valley.

12 Interestingly, because in addition to being
13 the first wilderness area, it's probably the first
14 Rails to Trails in Pennsylvania. The entire valley is
15 handicapped accessible because it's serviced by
16 at-grade -- old railroad bed and there are no cars
17 there.

18 They don't have any other land like this.
19 It is blasphemy for them to suggest that if they get
20 6,000 acres somewhere else, that's an even, fair or
21 valuable trade. It's just not.

22 Unfortunately, the Game Commission seems to
23 be only driven by the amount of land that they control
24 not by the quality of that land. And so while they
25 could say, no thank you. We are not interested in any

1 land trade; they haven't done that. I believe it is
2 well recognized at this point that the Game Commission
3 would make that trade if they can.

4 The first problem with the proposed land
5 swap is that there has never been an environmental
6 impact statement done that takes into account the
7 offsite impacts of the multi-purpose training range,
8 which in military speak is MPTR.

9 In 2001, 2002, the Gap did an EIS for about
10 41 or 42 projects that were to be done on the Gap
11 property over the next several years. One of those
12 projects was the proposed new MPTR, which would be a
13 tank firing range.

14 At the time that EIS was performed, there
15 was no mention when they analyzed the impact of that
16 range on the environment, the assumption was that that
17 range would not require any new lands to be acquired;
18 that that range could be built within the confines of
19 the Gap and all of the shells that would be fired
20 would land within the confines of the Gap.

21 So when the environmental impact statement
22 was done for the MPTR, the assumption was, we don't
23 need any new land. No one said, if we are going to
24 build this MPTR, we are going to have to acquire land
25 on the other side of the mountain as a buffer zone.

1 If they had said that then, the hell that
2 has broke loose now would have broke loose then. But
3 since they didn't even think about it, much less study
4 it, the MPTR, multi-purpose training range, became
5 part of the Gap's long-range plan and was not deemed
6 to have any significant environmental effects because
7 it wasn't projected to throw anything over into the
8 wilderness area.

9 One of the components that's to be studied
10 in the EIS is whether there are any wild river's
11 associated with -- would any wild river areas be
12 affected by the activity? And if the answer to that
13 question is yes, then they better figure out some way
14 not to have any impact on it.

15 They never asked the question. They never
16 studied the impact. So the MPTR gets approved,
17 environmental impact statement-wise in 2002 without
18 studying its impact on Stony Valley.

19 Now, along comes, in 2005, a Stryker
20 Brigade. New ranges are proposed for the Stryker
21 Brigade. Those ranges are designed so that all of the
22 shells that are fired there will land within the
23 confines of the Gap. We don't have to acquire any new
24 land anywhere outside the Gap in order to have all the
25 stryker ranges.

1 That's why, to recap, in 2002, there was no
2 study of the environmental impact on Stony Creek
3 valley because they thought that range would stay in
4 the Gap.

5 In 2005, this EIS that we are reviewing
6 now, there is no study of any impact on Stony Creek
7 valley because of all of those ranges are proposed to
8 stay within the Gap as well.

9 So we now have two EIS's. None of them
10 have studied any environmental impact -- any offsite
11 impact of range of shell fragments in Stony Creek
12 valley. So it's never been studied from an
13 environmental impact statement-wise.

14 However, the command authority at the Gap,
15 the Adjunct General, has written a letter to the Game
16 Commission formally asking the Game Commission to
17 trade them 2,100 acres of land in Stony Creek Valley
18 to the Gap so that they will have enough buffer zone
19 for the range that they want to build without any
20 study whatsoever.

21 That's wrong. That's a violation of the
22 National Environmental Policy Act, which requires
23 environmental assessments to be made before critical
24 decisions are made.

25 It doesn't do any good to do an

1 environmental study after you've already decided what
2 you're going to do. The purpose of the study is to
3 help you decide what to do in the least
4 environmentally intrusive way. They breeched the law
5 by doing it the way they are doing it.

6 They vulcanized the process. And so we now
7 have them trying to acquire land for a range for which
8 no study has ever been made. And if we can't
9 straighten it out here, that's why we have federal
10 courts, fortunately.

11 This is an abuse of the process. If anyone
12 I spoke with -- I think he's a colonel, Colonel
13 Yearwood, who runs the ranges here, Colonel Yearwood
14 is a very knowledgeable man.

15 No one in the military -- I also spoke with
16 the guy from the Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, who
17 the did the ricochet analysis.

18 He also strikes me as a very knowledgeable
19 man. Because of the way they approach this project,
20 breaking it up into two segments and never studying
21 them all together -- there's never been a study done
22 from the environmentalist standpoint that put the new
23 ranges for the Stryker on the same page as the
24 multi-purpose training range.

25 No one has ever said to Colonel Yearwood, I

1 want you to design all of these ranges so that they
2 can all function and keep all of the fragments inside
3 the Gap.

4 He was never asked to do that.

5 No one has ever determined whether that can
6 even be done. My sense is that it probably can be
7 done. There are probably some adjustments that could
8 be made to the Stryker ranges and their location and
9 orientation and some adjustments that could be made to
10 the multi-purpose training range and its location and
11 orientation that would allow them all to fit within
12 the confines of the Gap and not acquire any additional
13 property.

14 Whether or not that can be done or not
15 isn't the issue. The fact is, no one has asked the
16 question. No one has tried to do it. When they found
17 out that the MPTR range was going to throw fragments
18 over into the valley, their answer was, acquire the
19 valley.

20 That's why all of the controversy. Their
21 answer should have been, let's go back to the drawing
22 board. Let's reassess the environmental impact of
23 this MPTR, since we think we now have to go over into
24 the valley and do an environmental impact statement on
25 the location of the multi-purpose training range if

1 it's going to interfere with the only -- with the
2 largest wilderness in Pennsylvania if we keep it where
3 it is.

4 So what that means is that not only was the
5 2002 environmental EIS process faulty, because it
6 didn't consider the environmental impact of the MPTR
7 throwing fragments into Stony Creek Valley, this 2005
8 EIS is also deficient because it placed the ranges
9 that are going to be constructed as a result of the
10 Stryker Brigade in a location that now -- if they're
11 built -- would prevent them from changing the location
12 of the MPTR range.

13 Since they never assessed the environmental
14 impact of the MPTR range going over into Stony Creek
15 Valley, they can't -- they have an impact area.

16 They are placing ranges in the impact area;
17 that if they kept them out or reoriented them, would
18 allow that impact area to be big enough inside the Gap
19 to handle the MPTR range, which would mean they would
20 not have to have any offsite impact.

21 MR. ROSSEY: The base commander told me
22 that the land will not need permits to hunt in Stony
23 Creek Valley during deer season and bear season. Did
24 anybody say anything about the laws that protect Stony
25 Creek?

1 Thirty years ago, the people of
2 Pennsylvania saved Stony Creek Valley. It took them
3 seven years to save that Valley and had it protected
4 with Legislations, House Bill 1843, which falls under
5 House Bill 963, Pennsylvania Wild Scenic River's Act.
6 why can't the Gap uphold the law? That's it. (Ed
7 Rossey [REDACTED])

8 MR. RICE: I would like an 11X17 copy of the
9 aerial of the MPTR with targets and aerial of the
10 SDZs. ([REDACTED],
11 [REDACTED])

12 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Real simple. We don't want
13 them at all in Stony Valley and that back slope is
14 Stony Valley.

15 Well, we don't want anybody down there
16 shooting. We don't want anybody down there picking up
17 their spent -- half spent shells that they say aren't
18 down there.

19 I think that's all that has to be said. There
20 are people down there fishing while they are there
21 shooting what was supposed to be against the Second
22 Mountain.

23 They don't even mention the fact that you hit
24 the mountain and shells bounce over there. If you
25 don't believe it, stand down there some time.

1 MS. HALK: Do you want to see the land swap
2 happen?

3 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Hell no.

4 MS. HALK: That's what she needs to hear.

5 MR. ZIMMERMAN: You put that four letter word
6 in front of it, too.

7 MS. HALK: I am, of course, against this land
8 swap. I have a lot of personal reasons but one of
9 them is the fighting real hard that we have done to
10 achieve the status that it is.

11 The military could find -- either find other
12 bases to help them with this training or they could
13 realign their sites and how they're shooting. I just
14 don't want to see it become part of the military base.
15 I have a lot of emotion. (██████████.)

16 MR. CORSON: Well, reiterating what I said to
17 Colonel Hulings, I appreciate what the Gap is doing,
18 the training of the troops. I don't want our
19 organization to be conceived or perceived as being
20 anti-military. We appreciate all of the efforts they
21 are doing.

22 On the other hand, we appreciate Stony Valley
23 as it is. We want it to stay as it is. We oppose any
24 acquisition by the military of the 2,100 acres or any
25 of the 43,000 acres within Stony Valley.

7 | [REDACTED]

8 | [REDACTED]

9 MR. MCKINNEY: Well, I don't know where to
10 begin. But in my opinion, Stony Valley has been
11 protected since the 1970s. Well, originally, it was
12 bought by the Game Commission and they were expected
13 to be the proper stewards of the land.

14 They are the best agency to be able to afford
15 the protection and carry out the overall benefits of
16 the land just as long as you're allowed to go in and
17 shoot deer. It's a nice trade off.

18 In the 70s, the valley was attacked to do a
19 proposition by PP&L to build a pumping station back in
20 there. At that time, big industry, big energy was the
21 question. It might be the question in the near future
22 as well.

23 But several brave souls have collected
24 themselves and fought that effort and got the land
25 proposed as a wild scenic river. The legislation

1 passed in 1980. I think it's House Bill 1582. I
2 don't know. You can look that part up.

3 The coalition at that time settles back and
4 thinks that, you know, for future generation, Stony
5 Creek was preserved as intended to be.

6 By the grace of God, that Valley has been
7 overlooked. We have Fishing Creek that is under
8 development. Vartan proposes 400 to 600 condominiums,
9 multi-million dollar houses to go in there and it's
10 nothing but country clubs and future development.

11 Stony Valley is vacant. It seems whenever you
12 have a vacuum, interest has always brought that and
13 the vacuum is created and somebody wants that land.
14 Nobody can just let it be.

15 Clarks Valley, we know the story up there.
16 That's already been dammed up for the City of
17 Harrisburg's water.

18 The overall effect in my opinion, the land use
19 practices in Pennsylvania are deplorable. There is no
20 more wilderness left.

21 Southeast of Blue Mountain is developed,
22 agricultural, disturbed land. There is really no
23 inherent value of it anymore, in my opinion. You may
24 as well develop it to Cape May.

25 whenever you have rough terrain, wilderness

1 area in itself is preservable because it's not
2 developable.

3 It's not usable for other practices until we
4 come across and we meet big military and big military
5 in these times see their opportunity and this
6 opportunity, as they may say, is just a possibility to
7 get a restricted buffer zone through the public
8 safety. I appreciate that intent.

9 Ultimately, I fear the slippery slope with the
10 military, with government and especially with the
11 military, the smoke stream that they're putting
12 forward in front of that slippery slope.

13 what happens next if they were to get that
14 restricted buffer area? Shells go out. They're going
15 to need more land. They already made it their intent
16 in their initial proposals of this that they wanted
17 the whole valley.

18 That valley is protected as a watershed. If
19 you take one slice of it out and disturb it, it is no
20 longer a pristine watershed that it was intended to be
21 preserved in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It will
22 no longer run clear.

23 The indicators are very clear in Indiantown
24 Creek, Manada Creek, any creek that flows through or
25 touches Gap property, it doesn't have a chance of

1 running as pristine as Stony Creek does.

2 There's not one drop of development, one ounce
3 of disturbance in that valley. That's the way it
4 should be left. That's the way God intended it to be,
5 God the great spirit or whatever higher being that you
6 will believe in.

7 It's just that slippery slope that is my main
8 concern. They say that they need this land to better
9 expend their resources so that they don't have to
10 transport their troops elsewhere.

11 While I'll also say for people to recreate in
12 southeast Pennsylvania, why do they have to drive two
13 hours, three hours up to the north central part of the
14 state or to West Virginia or go elsewhere to partake
15 and commune with nature in its purist wilderness
16 sense. That's all they have.

17 There's no other place to run your dog or a
18 kid can ride a bike like that. You certainly can't do
19 it in the City of Harrisburg or any parts south
20 thereof.

21 I mean, it's amazing that you go back there in
22 any given day, there's 30 to 40 cars, people back in
23 there recreating, fishing. That's not even hunting
24 season.

25 They say they'll leave it open for hunting

1 season for public access. That's not the big picture.
2 That area is a park. It's a preserve. It benefits
3 the quality of life for Pennsylvanians and even
4 further. I've talked to people from Maryland, North
5 Carolina, New York all over these parts.

6 It's a quality of life issue for them just the
7 same as the Gap feels it's so vital for them to train
8 their troops. In big letters, I'm not anti-military.

9 If I really thought that they needed this
10 land, I would back out of this. I think there is a
11 better solution for them to utilize their land that
12 they already have designated for it in their
13 ownership.

14 I have not heard a convincing argument, this
15 one in a million shot. Well, there are one in a
16 million shots that already go over into that Valley and
17 go over the third mountain.

18 To make the backstop -- backside of a mountain
19 a backstop makes about as much sense as making the
20 playing field beyond the fence in baseball field fair
21 play. It doesn't make sense. It's not convincing to
22 me.

23 I think Stony Creek should be preserved in
24 perpetuity. I can't get that word out too well. You
25 know what I'm talking about.

1 Because once it's gone, it's gone forever.
2 They're not making any other land. I wish
3 Pennsylvania as whole, whether it be suburban sprawl,
4 military sprawl, however, you want to coin it, I wish
5 we would wake up and look more at the long term than
6 to short term. I believe I'm done.

7 ([REDACTED]).

8 MR. MCKINNE: My name is Mike McKinne from
9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I'm strongly against the
10 swap for the partial in the State Game Lands 211. I
11 don't believe that the project as envisioned is
12 warranted at this point in time because it does not
13 impact the strike of force.

14 It is purely for an extension and enlargement
15 of the training mission in the future. Therefore, if
16 it's 2,000 acres today, that mission will more than
17 likely change at some point in time and it become
18 4,000 acres and that will be the end of the valley.

19 If you think about the whole concept of
20 Homeland Security, that valley could be defined as the
21 homeland . So to take that parcel for the purpose of
22 protecting that parcel just does not make a lot of
23 sense to me.

24 Since this range that's envisioned, again, is
25 not critical to the current mission, I fully believe

1 that any future benefit from this range will not equal
2 or exceed the benefit of the valley as it stands today
3 and the loss that would be recognized by taking that
4 for this purpose. ([REDACTED])

5 MR. RICE: I oppose the land swap. My name is
6 Jim Rice. You don't even need to record it. The Post
7 Commander, Colonel Hodgeson, he is a very considerate
8 individual, very considerate, able person to talk to.

9 He told us that we will not need permits to
10 hunt on that north slope of the second mountain, which
11 was something that I had not heard to this point.
12 It's not advertised.

13 I think that's a very good point if they mean
14 to do that. If they're even willing to reduce the
15 size -- he said they're running final design on the
16 ricochet analysis. If there's some way possible to
17 even reduce the size of the surface danger zone, the
18 SDZ there, that would be great, lessen the need for
19 even -- or even possibly leasing land off the Game
20 Commission.

21 It looks like the Game Commission is not
22 telling us quite the story, the true story either.
23 That's all. I appreciate you having this meeting.
24 It's very, very good.

25 MR. RICKER: I'm just here tonight basically

1 because I am against the land swap. I just feel that
2 the one in a million chance is pretty big when there's
3 shells flying over there as of right now, north of the
4 railroad grade.

5 It's about one in a million and about
6 liability that they will have to have more land, and
7 I'm here to address that mainly. That's about it.

8 ([REDACTED])

9 (Meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.)

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1
2 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
3 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
4 notes taken by me on the within proceedings and
5 that this is a correct transcript of the same.
6

7
8 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
NOTARIAL SEAL
RAMONA L. DEVLIN, Notary Public
City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County
My Commission Expires Nov. 10, 2007

Ramona L. Devlin

Ramona L. Devlin
Reporter - Notary Public

10
11
12 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Notarial Seal
Hillary M. Hazlett, Notary Public
City Of Harrisburg, Dauphin County
My Commission Expires Sept. 29, 2007
13
14 Member, Pennsylvania Association Of Notaries

Hillary M. Hazlett

Hillary Hazlett
Reporter - Notary Public

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**Public Comments from the Informational Public Meeting
held on 21 March 2007**



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COPY

1 IN RE: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ESTABLISHING
2 A SURFACE DANGER ZONE ON A PORTION OF STATE
3 GAME LANDS 211 IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION
4 OF A MULTI-PURPOSE TRAINING RANGE AT FORT
5 INDIANTOWN GAP, PENNSYLVANIA
6
7

8 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
9 PUBLIC HEARING
10
11

12 DATE: MARCH 21, 2007, 6:00 P.M.

13 PLACE: FORT INDIANTOWN GAP
14 COMMUNITY CENTER
15 ANNVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
16
17

18 KAREN BLOUCH, RMR
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1 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: If I
2 could have everybody's attention, please. We
3 will go ahead and start this portion of the
4 meeting. Welcome everybody. My name is Chris
5 Cleaver. I'm the Public Relations Officer for
6 the Pennsylvania National Guard.

7 The meeting tonight is about an
8 environmental assessment for establishing a
9 surface danger zone on portions of State Game
10 Lands 211, in connection with the operation of a
11 multi-purpose training range here.

12 Very long title. But I know this is
13 a very important meeting. And there's been a lot
14 of interest about this. We have set this up as
15 what we call a science fair format. I will walk
16 you around the room real quickly.

17 This section is about the range, the
18 actual multi-purpose training range. If you have
19 questions about the type of equipment that we
20 will be using on there, the M1 tank, the Bradley
21 fighting vehicle, specifics on what we have done
22 with the multi-purpose training range, see
23 Colonel Yearwood.

24 Next is Amec. They're a contractors
25 for this document. If you have questions about

1 procedural issues with the documentation, how
2 that's going to work, how this environmental
3 assessment works, public comments, see them.

4 The next one is sustainability.
5 That's essentially our compliance shop here for
6 all our environmental programs.

7 Back there in back is what we
8 affectionately call bugs and bunnies. That's all
9 the nice things we do here at Fort Indiantown
10 Gap, offering access for hunters, fishermen and
11 the other environmental programs.

12 Specifically, Fort Indiantown Gap
13 and, again, the range and SGL 211, that area
14 right there, Fort Indiantown Gap, that's where
15 you can go and talk about that issue.

16 And lastly, something that we hold
17 near and dear to our heart, economic impact. And
18 we're running some recent numbers now. And it
19 looks like we're going to go to 2,000 full-time
20 employees on this installation in the next couple
21 of months. It wasn't long ago we were down to
22 about 1,100.

23 We have set this up as a science
24 fair format. But many people stressed the fact
25 they wanted an opportunity to ask questions. So

1 that's why we're going to do this. I want to
2 stress, if you have long comments, the place to
3 do that is with the court reporter after we do
4 this. This is really an opportunity to ask some
5 questions.

6 Colonel Robert Hodgson, our
7 Commander, Garrison Commander, is going to give a
8 short overview briefing about this proposal. And
9 then ask questions. We're going to do this for
10 about 30 minutes, and that's it. If you have
11 other questions or, once again, comments, you can
12 either do it at the booths, or you can meet the
13 court reporter.

14 An important date. You need to get
15 back to us with your comments, your concerns,
16 your questions, by April 16th. That's the
17 deadline for us for this document for us to move
18 forward for this environmental assessment. All
19 right?

20 Any questions of me at all now? I'm
21 doing to hand it over to our Garrison Commander,
22 Colonel Hodgson. And he will do a quick overview
23 about this proposal. Sir.

24 COLONEL HODGSON: Good, evening,
25 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Bob Hodgson.

1 I'm the Commander out here. I have seen a lot of
2 faces out in the audience here, met a few of you,
3 some of you, I think, back in September when you
4 were here, September 2005.

5 The purpose of what I'm going to do
6 tonight is kind of give you an overview of where
7 we are right now in the proposal, go into some
8 excruciating details in the history of the
9 proposal, where we've come from.

10 I think a lot of you have heard
11 that over time. I would be more than willing to
12 go into that. But what I would like to do
13 tonight is just kind of give you some of the
14 thought process and how we got from where we
15 started several years back to where we are now
16 and the proposal that's being assessed in this
17 environmental assessment.

18 This is an overview of Fort
19 Indiantown Gap. The yellow line is the current
20 border of Fort Indiantown Gap, or is the border
21 of Fort Indiantown Gap.

22 What's represented on that slide is
23 the -- a lot of the construction is going on out
24 here that's currently involved. What I want to
25 draw your attention to, and you will see it on

1 some of the other maps as we go up, is up in here
2 (indicating), is the Multi-Purpose Training
3 Range. That particular red diagram that's up
4 there.

5 That is the range that's being
6 assessed. That is the range that we're all here
7 about tonight. The orientation of that range is
8 from east to west, kind of northeast to
9 southwest, firing down the corridor between Blue
10 Mountain and Second Mountain.

11 Those of you who are familiar with
12 the old tank range that was here, which was down
13 in the lower left corner in the Delta area, the
14 old Range 27, that tank range was firing from
15 south to north against Second Mountain. That's
16 the one that caused the projectiles to go over,
17 they had projectiles go over that we shut down.

18 This range is essentially firing in
19 this direction towards the impacted area, okay?
20 From basically an east to west direction.

21 This graphic is kind of close up of
22 what the range itself will be. When we initially
23 started this planning process, we were going to
24 build two lanes so that you could have one
25 vehicle with its crew in one lane and a second

1 vehicle with its crew, and you had two lanes are
2 operational to the range.

3 But what we found was that the
4 southern range, the southern run, we call the
5 stabilization run, would essentially have been in
6 this general vicinity (indicating).

7 The ricochet analysis that we did
8 way back when, okay, and because of the angle of
9 fire was causing rounds to impact Stony Creek,
10 that was a no go.

11 So we eliminated the southern range
12 -- the southern run, shifted everything to the
13 northern run, and angled it slightly so that the
14 ricochets at that point in time would not impact
15 Stony Creek or anything north of Stony Creek.

16 Back in December of 2005, the Army
17 changed the design of this particular range,
18 which forced us then to go back and redesign the
19 range. They eliminated some targets and added a
20 couple other targets. We had to go back and do
21 that.

22 And since that time, we have been
23 in the process of doing the ricochet analysis on
24 every weapon system that's going to be fired from
25 the tank and Bradley on this particular range.

1 And that's where we are now.

2 That's taken a long time. A lot
3 longer than we really initially planned for.

4 What I'm going to show you next is
5 a series of each one of the weapon systems that's
6 fired on the range, the ricochet analysis that
7 was derived from that.

8 The purple circle that's up here,
9 the smaller one down below it, is 7.62 millimeter
10 machine-gun ricochet analysis. The smallest
11 weapons system that's fired on this particular
12 range.

13 And as you can see, all of the
14 ricochet analysis is contained within the
15 installation. It's one of four weapon systems
16 that are fired on the platform that we have.

17 The next one is a 50 caliber
18 machine-gun. It's a much heavier machine-gun. A
19 higher velocity machine-gun. And as you can see
20 on this one, if you look north of the yellow
21 line, this is the border between State Game Lands
22 211 and Fort Indiantown Gap property. You can
23 see that the ricochet analysis fall line goes
24 over into State Game Lands 211.

25 That line -- as I continue to talk

1 about this, I'll show you a couple more. That
2 line represents a plotting of all -- millions of
3 rounds fired in a computer from every firing
4 position on that stabilization run at every
5 target.

6 It shoots, the ricochet angle,
7 based on the velocity of the weapon system,
8 shoots those ricochets and plots it where it's
9 going to land. It's a three-dimensional computer
10 system that uses actual data on the ground with
11 interval -- with contour interval down to one
12 meter contour.

13 What that means is it's very, very
14 accurate data. It plots everything. It knows
15 the contours of the mountain. The only thing it
16 doesn't take into account is the forest cover of
17 the mountain. So that's based on terrain, not
18 forest cover.

19 This 25 millimeter, the 25
20 millimeter is the main gun on the Bradley
21 fighting vehicle. It fires two projectiles. The
22 ones that we use on these ranges are training
23 rounds, but they're the same weight and size,
24 etcetera, same velocity. They do not have a high
25 explosive warhead on them. Sabo round, antitank

1 round. This one you can see is much larger than
2 the other one. Again, impacts in State Game
3 Lands 211, okay? And also a significant portion
4 of the training corridor between the two
5 mountains, okay?

6 Finally, these ones are a little
7 harder to see, but you will see the composite one
8 up here. It's the 120. It's the main gun on the
9 tank. And there's two separate ones on here.
10 One is the 120 millimeter Sabo, and the other is
11 a 120 millimeter high explosive antitank. Again,
12 training rounds. No explosive warheads on them.

13 What we do then, is we take those,
14 we take the outside perimeter, the worst case
15 scenario for each one of those, and we make one
16 composite ricochet line.

17 That line represents what the Army
18 says, the Department of the Army says, is the
19 standard for the range. It's the
20 one-in-one-million contour line. There has to be
21 a less than one-in-one-million chance of a round
22 escaping that contour line.

23 That's what that line represents.
24 And that's the line you will see in several of
25 the pictures as you get up close.

1 For reference purposes, Cold
2 Springs Road is up here (indicating), behind the
3 contour line. But it also extends pretty far
4 down.

5 We worked with Pickatinny Arsenal
6 on this. And as you know, at one time we were
7 looking at a 2,100 acres of land, the initial
8 land exchange proposal that was out there. And
9 at that point in time when we looked at it, that
10 was using Cold Springs Road as it goes over the
11 mountain down to the Stony Creek at the right --
12 or the eastern boundary of the creek as the
13 northern boundary and then a line extending from
14 our current western boundary straight north to
15 the creek. No magic in the 2,100 acres. That's
16 where it came from. Okay?

17 There's been modifications of that.
18 Those that are following this closely know that
19 we continue to refine that, bring that back out
20 as we got better and better at that.

21 What I'm going to show you now is
22 the same things that are up here. Essentially,
23 we have narrowed it down from that 2,100 acres
24 down to about approximately 900 acres. It
25 represents, in State Game Lands 211, that portion

1 of it that gives us a safety buffer zone that we
2 need in order to be able to build the range, but
3 it extends beyond the current boundaries of Fort
4 Indiantown Gap.

5 I think that's where we have come
6 to. It's been a long process. It's been a long
7 process on all different sides of the issue. We
8 have really worked this as hard as we can.

9 If you look, one of the reasons --
10 one of the questions that we have every time, is
11 there anyplace else on the installation you could
12 put this.

13 Look up at this. This line
14 represents a line that goes along the top of Blue
15 Mountain, First Mountain. Okay? You can't go on
16 the front of that. There's people that live on
17 the front side of the mountain. So there's no
18 way we can take this, shift this any other
19 direction, okay, that isn't going to impact Stony
20 Creek or go off our property on the south side of
21 Blue Mountain where there's people that live.

22 It's really the only place on the
23 installation that allows us to build this. We
24 have taken it, from this proposal, we have worked
25 with Pickatinny Arsenal. They have redesigned

1 it. Looked at all the data we could examine. We
2 have eliminated targets. Okay? This particular
3 overlay that we're showing is where we are at
4 right now. That's what's going to be assessed as
5 part of this process, the environmental
6 assessment that Amec is doing for us.

7 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: What
8 we are going to do, what I would like, when you
9 go to ask your questions, give your full name and
10 your town. We will allow you one question and
11 one follow-up question. Then we will try to get
12 as many people as possible. All right? Any
13 questions? No questions? Yes, sir.

14 MR. IBBERSON: Well, somebody has
15 to start. Dale Ibberson, I-B-B-E-R-S-O-N. I
16 take it we're only supposed to ask questions
17 about what's been presented so far? For the most
18 part?

19 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: We
20 have some latitude. Go ahead.

21 MR. IBBERSON: You said the one in
22 a million. I think I heard you say one in a
23 million that it will go outside of that circle.

24 COLONEL HODGSON: Yes.

25 MR. IBBERSON: How many -- I mean,

1 they did a ricochet analysis. Out of so many
2 shots, how many -- do they know how many actually
3 hit in 211?

4 COLONEL HODGSON: There's some
5 projections based on -- the further you go, the
6 less rounds are going to hit. The closer you get
7 to the targets, the more rounds are going to hit.

8 So if you were to look here, there
9 would be a lot of them in this area. There are
10 definitely going to be rounds that impact over
11 there. They shot millions and millions and
12 millions of rounds, so it's hard to put an exact
13 number on that.

14 Probably in some instances,
15 depending on where you're at, in here
16 (indicating), there's maybe, I don't remember the
17 exact percentage-wise --

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Two out of a
19 hundred in some cases.

20 COLONEL HODGSON: Yeah, two out
21 of a hundred are going to go over the top and
22 land on SGL 211.

23 MR. IBBERSON: Okay.

24 COLONEL HODGSON: Depending on how
25 frequently the range is used, that's about a

1 percentage. And that's going to vary a little
2 bit. And depending on where you're at, again,
3 like I said, some of them are going -- the closer
4 it is to the target, obviously the more there's
5 going to be there, especially on this side.

6 MR. IBBERSON: Okay. I might have
7 a question later, but I will leave other people.

8 MR. COFFMAN: Dennis Coffman from
9 Harrisburg. C-O-F-F-M-A-N. In 211, will there
10 be any need for military personnel to be in there
11 at all?

12 COLONEL HODGSON: We have a
13 responsibility now -- this Fort Indiantown Gap
14 has been used as a military installation since
15 about 1941 when they opened, so there's been a
16 lot of things that have occurred over the years.
17 If somebody finds something on the other side, we
18 go over there.

19 There will probably be a need,
20 depending on the signage issues that we have been
21 working with the coalition to kind of come up
22 with an amenable standard to post signage and
23 then to take signage down or whatever. But it's
24 nothing -- we're not -- there's no training going
25 on over there. There is no roads being built

1 over there. There's -- it's, for us, it's a
2 buffer zone. We're not even -- if we don't even
3 -- under this proposal, we don't own the land.
4 It's still managed by the Game Commission. So
5 we're not really doing anything to that land
6 except using it as a buffer zone when this
7 particular range is in operation.

8 I can't say something happens over
9 there, we're not going to go over there to do
10 that. We have done a lot of things, not only
11 military, but just we have done things over there
12 on the other side of the mountain for Stony Creek
13 and things that we have done over a period of
14 time.

15 Our involvement on this will be
16 very minimal. We're not planning on training
17 over there. Nothing is going on that side of the
18 mountain. Just it's a buffer zone. That's all
19 it is.

20 MR. COFFMAN: Could I have my
21 follow-up question now?

22 COLONEL HODGSON: Yes, sir. Yes,
23 sir.

24 MR. COFFMAN: What guarantees do we
25 have that that will be -- I know you have talked

1 about a possibility of a 40-year lease, something
2 like that. What guarantees do we have that you
3 will honor that agreement? That you won't be in
4 that area?

5 COLONEL HODGSON: The lease, and I
6 will --

7 MR. GUISE: I can answer that.
8 What we're talking about is not a lease. A lease
9 involves a possessory interest in real property.
10 We're talking about what could be called a real
11 estate license or a cooperative land use
12 agreement.

13 It has terms and conditions in it.
14 It is a legally enforceable document. And one of
15 the terms and conditions says that there will be
16 no training, no roads, no subdivision, no
17 activities in the land that's part of the surface
18 danger zone. And, in fact, it's only used as a
19 surface danger zone for 90 days a year and all
20 the other days it's open.

21 So it's a legally enforceable
22 agreement. The Game Commission certainly can
23 enforce it. And I'm sure if people thought it
24 was being violated and reported it, that would
25 get the necessary attention. It is a legally

1 enforceable agreement. And it has those
2 restrictions in it. So that's how it will be
3 enforced.

4 And it's not a 40-year lease. It's
5 a lease -- it's a license agreement that lasts
6 for, I believe it's ten years, and then it's
7 basically extendable automatically until the
8 termination of the Federal lease of Fort
9 Indiantown Gap, which is in 2049.

10 The Federal government has leased
11 17,000 acres here until 2049 for use as a
12 military installation. And this license
13 agreement is coextensive with that in increments.
14 And it cannot be renewed after that without
15 further negotiation. So that's basically how it
16 works.

17 COLONEL HODGSON: Sir.

18 MR. SMITH: Wilbur Smith, Palmyra.
19 I'm curious, on a presumption that you can go
20 forward with this and, obviously, this training
21 is important to the Guard's mission, what
22 alternative is there?

23 COLONEL HODGSON: If I paraphrase,
24 please correct me if I get this wrong. You are
25 asking about what alternatives there are if we

1 don't build the range?

2 MR. SMITH: Yes, if you can't build
3 the range.

4 COLONEL HODGSON: There are about,
5 currently, in the Pennsylvania Army National
6 Guard, there's about 17,000 Army and 2 to 3,000
7 International Guard that are in here.

8 On the Army side of the house,
9 there's about six battalions. We have four
10 maneuver brigades in this state. A brigade is
11 about 3,500 soldiers, depending on the type of
12 brigade it is. And there's about six battalions,
13 which is about 400 to 700 soldiers, again,
14 depending on the type of battalion, that have
15 tanks and Bradleys.

16 Currently, there's no place in
17 Pennsylvania for them to train, do their Army
18 required qualification, which is what this range
19 is here in Pennsylvania.

20 So the alternatives are to go to
21 Fort Drum, New York, or to go to Fort Pickett,
22 Virginia.

23 The example I was using earlier,
24 there's a battalion in Scranton, Pennsylvania,
25 which is about two hours away. If they go to

1 Fort Drum, New York, and they convoy up there,
2 it's six to eight hours worth of convoy time.
3 You have to draw the equipment up there. We have
4 to station equipment there, okay? In order to be
5 able to draw equipment to use it there. We don't
6 haul it back and forth all the time. Which means
7 that we give jobs to Fort Drum, New York, to
8 maintain that equipment that we station up there.

9 The same with Fort Pickett,
10 Virginia. Fort Pickett, Virginia, is another
11 National Guard training installation and a sister
12 one. You can't put all 17,000 Army National
13 Guard soldiers here in Fort Indiantown Gap and
14 train them. The Gap is just not big enough. And
15 it never will be big enough to do that.

16 But you can train battalion
17 organizations here at the Gap. So what this
18 would allow them to do, on their drill weekends,
19 a drill weekend for a traditional guardsman is
20 usually a Saturday and a Sunday, or sometimes a
21 Friday, Saturday and Sunday. And for some
22 organizations, they have even gone to starting on
23 a Thursday night and going Thursday, Friday,
24 Saturday, Sunday.

25 But most of those guardsmen are

1 traditional guardsmen. And that means -- and
2 women. So that means that they have jobs in the
3 civilian market. They're not all full time. So
4 for them to go up there, it's amount of training
5 time that they would get on a drill weekend.
6 They have to accomplish six to eight hours up and
7 six to eight hours back, draw the equipment up
8 there, turn it all back in.

9 That's a lot of time spent on the
10 road that they could -- if they only have to
11 travel an hour down here, or two hours here and
12 back and forth, it's just a lot simpler to get
13 them here.

14 And they're coming here to the Gap
15 to train. And we can offer that training here.
16 It's the one thing we can't offer here. None of
17 the other ranges that are out here, even the
18 ranges being constructed, are ranges that the
19 tank or the Bradley can shoot on. This is the
20 only one that we can offer here.

21 So the impact is all those soldiers
22 would have to go elsewhere to train. And we have
23 to send the jobs with that to those locations in
24 order to maintain that equipment when it is
25 elsewhere. That's the biggest impact, sir.

1 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

2 COLONEL HODGSON: Ma'am.

3 MR. GEORGE: Jay George, Manheim.

4 COLONEL HODGSON: Yes, sir.

5 MR. GEORGE: Could I follow-up on
6 what this gentleman said over here. Is it a
7 90-day closure, is that 90 days continuous, or is
8 that sporadic closure here and there throughout
9 the year?

10 COLONEL HODGSON: What we have --
11 the cooperative agreement allows us to use it up
12 to 90 days a year. It will probably be between
13 the months of March and October, probably.

14 We have also stated in there,
15 because we are a pretty active hunting program,
16 even here on the installation, we have about
17 2,400 registered hunters here on the
18 installation. We have a lot of fishermen and
19 stuff that come to use the installation here.

20 We have said we won't operate the
21 range unless it would be some kind of an
22 emergency where we're training soldiers who are
23 being mobilized, okay?

24 But we will not operate the range
25 during the big deer, bear, those big seasons,

1 even in the spring gobbler, because there was
2 some concern about that. So we -- even then,
3 there will be at least one weekend that it's open
4 during spring gobbler. During the week, a lot of
5 times in those times of the year, there's not a
6 lot of restrictions here. It's really on
7 weekends until you get into about May through
8 August, September time frame. That's the heavy
9 annual training period. And that's when you have
10 soldiers here for the whole two weeks and
11 continuously.

12 So it's not consecutive, but it's
13 probably going to fit in between those periods of
14 time. And what we have stated is that we intend
15 to schedule this as far in advance as we possibly
16 can, and then post that on several different
17 locations, which we're still working on right
18 now. One of those will be on the web site that
19 we have here that will allow you to go look at
20 it.

21 There's about three parking areas
22 or access areas to State Game Lands 211, one of
23 which is Cold Springs Road that comes through
24 Fort Indiantown Gap, and there's parking area on
25 either side of the Rails to Trail, one in Dauphin

1 and one off Gold Mine Road. That's really the
2 only ways to get in there unless you're hiking
3 from a tremendous amount of distance. So as an
4 example, if we posted it there, the times when
5 those ranges would be operational during the
6 year, it's another way of notifying the public as
7 to what's going on.

8 We will try to do that as much as
9 six months out ahead of time so there's no
10 surprises as far as what we're doing here.

11 Did I answer that question?

12 MR. GEORGE: Yes, sir. Thank you.
13 And the follow-up, the impact that does go in
14 there, if I understand it correctly, are
15 non-explosives?

16 COLONEL HODGSON: Non-explosive,
17 yes, sir.

18 MR. GEORGE: Also non-radioactive.

19 COLONEL HODGSON: There's no
20 radioactive. We fire none of that here.

21 MR. GEORGE: Thank you.

22 COLONEL HODGSON: I believe you
23 were next, ma'am.

24 MS. RENNINGER: Joan Renninger,
25 R-E-N-N-I-N-G-E-R. On the ricochet analysis, why

1 didn't they take into consideration that it was
2 forested and that possibly the trees would
3 contain the ricochets? I mean, they used a flat
4 surface?

5 COLONEL HODGSON: Yes, ma'am. They
6 used -- that's the imagery that basically, if I
7 understand this correctly, it's the imagery
8 that's available in the computer system. Forest
9 -- it's the part of the earth that doesn't change
10 dramatically. A forest can be up or down. So
11 obviously those -- the forest area is going to
12 catch --

13 MS. REDDINGER: Yes.

14 COLONEL HODGSON: -- mitigate some
15 of those ricochets that do go over the mountain.

16 MS. REDDINGER: In theory then,
17 possibly not many will go over at all.

18 COLONEL HODGSON: Well, if -- they
19 may -- it may catch more of them because of --
20 it's about a, what, 40 to 60-foot tree cover on
21 this side of the mountain, probably down to the
22 other side. It may catch more of them.

23 But there's -- the ricochet does
24 some, again, it's a computer modeled analysis, so
25 there is a really good reference. For those of

1 you who remember what a disco ball looked like,
2 those silver balls that hung. There it is. I
3 knew it was here. Imagine that -- cut that in
4 half and put it on the ground. And you see all
5 the facets that are on there, the different sides
6 and angles. That's kind of what they use in the
7 computer system.

8 So as they fire at that, there's
9 all kinds of facets at different angles. And
10 they shoot at that, hitting that particular
11 hemisphere, multifaceted hemisphere, in the
12 system, which causes the rounds to then ricochet
13 off at different angles.

14 And by basing the trajectory, the
15 speed, and all the ballistics of those rounds,
16 that's how they calculate where they're going to
17 go.

18 So some of them will actually go up
19 like this and come back down. They're going to
20 escape the forested piece of that and come down,
21 probably going to be slowed down by the forest
22 cover that's there. But it's still going to
23 impact over on State Game Lands 211.

24 MS. REDDINGER: My follow-up
25 question is, on the agreement when Mr. Guise said

1 it will be renewable every five years, does that
2 give the Gap a license to try to change that
3 agreement in the five-year increments, and will
4 the next commander that comes in change it?

5 COLONEL HODGSON: I'm going to let
6 the lawyer.

7 MR. GUISE: No, it says it remains
8 in effect with the same terms and conditions. It
9 does not give license to try to change it. The
10 agreement will remain in effect essentially as it
11 is, if it is signed and approved through all the
12 approval processes, for the duration of the
13 agreement unless it is amended or early
14 terminated. It does not give a license to change
15 it --

16 MS. REDDINGER: The next commander
17 can't come in and say I don't like this
18 agreement, I'm going to try to change it?

19 MR. GUISE: It cannot be changed
20 without the mutual consent of the parties. And
21 we would anticipate no changes in the agreement,
22 at least its general structure.

23 MS. REDDINGER: Thank you.

24 COLONEL HODGSON: Sir, in the dark
25 jacket.

1 MR. McKINNE: My name is Thomas
2 McKinne, M-C capital K-I-N-N-E, from [REDACTED].

3 This question is for Mr. Guise. I
4 would like to refer to the article that was in
5 the Harrisburg Patriot on Sunday by Marcus
6 Schneck. You stated that this is going to be a
7 legally enforceable document, this cooperative
8 agreement, that according to this article, the
9 Game Commission itself doesn't have to approve
10 it. Is it your legal opinion that one person
11 other than the Game Commission can enter into a
12 legally enforceable document?

13 MR. GUISE: It is my legal opinion
14 that this document is fully executed and approved
15 by the Attorney General, General Counsel and all
16 the required authorities, it is legally
17 enforceable.

18 It is in the standard State
19 Interagency Agreement Format. And it is legally
20 enforceable between the two agencies. Yes, it is
21 my legal opinion that this is a legally
22 enforceable agreement.

23 And I don't think there was
24 anything in Marcus's article that indicated it
25 was not legally enforceable.

1 MR. McKINNE: No, he didn't say
2 that. But he did say that the Game Commission
3 did not require Board action.

4 MR. GUISE: It's because it's not a
5 lease or a sale. They have rules there of what
6 the Game Commission has to vote on and what their
7 staff can approve and sign agreements. But that
8 -- they sign thousands of contracts a year that
9 aren't voted on by the commissioners, and they're
10 legally enforceable. And this would be a legally
11 enforceable contract.

12 COLONEL HODGSON: Yes.

13 MR. McKINNE: My name is Mike
14 McKinne, M-C-I-N-N-E, from [REDACTED].

15 The hunters of Pennsylvania bought
16 and paid for this parcel. Through this license
17 agreement, I understand that they will not have
18 access to the parcel that they paid for, for 90
19 days a year, and we'll just say for 20 or 25
20 years. How will they be, again, the hunters of
21 Pennsylvania, be compensated for this taking for
22 90 days a year?

23 MR. GUISE: First of all, this is
24 not a taking. This is a cooperative land use
25 agreement. The terms and conditions of the

1 agreement between the Department of Military
2 Affairs and the Game Commission is the subject of
3 negotiation between us and the Game Commission,
4 and we have had input from others. The agreement
5 does provide for consideration for the Game
6 Commission in the form of property that will be
7 transferred to the Game Commission, approximately
8 430 acres, here in Dauphin County, I guess it is,
9 called the Eco 1 property, and other
10 consideration.

11 And the agreement isn't final.
12 It's a draft agreement. We have gone back and
13 forth. The wording has to be finalized. It has
14 a provision for additional assistance from other
15 State agencies.

16 I guarantee you that the Game
17 Commission and those who have to review the
18 agreement, and it is contingent upon various
19 reviews, will be satisfied with the consideration
20 that they receive.

21 This is not a taking of property.
22 It's a cooperative land use agreement, 90 days a
23 year, and that is the provisions of the
24 agreement.

25 What we're here tonight to talk

1 about, of course, is the environmental assessment
2 to evaluate the establishment of a surface danger
3 zone on about 900 acres of State Game Lands 211,
4 and not necessarily the terms and conditions as
5 between us and the Game Commission under which
6 that is done. But we're happy to take comments
7 or hear your questions about that, but that's
8 about all I can say.

9 MR. MIKE McKINNE: A follow-up
10 comment, but not a question --

11 MR. GUISE: If it's a comment, you
12 will have to reserve it for the court reporter.

13 MR. MIKE McKINNE: I will phrase it
14 as a question then. There was a precedent set by
15 PennDOT on State Game Lands 278 to establish the
16 value for Game Lands. And if you use that same
17 methodology and look at the present value of a
18 license agreement for a parcel of this size,
19 we're talking close to \$2.8 million.

20 And I guess my question would be,
21 will hunters in Pennsylvania be compensated at a
22 level that's commensurate with what the Game
23 Commission got when they dealt with PennDOT?

24 MR. GUISE: The deal with PennDOT
25 was not for a license agreement for 90 days use.

1 I think it was for a land transfer. And the
2 compensation, the consideration for this
3 agreement that the Game Commission will receive
4 will be adequate and will be fair and complete.

5 Whether it's going to amount to
6 that amount or some other amount, I can't answer
7 that, but it certainly will be -- it will be
8 acceptable to the Game Commission, or they won't
9 sign the agreement.

10 I can guarantee you the Game
11 Commission are looking out for the hunters of
12 Pennsylvania with respect to this agreement and
13 to all their other dealings with respect to Game
14 Lands. They are quite tough negotiators on those
15 kinds of issues.

16 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: Larry,
17 go ahead. Larry? Larry?

18 MR. WESTHAFFER: My name is Larry
19 Westhafer, W-E-S-T-H-A-F-E-R, [REDACTED]. My
20 question is, what is the status of Cold Springs
21 Road during these 90 days, what I refer to is
22 like access to the Halk Watch and access to Cold
23 Springs.

24 COLONEL HODGSON: It's hard to see
25 on this map, I know, from back there, but Cold

1 Springs Road is right here. It's where it
2 crosses the mountain, this is where it bears down
3 to the parking area and goes on the other side.

4 So the ricochet analysis piece of
5 that, that contour line doesn't specifically
6 impact Cold Springs Road.

7 However, what we have stated is
8 that while the lane is hot, there's actually a
9 vehicle on the lane getting ready to go down, is
10 that we would temporarily restrict access from
11 going up over the mountain just while that
12 vehicle is on the lane. As soon as it's over, we
13 allow that to pass.

14 We do that, it's kind of a standard
15 practice no matter where you go. I'm an
16 artillery officer. When we shoot artillery, and
17 there's a road in front of it, and it falls
18 within a specific surface danger zone, it
19 requires us, when we're shooting that particular
20 round, to stop traffic on the road while the
21 rounds are being shot, and as soon as we're at
22 end of mission, we open the road back up and
23 traffic goes.

24 And that's essentially what we're
25 doing here. For us, it's a safety concern. It's

1 not because it's inside the ricochet analysis.
2 But when you go up over, one of the firing
3 positions is within 50, 75 meters. So if you
4 were driving by, we allowed completely unfettered
5 access instead of just temporary stoppage while
6 that lane is in operation for that run, okay?
7 It's not a four-hour thing.

8 It's 20, 30 minutes max. Worse
9 case scenario, if you came up and hit it right at
10 the beginning when the guy stopped traffic,
11 that's about the worst case scenario. But that's
12 only when that -- that's what we said, that's
13 going to be written into the SOP for running the
14 range.

15 If you are driving by there, and
16 something in the tank shot one of the main gun
17 rounds, there's a real potential that you would
18 -- it could startle somebody that's unsuspecting
19 as they're driving up through there. It's pretty
20 loud.

21 MR. GUISE: Before you ask another
22 question, just I want to clarify. I did look up
23 in the draft, and it is only a draft and subject
24 to negotiation agreement, the term of the
25 agreement, which the question was before, the

1 initial term is 25 years. And it's renewable in
2 five-year increments without changes up to 2049,
3 as I said before. So I just wanted to clarify
4 that for everybody.

5 COLONEL HODGSON: Sir, do you have
6 a follow-up?

7 MR. WESTHAFFER: No.

8 COLONEL HODGSON: Yes.

9 MS. McKINNE: My name is Linda
10 McKinne, M-C-K-I-N-E. Mr. Guise, I guess maybe
11 you can answer this. Excuse my ignorance, but
12 does the Game Commission need to sign off on this
13 proposal? Or do they not? I'm getting two --

14 MR. GUISE: The Game Commission, as
15 an agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, an
16 independent administrative commission of the
17 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, needs to sign the
18 agreement through its authorized parties.

19 If the question is does the game
20 commissioners, the members of the commission,
21 have to vote on this agreement, I believe the
22 answer is no, but you have to really direct that
23 question to the Game Commission.

24 As I said, the Game Commission, as
25 a State agency, signs hundreds of thousands of

1 contracts a year. They don't get voted on by
2 their commissioners.

3 But the Game Commission can answer
4 that question. But yes, the Game Commission, as
5 an agency, its executive director, its chief
6 counsel, its administrative secretary, have to
7 sign this agreement, or there is no agreement.

8 MS. McKINNE: Thank you.

9 COLONEL HODGSON: Sir.

10 MR. FETTERHOFF: Terry Fetterhoff.
11 Dauphin. F-E-T-T-E-R-H-O-F-F. You said there
12 would be no training on any part of -- on that
13 211 at all.

14 COLONEL HODGSON: No, sir.

15 MR. FETTERHOFF: Is there a
16 contract or agreement with the Pennsylvania Game
17 Commission today? Because I have encountered
18 helicopters landing on food plots awhile back
19 there.

20 COLONEL HODGSON: Sir, there is an
21 agreement. Somebody answer that.

22 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: We're
23 really talking apples and oranges there. When
24 you ask about training on Fort Indiantown Gap,
25 the Colonel is referencing the Multi-Purpose

1 Training Range, which there will be no training
2 in there for any part of that operation for
3 firing on Fort Indiantown Gap.

4 We do have an agreement with the
5 Pennsylvania Game Commission to land our
6 helicopters out in different parts of 211 and
7 other Game Lands. And as part of that agreement,
8 we put in food plots too at those different
9 locations. So that's really a different, a
10 different issue entirely. Follow-up question?

11 COLONEL HODGSON: Sir.

12 MR. HURST: Randall Hurst,
13 H-U-R-S-T. On the environmental impact
14 statement, my understanding is there was
15 initially a full environmental impact statement
16 created for the Multi-Purpose Training Range. It
17 initially found that there would be no impact
18 outside the boundaries.

19 Now we are finding that there will
20 indeed be an impact outside of the boundaries of
21 the Gap.

22 And my understanding of the
23 regulations is that when the initial statement is
24 found to be in error, it's fixed by a
25 supplemental environmental impact statement.

1 What I'm hearing you say is you're not going to
2 do that, instead you are going to do an
3 environmental assessment, which is a much lower
4 level of evaluation. I'm wondering why that is.

5 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: John,
6 do you want to answer that? This is John Fronk
7 from our environmental office.

8 MR. FRONK: Yes. When we assessed
9 the impact of the range back in 2002, the initial
10 EIS, we did not have the complete impact
11 analysis, ricochet analysis, at that time. The
12 project itself was not ripe for full analysis at
13 that time. We simply said we will not build an
14 unsafe range. If you reference the document.

15 We have henceforth have done the
16 ricochet analysis and found that, yes, the range
17 can't be built without a safety buffer in the
18 State Game Land 211, and that's what this
19 follow-on documentation, supplemental to the
20 first documentation, will address, is that that
21 additional safety buffer requirement in the State
22 Game Land 211.

23 MR. HURST: The question was, is
24 this going to be the supplemental EIS, or is it
25 going to be the environmental --

1 MR. FRONK: The supplemental NEPA
2 document to that original document, which
3 addressed the construction of that range, the
4 impact that range would have with erosion, with
5 noise, that was all addressed in that first
6 document that we did in 2002.

7 Now, this additional impact that we
8 have come to find with the safety buffer will be
9 addressed in this follow-on document.

10 MR. HURST: You're not answering my
11 question. Is there a legal difference between a
12 supplemental EIS and an environmental assessment?

13 I'm asking, why are you using the
14 environmental assessment process rather than the
15 supplemental EIS process?

16 MR. GUISE: This is an
17 environmental assessment extending the surface
18 danger zone into about 900 acres off the
19 installation.

20 We believe it is the appropriate
21 form of environmental documentation for this.
22 And we believe it is what is required and what --
23 actually, may go beyond what is required. But it
24 is the appropriate form of environmental
25 documentation. A new EIS is not required for

1 this.

2 MR. HURST: I'm not asking -- you
3 are not answering my question, sir.

4 MR. GUISE: The answer is, we
5 believe an environmental assessment is the
6 appropriate environmental documentation.

7 MR. HURST: My question was why.

8 MR. GUISE: Because of the nature
9 of the project, its limited impacts, and the
10 nature of the project. Basically, as you know,
11 there's a set of standards under which you look
12 at what kind of environmental documentation is
13 required. It's set forth in Army regulations,
14 statute, Council of Environmental Quality
15 regulations.

16 We looked at that to determine this
17 was the appropriate level of environmental
18 documentation for this project. Someone can
19 disagree with that. But that was our conclusion.
20 And I think we are very confident that that is a
21 correct conclusion.

22 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: We are
23 going to take two more questions. Tom.

24 MR. SCOTT: Tom Scott from [REDACTED].
25 This is a question sort of follow-up in a sense

1 concerning the environmental assessment that the
2 Guard is willing to perform. There's no
3 question, having listened to this presentation
4 and a number of others, that the Guard believes
5 that this project can go forward without any
6 significant adverse effect on Stony Creek or the
7 environment.

8 And I think there's also a pretty
9 clear sense that we received that you believe you
10 have the authority to do that. As I'm sure you
11 are aware, in addition to the control of this
12 property by the Game Commission and perhaps some
13 oversight by United States Fish and Wildlife
14 Service, this particular chunk of property is
15 also part of the designated wild river corridor
16 pursuant to the State's Wild and Scenic River
17 Program.

18 And my question is, is the military
19 willing, as part of this process, to engage, in
20 addition to the Federal EIS program, to also
21 engage the State Wild River Program, which would
22 entail the creation of a multi-disciplinary study
23 team similar to that which occurred in the late
24 '70s when the property was originally designated,
25 that would be a broad-based study group, not just

1 a consultant. It would probably include county
2 commissioners, township supervisors, general
3 citizenry, people from DEP, people from DCNR,
4 obviously people from the military, people from
5 the Game Commission, and qualified professionals,
6 and as a result of that study process to have a
7 report that was done within the configuration of
8 the Wild and Scenic River Program which would
9 then be available for action by the General
10 Assembly.

11 Because, as I'm sure the military
12 is aware, there are those of us who believe that
13 because this was designated a wild river by the
14 General Assembly, access to the area cannot be
15 changed simply by administrative action by the
16 military and the Game Commission. There's also a
17 role for the General Assembly here.

18 And the 64 cent question at the end
19 of all that is, is the military willing to engage
20 in that wild scenic river study process and allow
21 the results of that process, whatever they may
22 be, to be acted upon by the General Assembly if
23 the General Assembly deems it necessary?

24 MR. GUISE: I will answer that. We
25 are willing to, and we have and will continue to

1 consult with the DCNR, which is the Commonwealth
2 agency that administers the Wild and Scenic River
3 Act, and other appropriate agencies, and
4 determine what course of action is appropriate.

5 And we have met with Stony Creek
6 Valley Collision and others to get their input on
7 that. And we will try to arrive at a mutually
8 agreeable course of action.

9 We are not going to be able to say
10 tonight that we are going to agree to a
11 legislative change, because we're not sure one is
12 necessary, or to any other particular course of
13 action.

14 But we certainly recognize that
15 this was a designated wild river under the law
16 that was passed back in 1980, I believe, and that
17 we respect that, and we intend that any kind of
18 agreement for use of this land comply with that.
19 And, frankly, we believe the draft agreement that
20 we have does comply with that because it
21 continues the Game Commission responsibilities
22 exactly as they are today with respect to this
23 process.

24 But I know there's some disagreement
25 about that. And that's the answer. We will

1 certainly look at that suggestion. We will work
2 with DCNR, the Game Commission, the other
3 agencies, and determine what course of action is
4 best. But I can't tell you we're going to agree
5 to any kind of specific provisions at this time.
6 That's why we have negotiations.

7 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: One
8 other question. One more.

9 MR. FRONK: I want to add to that,
10 the NEPA process is starting tonight. We're here
11 tonight to tell you the story of what we're
12 proposing here. And we're asking the public --
13 and that's the true nature of NEPA, is to engage
14 the public, their concerns and issues, with a
15 federal action like this.

16 And what we're doing here tonight,
17 and what we would like to gather from you with
18 our comment boxes and our court reporter, is your
19 issues, concerns, that you feel that we need to
20 address and evaluate within the NEPA process.

21 And as we go through the NEPA
22 process, there will be another opportunity, when
23 we issue a draft EA, that you will have an
24 opportunity then to review that document and
25 comment on it at that time, how we evaluate the

1 impacts that we have addressed within the draft
2 document.

3 So really, we're starting the
4 process, we're starting the discussion now with
5 you here tonight. And as we move forward in the
6 NEPA process, we hope to be able to further
7 develop the project and the explanation for the
8 impacts that are in this project as proposed.

9 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: One
10 last question. Go ahead, ma'am.

11 MS. HALK: Shirley Halk, H-A-L-K.
12 [REDACTED]. You mentioned Fort Drum and Fort
13 Pickett when you were discussing it.

14 What's the scenario if this isn't
15 built into this range and this land given -- or
16 shall we say, given, or shall we say borrowed,
17 whatever.

18 And the prime reason is, because
19 the men and women from our state would have this
20 inconvenience of driving to these two different
21 places for duty, have to take equipment. What's
22 the difference if the men from Fort Drum and Fort
23 Pickett have to come here? Isn't it an
24 inconvenience for them?

25 COLONEL HODGSON: If they so choose

1 to do that. For somebody else to come here,
2 somebody else to come here, we welcome anybody
3 that wants to come here if we can fit that into
4 everything that we do here already. We try to
5 maximize the utilization approach.

6 From the ones at Fort Pickett,
7 Virginia, there's not a lot of heavy units left
8 in the country anymore, especially in the Guard
9 side. Heavy meaning tank and Bradley units.

10 So those that utilize Fort Drum, I
11 don't know if the 42nd New York has much left in
12 theirs. Some of the others are from some of the
13 northern tier states.

14 As far as Fort Pickett, Virginia,
15 those people that utilize that one are from
16 Virginia and North Carolina primarily that use
17 that.

18 So for the tank and Bradley guys to
19 come here, probably not a whole lot of outside of
20 our National Guard here, there's probably not a
21 lot of utilization for that, or need for them to
22 come here to train. I guess that's the best
23 thing.

24 Would it be an inconvenience for
25 them as much as it is an inconvenience for us?

1 Yes, ma'am, it would be.

2 MS. HALK: So in reality, when
3 we're saying there's no options except this trade
4 or not building, there is an option. We could,
5 if we could say, hey, six to eight hours isn't so
6 bad, I'm in training --

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm getting paid.

8 MS. HALK: I'm getting paid, I'm
9 getting the benefits, it's not so farfetched then
10 to have them go to Drum or Pickett and allow that
11 to occur there rather than it always impacting us
12 here at Fort Indiantown Gap.

13 COLONEL HODGSON: I'm not going to
14 disagree with you, ma'am, but for our soldiers,
15 primarily, is who we're building this range for,
16 that -- and there's also a schoolhouse here where
17 it teaches tank skills, they have a schoolhouse
18 that's part of the Gap. So, again, having this
19 range here allows them to do that training right
20 here rather than taking those people and going
21 down someplace else, each time somebody goes one
22 of those other places.

23 If somebody came here and fired our
24 equipment, they have to pay a lot of money
25 because a tank costs about --

1 MS. HALK: I read 2.2 million.

2 COLONEL HODGSON: The average that
3 we use, I'm going back to a previous job that I
4 held a few years ago, but it's somewhere around a
5 hundred dollars a mile, the cost of the tank, to
6 operate the tank. That includes gas, fuel,
7 repair parts, things like that. It's just an
8 expensive piece of equipment to operate. The
9 Bradley is not as expensive.

10 For somebody else who doesn't own
11 that equipment that we own here, the equipment we
12 currently own at Fort Drum and at Fort Pickett,
13 if they come here, and they don't own that
14 equipment, they're going to pay to use that. So
15 they can afford to do that, that's their choice
16 to do that.

17 We're only focusing on our soldiers
18 here in Pennsylvania, the ones that we have.
19 This is the one piece that we have left.

20 So there's one other thing that I'm
21 going to talk about. And it's kind of a -- it's
22 a new process. Back in around January, for
23 soldiers in the -- mobilizing to fight the global
24 warfare, up until about January, they were
25 spending one year in the country, wherever they

1 were going, Afghanistan or Iraq, and they were
2 taking upwards of, depending on what kind of an
3 organization they were, three to six months of
4 training someplace before they were deployed.

5 So we had a second brigade combat
6 team that was here in Pennsylvania, headquartered
7 out in Washington, Pennsylvania, they went down
8 and trained for six months and then deployed and
9 spent a year in country.

10 The Secretary of Defense, the
11 Department of Defense, came out with a new rule
12 that says that it's only a one-year mobilization
13 now total. And that includes the training time.

14 So what they're looking now to do,
15 and they have also given the authority back to
16 the, through the National Guard, to the Adjutant
17 General, our boss here in Pennsylvania, Jessica
18 Wright, to certify certain levels of training
19 that we did not have before.

20 So it's kind of all brand new to
21 us. But the emphasis now is going to shift to,
22 instead of mobilizing the unit, training them for
23 three to six months, and then shipping them over
24 for a year, now the emphasis goes, notifying them
25 a year out, using their existing drills and

1 training that they normally have to get them
2 through a series of tasks and validated here
3 before they deploy to go someplace else.

4 Part of that skill set for those
5 who are in tank and Bradley units will be that
6 gunnery piece of it. So it's all part of what we
7 need to be able to train here.

8 There is a couple options. If we
9 don't build it, we will have to go elsewhere to
10 try to accomplish that training. And it's going
11 to -- that's the nature of the business. We have
12 the capability of doing it here if all the stuff
13 works.

14 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: After
15 legal counsel, we're going to take two more
16 questions. Two more. Go ahead, ma'am.

17 MS. MARTEL: Beverly Martel,
18 M-A-R-T-E-L, [REDACTED]. How many jobs would
19 be lost in the county if we said let's not do it
20 here, let's send them to Virginia or send them to
21 New York? Will we not feel the impact
22 financially in our area?

23 COLONEL HODGSON: There will be
24 some, the biggest thing, number one, will be the
25 maintenance guys that maintain the track vehicle

1 equipment because we're in the process of
2 bringing our stuff back from Fort Drum. Fort
3 Drum is not a very user friendly place for
4 training. And tanks and Bradley is very
5 expensive to operate and they're very expensive
6 to maintain. They break sitting in the motor
7 pool literally. Ask any tanker, and they will
8 tell you that.

9 So they have to be maintained
10 constantly. We have had a lot of challenges at
11 Fort Drum having to maintain our equipment. Fort
12 Pickett, who also has some of our equipment, does
13 a very good job of maintaining it.

14 So we give them X amount of the
15 tanks, Bradleys and other equipment up at Fort
16 Drum. And we also from the state give them
17 employment authorizations. Those are employment
18 authorizations for full-time people that will be
19 working on that piece of equipment.

20 If we don't bring this equipment
21 back here, we will take unemployment
22 authorizations that will be coming back here and
23 we're going to push them down to wherever else
24 the equipment is going. Because we're pulling
25 stuff out of Drum anyhow. It's just, for our

1 guys, it's just not a good place to train. And
2 we're going to be doing that, I believe that's
3 the case, it's kind of outside of my pay rate.
4 But that's what's going to happen. That economic
5 impact of those full-time people that would work
6 here at the installation will be lost.

7 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLEAVER: Final
8 question.

9 COLONEL HODGSON: Sir, in the black
10 jacket.

11 MR. WEABER: My name is Tom Weaber
12 from [REDACTED], W-E-A-B-E-R. I missed the first
13 part of the presentation, so maybe you already
14 answered this question.

15 When you say that there's no other
16 feasible place in the Gap property to put the
17 range, what is the status of the Range 27, the
18 old tank range that was closed down? Why can't
19 you use that?

20 COLONEL HODGSON: That range,
21 essentially, is down in this vicinity. That
22 range is oriented from north to south --
23 correction, from south to north. It fired
24 against Second Mountain.

25 It caused -- there were projectiles

1 that skipped up and over and went out in State
2 Game Lands. And I believe -- I don't know the
3 answer because I wasn't in this job back then, it
4 was shut down around '97, but I believe they
5 exceeded beyond even Stony Creek. There's no way
6 to mitigate that.

7 We use that range only now, we have
8 done a couple things with it, we still use the
9 ground. There is a new range being built in that
10 general vicinity. It's kind of the firing line
11 back up a hill from it, but it's not a tank or a
12 Bradley range.

13 And the firing line that was on
14 there, we still use the targetry that's out
15 there, but there's no live fire in that
16 particular range. It's only what we call --

17 MR. WEABER: Laser fire.

18 COLONEL HODGSON: It's laser fire,
19 essentially. That's the only thing it's used
20 for, from a tank and Bradley perspective now.
21 But that doesn't satisfy the Army's qualification
22 requirement where they actually have to fire the
23 pieces of equipment.

24 MR. WEABER: So the new range is
25 going to be firing east to west?

1 COLONEL HODGSON: The new range,
2 essentially, with this line being the ridge line
3 on Second Mountain, and this line being the ridge
4 line on Blue Mountain, it fires down the
5 corridor, essentially -- I don't know if this is
6 true north/south. Essentially it fires that
7 direction. This is the state run, and these are
8 the targets that it fires at (indicating).

9 MR. GUISE: Okay, that concludes
10 the question and answer period for the big group,
11 but, first of all, we will have people at all the
12 stations here in the science fair format that can
13 answer your questions. Please take your
14 questions to them.

15 Second, if you want to make a
16 comment, something that needs to be recorded,
17 now, this is not a public hearing tonight, it's
18 the public information meeting, but if you want
19 to make comments and have them recorded, the
20 court reporter will be here behind this display.
21 And you can go back and meet with her and give
22 her a comment, and she will record them.

23 You can make public comments by
24 filling out the comment cards that we have out
25 here in the hall. And please put them in the

1 box. And you can make comments at this stage of
2 the process by mailing them in to Colonel Cleaver
3 here at Fort Indiantown Gap there now until April
4 16th.

5 And as Mr. Fronk mentioned, there
6 will be an additional formal public comment
7 period for written comments when a draft
8 environmental assessment is complete.

9 Yes? You have a process-related
10 question?

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I was wondering,
12 how do we know if our questions and comments are
13 going to be answered?

14 We went to the meeting before back
15 a year or so ago, and a lot of the questions that
16 came up necessarily weren't reflected. We're
17 still here again. And it seems like --

18 MR. GUISE: I can only say all the
19 questions that are brought up, comments, will be
20 recorded. We will do our best to answer them.
21 We have answered questions here tonight.

22 We think we were responsive to your
23 earlier questions in many ways, in fact, this
24 proposal evolved in that way.

25 So that concludes this part.

1 Please get up from your chairs and visit the
2 stations. And thank you very much.

3 MR. McKINNEY: When we have the
4 next hearing, are you going to tell us ahead of
5 time how much time we have to ask questions or
6 how many questions we're going to be allowed to
7 ask? Or is it going to be the way tonight where
8 you just shut us off?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, anyhow.

10 MR. GUISE: There won't be a
11 further public hearing on it, I don't believe,
12 but we will take public comments in the process
13 that I described. Thank you.

14 MS. WOLFE: Linda Wolfe, W-O-L-F-E.
15 I'm from [REDACTED]. Thank you. Why would the Gap
16 accept a mission that they cannot perform?
17 That's my comment.

18 Since there are alternatives, and
19 the cost is in the millions, it's also in the
20 millions to continue development.

21 And my last comment would be, in
22 this general area in Pennsylvania, a lot of areas
23 similar to Stony Valley are no longer in
24 existence. This will remain the last of our
25 so-called sanctuaries. And this is the only one

1 for handicapped people.

2 So I implore the powers that be to
3 consider that the guys overseas that will be
4 serving, to allow them to be able to come home to
5 something that they will think of in their minds
6 when they're away in the desert. They will think
7 of streams. They will think of birds. They will
8 think of Stony Valley and the places around their
9 own homes that are no longer in existence.
10 Please consider that when bringing our troops
11 home. Let them have a home to come home to.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. MARTEL: Dan Martel,
14 M-A-R-T-E-L, of [REDACTED]. I actually live
15 here. I think it's important for the Guard to
16 consider all the environmental impacts, but I
17 also am cognizant of the fact that Fort
18 Indiantown Gap puts over half a billion dollars
19 into the local economy. And I also am aware of
20 the recreational aspect that the Gap has. And I
21 am in favor of this project going forward. Thank
22 you.

23 MS. VanHORN: Barbara VanHorn,
24 V-A-N, capital H-O-R-N. It's a matter of great
25 distress to me that the necessity for this

1 training in tanks indicates that the Federal
2 Government plans to continue sending the National
3 Guard overseas in wars of aggression instead of
4 letting them do the job that they were created
5 for, which is to take care of us at home.

6 MR. SMITH: Damian, D-A-M-I-A-N,
7 Smith. If there's a forest fire, who will pay
8 for it? Will you rebuild or plant trees?

9 And then my second question would
10 be, after 20 or 30 years, with the grounds that
11 impact over, who will go in there and clean that
12 up? Or if there's a policy in place already.

13 MR. MAGAGNA: Carl, M-A-G-A-G-N-A.
14 I would just say, now more than ever, our
15 National Guard needs the best training that they
16 can acquire in the modern battlefield.

17 The MPTR I see as vital to the
18 training of the Pennsylvania National Guard. I
19 feel as though we have provided every avenue to
20 Stop the Swap Coalition, the coalition that are
21 here, the Save Stony Valley Coalition. We have
22 provided every opportunity for them to comment.
23 And we have cut back the amount of land that we
24 need to the bare minimum.

25 And I believe -- I look at this as

1 a win-win situation for us and for the Stony
2 Valley Coalition and for the Game Commission
3 because we will be giving the land an Eco 1,
4 providing that to the Game Commission for use, as
5 well as, as I mentioned earlier, cutting back on
6 a lot of the acreage that would remain in the
7 Stony Valley area.

8 So, to me, it's a win-win situation
9 for the Guard and for the Stony Valley Coalition.
10 And for the Game Commission.

11 MS. RENNINGER: My name is Joan
12 Renninger. And I'm Co-chairman of the Coalition
13 to Save Stony Creek Valley.

14 And I wanted to go on record as
15 saying a poll of our coalition members stated
16 that not one of them wanted to give up this
17 fight. And we do not want the Gap to have one
18 square inch because we feel that that is just a
19 cleverly crafted way of getting the foot in the
20 door to take more land in the future.

21 And I can just see it happening, a
22 new commander comes in here and says oh, no,
23 that's not enough, it's too dangerous for the
24 civilians, we want more. And once the precedent
25 is set, it's hard to fight that.

1 So we are going to continue our
2 fight to save the valley. I also think that no
3 one is really taking into consideration the
4 concussion and noise that's going to be
5 generated, especially the new casino that
6 Governor Rendell wants built out by the race
7 track, which is very near. And I know how the
8 sound travels down that valley. I guess that's
9 about it for now.

10 MR. BITTERMAN: My name is Gary
11 Bitterman, B-I-T-T-E-R-M-A-N. My only objection
12 to this is, my idea that they are going to close
13 off the road permanently. Mr. Hodgson assures me
14 they're not going to, that I can get over into
15 there any time I want to. And that's it. I'm
16 fine with what he said. I just want to make it
17 official.

18 He assures us that it's not going
19 to be closed off as a permanent time. If we go
20 over there, like, at 5:00 in the morning, we may
21 have a delay coming back, like, 15 or 20 minutes,
22 but that's all. And the same if you go over
23 after 6 o'clock in the morning when they
24 maneuver, you could be delayed. That's all.

25 MS. AMANTIA: Sue Amantia,

1 A-M-A-N-T-I-A. I'm a member of the Audubon Club.
2 My comment is that all this science fair stuff is
3 an excuse for them to cut off the questioning
4 period. That was disrespectful to only give us
5 30 minutes.

6 I have been in other protest
7 groups. And they always gave everybody the full
8 time to ask their questions. They didn't say,
9 okay, no more questions, go around and talk to
10 these people at the booths. That's wrong. They
11 should have allowed questions until 8:30. They
12 shut us up. They officially effectively shut us
13 up.

14 I wish I had thought to say
15 something at the time, but everybody was just so
16 shocked that they wouldn't get their questions
17 in. Think about it. They just said, in effect,
18 to us, shut up, no more questions.

19 Half an hour is nothing. I mean, I
20 have been in anti-nuke groups, and they were our
21 enemies, but they at least allowed us to ask
22 questions the full time of the meeting.

23 Another thing, in the paper it said
24 this meeting was supposed to start at 6:30. The
25 only way we knew it was to start at 6:00 was when

1 we went on the computer on line because we didn't
2 know what time it was to start. A lot of people
3 didn't know. They came at 6:30 because they
4 thought that was the time it was to start because
5 that's what the paper, the Lebanon Daily News,
6 said.

7 I guess that's all I have to say
8 except that I think that this was disrespectful
9 to the people by just shutting us up after a half
10 an hour. Bad. Bad.

11 MS. REDDINGER: Can I add. Joan
12 Reddinger. I felt that they should have had more
13 time for people to ask questions because some
14 people did not get a chance to ask their
15 questions. And this is a public meeting. And
16 they should have had an opportunity.

17 I also feel that this land use
18 agreement is a total violation of the Pittman
19 Robertson Act, P-I-T-T-M-A-N, Robertson Act,
20 which specifically says that any land purchased
21 with those funds shall never be off limits to any
22 hunters because it was purchased entirely of
23 money from hunting licenses and by federal
24 wildlife grants. And no one has the right to
25 keep a hunter off that land. That's it.

1 MS. STARR: Geri, G-E-R-I, Starr,
2 S-T-A-R-R, from [REDACTED]. And I just want to
3 make a comment that I'm a hiker, and they're
4 taking my weekends to hike, prime hiking weekends
5 that are available.

6 And even though they're giving
7 hunters the access, I don't like to hike when
8 it's hunting season. So that really limits my
9 hiking. And I'm very much against the proposal.
10 That's all I want to say.

11 MS. HALK: Shirley Halk, H-A-L-K.
12 S-H-I-R-L-E-Y. Some of my concerns are the
13 environmental impacts and the way they're going
14 at this.

15 My dad once told me, figures don't
16 lie, but liars can figure. And I believe that is
17 true in this case.

18 I have been around the Gap since
19 before the Viet Nam War. I have watched them
20 destroy acres. And this is talking National
21 Guard, once the feds left and the Guard took
22 over, acres of Lady Slippers, I watched on the
23 east end of Marquette where they took and they
24 tailored this nice picnic area for themselves,
25 never asking anybody that they were the rare

1 Polygala Orchids in there. It's all gone.
2 Watched as they dug the heck out of Indiantown
3 Run with no permit to do so, and Doc Woods knew
4 about it, and he knew he was wrong, and his only
5 comment was he'll shut the Gap down. Well, he
6 doesn't have the power to do that. He's
7 maintenance. He's not going to shut the Gap
8 down.

9 But that's my real concerns, that I
10 wish this evening they would have allowed
11 everybody to talk rather than -- I think it
12 should have been in the paper that they were
13 going to only allow, quote, unquote, a half an
14 hour for comment. I think they did an injustice
15 to the people here.

16 And I would really like to see this
17 contract. And I think others would like to see
18 the contract to see exactly what they are going
19 to do with 211. And this is just their
20 opportunity to get a foot in the door and destroy
21 more of our environment back here.

22 Going back to the Lady Slippers,
23 this was at Five Points. There were acres of
24 them. They were so prolific when they bloom, you
25 could walk on them almost like a carpet. They

1 came in, the Ground Pine was there, Crow's Foot.
2 They came in, they dozed it all, put in big
3 bouldery rocks for cover, and that was the end.

4 MR. SHAVER: Dorman Shaver,
5 D-O-R-M-A-N, S-H-A-V-E-R. That land was
6 originally purchased with Pittman Robertson
7 funds, which is a tax that every sportsman pays
8 on ammunition and gun powder and guns, etcetera,
9 etcetera.

10 And there is a very narrow usage of
11 what land can be used for. And I'm concerned
12 that this is in violation of that act.

13 MR. HERR: Larry Herr, [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]. H-E-R-R. My comment is, 1950s, the
15 Gap destroyed Cold Springs. Right now the Gap
16 has -- in 2002, the Gap clear-cut three miles of
17 State Game Lands on top of Second Mountain, never
18 reimbursed the Game Lands for the timber that was
19 removed.

20 And right now, there is about three
21 miles of barbed wire fence on State Game Lands
22 that the Gap has put up.

23 My question is, why would we trust
24 them at this point? Or how can we trust them at
25 this point?

1 MR. JOSHUA McKINNEY: Joshua
2 McKinney, M-C-K-I-N-N-E-Y. [REDACTED]. I would
3 just like to comment on this whole swap thing
4 from the very beginning, it still is a swap, it
5 still is a taking of land. It is public land
6 that was given to us by our license funds by
7 Pittman Roberts funds to protect the watershed as
8 a whole and keep its integrity, which deviates
9 any piece of that, you are deviating and losing
10 the whole, the whole watershed.

11 I don't believe that this will be a
12 temporary fix. I wish there was some sort of
13 public evaluation how the land is used in future
14 practices. If there are rounds out, if there's
15 excessive use of the buffer zone, how do we
16 report that? Who do we talk to? What happens if
17 there's violations of somebody going into that
18 land that are unknowing, unknown that there's
19 shooting going on at that time?

20 These are all things that are
21 violations of our civil liberties, I feel, in a
22 sense, that this land was just taken away from
23 us.

24 Also in these meetings, as we get
25 shuffled through them, and we get put through a

1 science fair-type scenario, how do we know that
2 our other answers -- because I saw several,
3 several hands still up in the room that had many
4 questions to be asked. I waited over nine months
5 to come here to have these questions answered.
6 And now I'm told that there's going to be one
7 more question, now there's going to be no more
8 questions. Now I have to put my questions into a
9 comment box or, excuse me, having to talk to a
10 stenographer.

11 Do I know that these questions are
12 going to be answered? Are they going to be taken
13 into consideration?

14 I was told last time that they
15 would be. I do see some of that reflected in
16 what the Gap is trying to do, but ultimately,
17 it's still going to benefit them.

18 I don't see any compromise as far
19 as public involvement, as far as how is it going
20 to be regulated, you know, it's a slippery slope
21 still.

22 What if they need more land in the
23 future? I still don't feel that they have
24 honestly demonstrated that they absolutely need
25 the land.

1 Are they going to monitor the facts
2 if no rounds go over, ricochet analysis was
3 excessive, are they going to give the land back
4 to the public? When are these questions going to
5 be answered?

6 My information is I signed in the
7 very beginning of the meeting, I gave all my
8 information, contact information at that time, so
9 if anybody so chooses -- we're also a member of
10 the coalition, if they voice their concerns -- or
11 their answers to the coalition, I would
12 appreciate that. Thank you for your time.

13 MR. BURGDORF: Greg Burgdorf,
14 B-U-R-G-D-O-R-F. I guess I'm wondering, my
15 question is, I'm wondering about the accuracy of
16 the ricochet analysis.

17 I have two further comments about
18 that. One is, I think there should be a
19 simulation made that does include trees. And I
20 think that what has been presented and prepared
21 to date is conservative, and maybe it's too
22 conservative. What that does is that it --
23 there's more land projected to be a buffer zone
24 than what maybe really is needed.

25 A second question I have about the

1 ricochet analysis is the selection of the
2 boundary line criteria which has been designated
3 at one in a million, ten to the minus six risk.
4 And I'm wondering where that number comes from
5 and how different this boundary zone would be if
6 it was, like, ten to the minus fifth, or one in
7 one-hundred-thousand.

8 I guess also, I have some concern
9 about this whole process. I think a lot of
10 progress has been made from the initial proposal,
11 but I'm hoping that there can still be some
12 further less impact to Stony Valley area.

13 MR. SHOOP: Paul Shoop, S-H-O-O-P.
14 The comment, they made the statement that spring
15 gobbler season, that that area would only be open
16 one weekend. And that is when kids are still in
17 school, when spring gobbler is. And the parents
18 have a chance to take their children out hunting.
19 That area, at the most, would only be available
20 one weekend.

21 And that land was bought with
22 Pittman Robertson funds for the hunters to have a
23 place to hunt. And that is not right.

24 The other comment is he made the
25 statement the commissioners, he don't believe the

1 Game Commission would have to vote on this. And
2 those commissioners are scattered all over the
3 state representing the people. And the executive
4 director of the Game Commission is a career
5 military person negotiating on behalf of the Game
6 Commission. He would be one that would sign it,
7 negotiate with the military, and that's, a lot of
8 people strongly believe, is a real conflict of
9 interest there.

10 Even in a court-of-law, a judge
11 will recuse himself on a case if even an
12 appearance of a conflict of interest. That's
13 another issue that's not quite right with this.

14 It's not just a local issue.
15 Because people from all over other states use
16 this land too. It's not just about us and now.
17 It's about all future generations.

18 And the other thing is, we have no
19 reason to believe that they would -- the military
20 would live up to the agreement on that land
21 because the Game Land they have now -- they have
22 already cleared part of the top of that mountain,
23 took the survey markers out, ran across the state
24 Game Land, cut trees down, bulldozed out the top
25 of the mountain already.

1 So we have no reason to believe
2 that they would live up to the agreement. If
3 there's any kind of an agreement, it should be
4 something with accountability. If they aren't
5 living up to the agreement, it is not renewed.
6 He said it's supposed to be automatically
7 renewable. It should not be. There has to be
8 accountability built into that. That's the main
9 thing I wanted to tell you.

10 MR. McKINNE: Mike McKinne,
11 M-C-K-I-N-N-E. My concern is with the
12 environmental impact of the firing range
13 concerning trout fishermen and somebody trying to
14 have a wilderness experience.

15 Even though access will be
16 restricted at times on Cold Springs Road, that is
17 an issue in itself. A number of handicapped
18 people use that road as a way to get down into
19 the valley.

20 So, in effect, not only are you
21 taking 900 acres out of access, you are really
22 taking the full 44,000 acres out of the access
23 because people that are handicapped will not be
24 able to get there during that time.

25 In addition, in association with

1 that, there's the uncertainty issue, people not
2 knowing when they will be able to get down, not
3 knowing how long they will have to wait. They
4 may, in fact, make a decision not to come because
5 of that uncertainty factor; therefore, removing a
6 whole number of people from access to that
7 parcel.

8 Also to go down there and try to
9 fish and have a wilderness experience any time
10 this firing takes place essentially makes it a
11 non-wilderness experience, because no one in
12 their right mind wanting that experience will go
13 down there and be able to tolerate that noise.
14 It's just not consistent with what one goes into
15 an area like that for.

16 So the bottom line with all of that
17 is that even though you may have access through
18 Cold Springs Road, and even though you may be
19 able to get into the other parcels, people will
20 not because, in fact, you are taking away that
21 benefit of that wilderness area from you by
22 introducing a large amount of noise.

23 And I think, as they reevaluate the
24 environmental assessment that needs to be done in
25 addition to that, they need to reassess the noise

1 impact on somebody wanting to use the parcel.

2 That's it. Thank you.

3 (The proceedings were concluded at
4 8:10 p.m.)

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1 I hereby certify that the
2 proceedings and evidence are contained fully and
3 accurately in the notes taken by me on the within
4 proceedings and that this copy is a correct
5 transcript of same.

6
7
8 
9 Karen Blouch, RMR
10 Notary Public
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Comments from Dale Ibberson

Following Public Meeting at Fort Indiantown Gap 3/21/07

While I would rather things would remain as they have for many years, I am also a realist. FIG will probably build their ranges and get a buffer agreement with PGC.

Therefore, my comments will deal only with the proposed agreement and the major problems I have with it. I acknowledge that it is far better than the original plan to "Swap Out" Stony Valley land for something somewhere else. I would have fought to the death if that had occurred.

Problems with current proposal:

Use

28 c Signage etc.

You have indicated a willingness to involve the Coalition in the design and placement of warning signs. Please follow through on this.

Restrictions

29 a *DMVA shall engage in no development, construction, or subdivision of the SDZ. No buildings or structures will be placed on the SDZ..*

add [No buildings, structures, or fences of any kind will be placed on the SDZ].

We have discussed with you several times the issue of fences. You always say it is included in the above. If this is true, why not add it specifically to the above as I have done in red ?

29 c *DNVA will build no roads for vehicular traffic of any kind (tracked or wheeled) etc., etc.*

Add [No motorized vehicles of any kind under the control of DMVA, FIG, or its contractors shall be allowed at any time. Ordinance removal shall be done using non-motorized methods.]

What is the definition of a road ? A set of tire tracks is a road to me. Soon it becomes 2 sets, then 3; then somebody dumps a load of stone to fill a soft spot. But DMVA would not consider this a road. What about ATVs ?

Solution NO motorized vehicles of any kind under the control of the DMVA. IF YOU NEED TO GO IN TO REMOVE ORDINANCE, DO IT THE WAY HUNTERS DO IF THEY SHOOT A TURKEY, DEER, OR BEAR – CARRY IT OUT OR DRAG IT OUT

Also see 28 e re ordinance removal

One final comment – The Coalition and the public do not trust FIG or the PGC. At the first infraction everyone will say "I told you so". Please make every attempt to prove us wrong. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you instead of against you.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Ain't America Great ?

Dale Ibberson

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

ESTABLISHING A SURFACE DANGER ZONE ON A PORTION OF STATE GAME LANDS 211 IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE TRAINING RANGE

If you would prefer to submit written comments, please use this form. Continue on the back of the form or attach extra sheets, as necessary.

NAME: Jim Rice DATE: 3/21/07

TITLE/ORGANIZATION: N/A

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
(Street) (City/State/Zip)

—COMMENTS—

PA statute protects the Stony Creek watershed.
Any intrusion on the watershed should be addressed
by the PA General Assembly. DMVA and PGC cannot
decide this issue.

The PA National Guard should find another solution.

Please hand this form to meeting staff,
drop into the collection box, or mail to:
LTC Christopher Cleaver,
Public Affairs Officer
Fort Indiantown Gap, Building 9-79
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-5002.

March 25, 2007

Executive Director
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

The Adjutant General
Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Bldg P-0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5002

Re: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Dear Executive Director Roe & Adjutant General Wright:

The Sunday Patriot-News on March 18, 2007 contained the following statement:
According to commission spokesman Jerry Feaser, the new proposal from the National Guard would be
"a cooperative agreement, which does not require board action" to be accepted by the agency.

On Wednesday, March 21, 2007 I attended the public meeting at Fort Indiantown Gap (FTIG). I realize there was no obligation of the PGC to attend the event. But a representative from the PGC should have been present – just as common courtesy to the PA licensed hunters effected by this issue.

I didn't realize Dennis Guise was a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Mr. Guise, speaking for the PGC, said the commission executes hundreds of contracts similar to this "Cooperative Agreement" without the Board of Commissioners approval.

Please enlighten me – exclude any research or propagation areas, etc. I didn't realize there were so many "Cooperative Agreements" signed whereby PA licensed hunters were denied access to State Game Lands purchased with the aid of the Federal Wildlife Restoration Act during a hunting season. Please provide me with these many examples of which Mr. Guise boasts.¹

¹ From the Commission's Meeting on September 22, 1945: "The fact that the Department of Military Affairs has expressed a willingness to turn over to the Commission an area of approximately 80.5 acres at Cold Spring, an interior holding, for such use as we desire." Some irony?

And correspondence to Edward Martin, Governor of Pennsylvania on June 1, 1946 from Ross L. Leffler, President; R. Lamberton, Vice President; Nicholas Biddle; G. I. Phillips; Harold Moltz; H. E. Kilgus; John C. Herman; B. K. Williams and Seth Gordon, Executive Director: "Considering the difficulties of the war period, our major accomplishments on the whole have been very gratifying" – "Outstanding important acquisitions were Sate Game Lands Nos. 210 and 211 in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties because of their close proximity to large centers of population and practically within sight of the State's Capitol; their capability of furnishing reasonably good sport for a large number of hunters."

What would these gentlemen think of this cooperative agreement, which does not require board action?

March 25, 2007

Page 2

Fort Indiantown Gap (FTIG) dedicated a new tank gunnery range on Tuesday, October 18, 1994. The 2.4-mile complex known as Range 27 was named for LTC (Retired) Raymond Flieg. LTC Flieg was honored for his courageous actions in battle as a World War II tanker. In June 1997 safety concerns over stray rounds resulted in the suspension of live firing on this tank range. How much money was spent on this complete failure? The proposed purchase of a 7,000-acre tank maneuver area in Schuylkill County?

On November 15, 2000 Maj. Gen. William Lynch, state Adjutant General, announced that the Pennsylvania DMVA no longer will pursue plans to build a tracked-vehicle maneuver area for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard on a 4,700-acre site in Clearfield County. I believe you are familiar with this fiasco. At the public meeting on Thursday, September 30, 2004, then FTIG base commander Col. Hulings replied, "the people didn't want it." We both know there's more to the story -- I am very familiar with the investigation of the proposed purchase performed by the OIG.

After the closure of the base range in 1997, the proposed Schuylkill County purchase and the Clearfield County fiasco, construction of a Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) was proposed in the training corridor at Fort Indiantown Gap (FTIG) to execute M-1 Abrams tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle live-fire exercises. Let's not forget that the Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) in 2002 was to be designed, constructed and operated so that it would insure the safety of off-post land uses, including Stony Creek and State Game Land No. 211 -- as you know that has changed.

Please refer to the attached sheet -- Ranges at NGTC-FTIG. Located in the training corridor between the Blue and Second Mountains is approximately 1,400 acres known as the IMPACT AREA (DANGER AREA). The IMPACT AREA (DANGER AREA) is marked by warning signs and/or locked barriers and is an extremely hazardous area. Entry into the impact area is strictly prohibited without the permission of Range Operations. For example, if an aircraft must make a forced landing within the IMPACT AREA (DANGER AREA), the Pilot-In-Command must evaluate the post-crash situation and determine whether the danger of exiting the aircraft into a live dud area outweighs the danger of remaining in the aircraft until Range Operations/EOD personnel arrive at the scene.²

During the last 20 years, every proposed construction alternative involving this area has contained some form of the following -- THE LIKELIHOOD OF UNEXPLODED ORDINANCES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AREA PRECLUDES THE COST EFFECTIVE AND SAFE USE OF THIS AREA.

How much money was wasted on Range 27, the proposed Schuylkill County purchase, the Clearfield County fiasco and the 2002 design of the MPTR? Fort Indiantown Gap (FTIG) continues to ignore the 1,400 acres of land within its training corridor. It's easier for you to solve your inadequate space problem by expanding the boundary of FTIG into the State Game Land in Stony Creek Valley.

² FTIG Regulation 350-2

March 25, 2007

Page 3

Without minimizing the importance of your military training activities, it seems apparent that a military request or proposal, such as the current proposal, should not automatically be considered to override or to be paramount to nonmilitary values. Our military activities are designed to protect and preserve the Nation and its important assets. Certainly, by the same token, those same assets should not be destroyed or diminished if it can be avoided.

The IMPACT AREA (DANGER AREA) should be cleared or partially cleared ³ of remaining unexploded ordnance (UXO) and utilized. As I write this, already I can imagine the excuses -- too costly, it will effect Air to Ground Range training activities, etc., etc.

Undertaking such an action would be the gesture of a true steward of the environment and at the least insure the safety of your personnel. UNLESS YOUR FUTURE PLANS FOR FORT INDIANTOWN GAP INVOLVES TAKING MORE LAND IN STATE GAME LAND NO. 211. ⁴

The Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) should be properly designed and constructed to prepare the crews to fight in the complexities presented in the contemporary operational environment. Lessons learned from the current operating environment and the war in Iraq should be incorporated into the design and construction. Training and qualification should account for this reality. I would like to review the plans for your scaled down MPTR. Where can I obtain a copy?

Thanks for your time,



Jim Rice

³ Tobyhanna State Park and adjacent State Game Land No. 127 comprise approximately 21,000 acres of the former Tobyhanna Artillery Range, which was an active military installation from 1912 until its transfer to the Commonwealth of PA in 1949. Much of the property served as an artillery range and impact area during World War I (1914 - 1918) and again at the beginning of World War II (1937 - 1941). A yearlong time-critical removal action (TCRA) was conducted in the developed public use areas of the park. Ordnance removal operations began in November 1997 and were completed a year later. The Tobyhanna State Park reopened for public use in early December 1998 after a total of 276 live ordnance items were located and safely destroyed -- true environmental success story.

⁴ In April 2004, U.S. Congressman Tim Holden stated that he would not "accept any decrease in the game land acreage surrounding this installation." -- the Congressman should seek funding for ordnance removal.

March 25, 2007

Page 4

cc:

___ U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey

___ Congressman Tim Holden

___ John F. Organ, Ph.D.

___ Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola

___ Senator Mike Folmer

___ Hon. Edward G. Staback

___ Hon. Susan C. Helm

___ Hon. RoseMarie Swanger

___ Hon. Ron Marsico

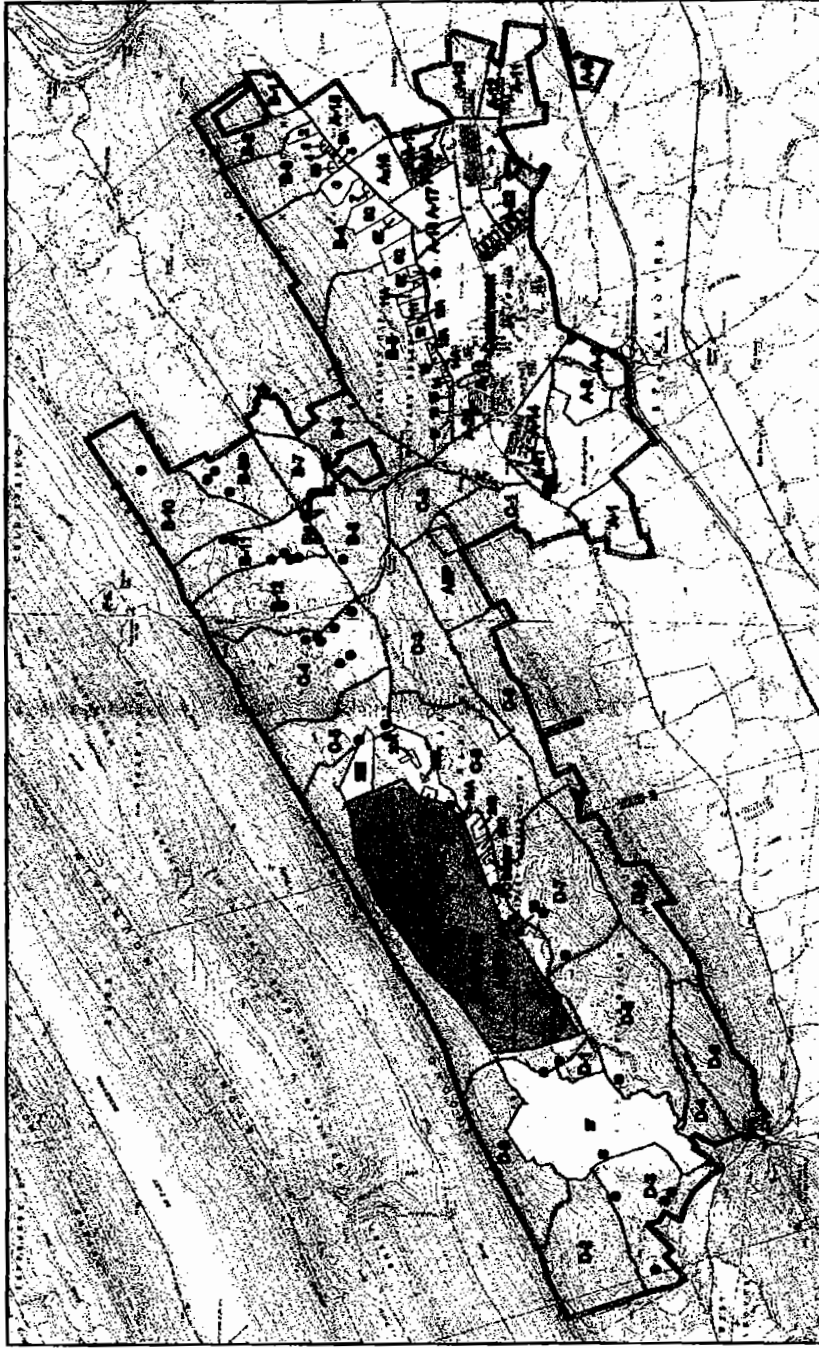
___ Colin C. Deihl - Faegre & Benson, LLP

___ Ad Crable - Lancaster New Era

___ Marcus Schneck - The Patriot-News

___ Paul Baker - Lebanon Daily News

DRAFT



Map 3.4-1
Ranges at NGTC-FTIG

Source Data: USGS, Fort Indiantown Gap Range Control

Legend

- Existing Training Range/Number
- Impact Area
- Training Area Boundary/Number
- Firing Point

amec EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

02/01/04

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

TO: Art Stephens
FROM: Costanzo, Barbara
CONTROL NUMBER: 20708868
DATE & TIME SENT: 4/6/2007 2:32 PM
FAX NUMBER: 23615
NO OF PAGES: 3
MESSAGE/CODE: FYI

- A - Your Information
- B - Response which is Optional
- C - Appropriate Action and Response
- D - DRAFT for the Governor's Signature
- E - Response from the Secretary/Deputy Secretary/Commissioner

The attached correspondence was received by Governor Rendell. Consistent with policies of the Administration, please prepare a response from your office and indicate you are responding on behalf of the Governor. Forward a copy of the response within **14 days** to the *Governor's Correspondence Office* - 508E Main Capitol or fax directly into our Keyfile system at 787-9966. Please reference the control number on the response. There is no need to return a copy of the original letter or attachments.

If you have any questions or feel the correspondence would be better addressed in another agency, please contact us at 787-5825 so that we can reroute the correspondence - you will need to return any attachments to the correspondence for forwarding to the appropriate agency.

RECEIVED TIMEAPR. 6. 1:17PM

Stony Creek Valley Coalition, Inc.
445 Hale Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2130

The Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

April 5, 2007

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the efforts of the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, on behalf of Fort Indiantown Gap, to enter into an agreement with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which would allow closure of approximately 900 acres of SGL 211 for up to 90 days a year.

SGL 211 is not only gamelands, it is designated as specially protected under Pennsylvania's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In fact, it has a legislatively mandated management plan which the Commission must implement. Hence, it deserves special review and consideration when incursions into its integrity and changes in the management policy are at stake.

The Coalition to Save Stony Creek Valley believes that the proposed exclusion, even though sporadic, would be an illegal exclusion of hunters from SGL 211. It is our understanding that any land bought with Wildlife Restoration Program (Pittman-Robertson) funds would always be open to hunters, except for rare and specific exceptions related to game propagation and protection. The proposed exclusion zone is not associated with any mission of the Game Commission, nor is it related to wildlife propagation or protection. The proposed agreement is intended solely to benefit the DMVA's proposed expanded training facility by using state gamelands as a "buffer zone" for DMVA activities.

Given these unusual and important facts, and the questionable legality of the proposal, it was disturbing to read in a March 18, 2007 *Sunday Patriot-News* article by Marcus Schneck, a quote from Jerry Feaser that the proposal would be "a cooperative agreement which does not require board action" to be accepted by the agency. We further understand that the DMVA has not yet submitted a proposal to the Commission, but has proceeded with private negotiations with individual Commission staff members, thereby excluding the Commissioners and the Commission's legal counsel from participation in this proposed project.

It would seem that such an important decision should not be left in the hands of a single individual, but rather decided by the full Commission. Whether or not a Commission vote on this unusual and controversial matter is required by law, it is certainly required as a matter of openness, public policy, and professional responsibility. The Coalition urges the Commission to take an active role in this matter, and not leave this important legal and policy decision in the hands of its staff.

• We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Joan Renninger
Co-Chair


Michael Kneaser
Co-Chair

CC: ✓ Governor Edward G. Rendell
Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola
Rep. Ron Buxton
Rep. David S. Hickernell
Rep. John Payne
Rep. Maurice Gingrich.
Dauphin County Commissioners

Lebanon County Commissioners

Pennsylvania Game Commissioners, Counsel and Staff

Secretary Michael DiBernardinis
Senator Mike Folmer
Rep. Sue Helm
Rep. Ron Marsico
Rep. RoseMarie Swanger

Jeff Haste
Dominic DiFrancesco
George Hartwick
Larry E. Stohler
William G. Carpenter
Jo Ellen Litz

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-----Original Message-----

From: Joyce Kunkle [mailto:████████████████████]

Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2007 5:08 PM

To: c-cleaver@state.pa.us

Subject: The Buffer Zone

Thank you very much, Lt. Colonel Cleaver, for taking my questions. They are:

1. What are the chances of a direct hit, as opposed to a ricochet, accidentally landing north of the buffer zone- in the creek, on the railroad bed or even as far north as the AT, or as far north as Route 325 -given the 8 mile range (if I am correct) of the tanks; and
2. What guarantee might we have that you will not find it necessary to "lease" more land in the future?

Thank you again.

Joyce Kunkle

ThomasMckinne.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: Thomas Mckinne [mailto:]

Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2007 7:07 AM

To: c-cleaver@state.pa.us

Subject: Stony Valley Land Use Agreement

To Whom It May Concern, This letter is written in regards to the land use agreement between Fort Indiantown Gap and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

One of the most important concerns with this agreement is the question "Will the integrity of the PA Scenic Rivers status of Stony Creek and Stony Creek Valley be jeopardized?" To my knowledge the Draft Agreement between the parties above does not specifically allow for third party participation of a monitoring program.

During the 90 days of limited access who could observe temporary use of signs, fences, or any violation of the "no physical changes to the valley" segment of the agreement as written. And if violations are noted how will people not a part of the Fort Indiantown Gap or the Pennsylvania Game Commission be instructed to report violations? Unless a third party is given specific responsibility to monitor the enactment of the agreement at all times it seems as though the door is wide open for violations that may occur in inaccessible lands.
Sincerely, Thomas Mckinne

-----Original Message-----

From: J Timothy Fisher [mailto:]

Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2007 8:28 PM

To: c-cleaver@state.pa.us

Subject: Stony Creek Valley Proposal

Dear Col. Cleaver,

I invited you to speak to the Lebanon Rotary Club about a year and a half ago concerning Fort Indiantown Gap's proposed use of State Game lands in the Stony Creek Valley region. I and others in Rotary have an interest in what is happening in this area due to our recreational use of its wonderful natural beauty and desire to see it protected as far as possible from encroachments which may compromise its treasured environment and ecology.

At the time of your visit the idea was to utilize a much greater area than is now being considered, in exchange for access to public lands further north in the Clark Valley, I believe. As you are aware, these plans have since undergone significant modification. I am still concerned, however, for possible damage to the Valley by the FIG plans as I now understand them. I have already been in the Valley several times when artillery practice under the current regulations have sent ricochet rounds flying seemingly overhead and I am unsure it will be any safer with an expanded range, especially when the possible strike zone is on a downhill slope. Not only will the creek come under fire but so will the Appalachian Trail itself, which will be extremely hard to limit access to. Furthermore, I am dissatisfied with the thought of closing Cold Spring Road to the public for ninety days during the year. This is nearly a third of the year! As an avid fisherman yourself I am sure you are aware that the Stony Creek is a Special Regulations stream as defined by the Penna. Fish & Boat Comm. which allows significant portions of it around the Cold Spring area to be fished throughout the year. I can easily envision this access being shut off during times and in seasons available to public use. In addition, and even more of a concern for the creek's health, I have already seen military vehicles running back and forth through the creek, stirring up silt and causing a muddying of it far downstream. And I have found reflecting mirrors used in training in the woods, which I returned to FIG. It seems to me that increasing the access to the Valley for military use, even though not officially encompassing the creek itself or beyond to the northern slopes of the valley, will only invite unmonitored abuse of the ecosystem. I am not blaming the chain of command for these incidents, please understand; they are simply the kind of thing that can happen removed from strict supervision.

I would ask, given these considerations and those voiced by other interested persons, that FIG abandon its plan to develop increased use of the Cold Spring region of Stony Creek Valley under FIG's current proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the issues regarding the natural treasure we citizens of this Commonwealth have in the Stony Creek Valley.

Cordially,
Timothy Fisher

The Rev. J. Timothy Fisher
Pastor, Avon Zion United Methodist Church

-----Original Message-----

From: Judith Jordan [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2007 4:22 PM

To: c-cleaver@state.pa.us

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Comments

Dear Lt. Colonel Cleaver,

Please accept these comments in response to your invitation regarding the plan to lease acreage owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission within the Stony Creek Valley.

My understanding is that Fort Indiantown Gap ("the Gap") is installing a firing range on the base for use by military personnel to practice firing tank-mounted weapons. The proposed installation is desired in order to accommodate a new weapon system that projects shells a greater distance than those used in the past. Given this expanded target zone the proposed firing range was oriented so as to direct fire away from surrounding residential areas and so as to remain confined to the boundaries of the base as much as possible. Simulations conducted by the Gap indicated that ordnance is expected to ricochet off of Blue Mountain and land in the Stony Creek Scenic Corridor on property owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), maintained for the public to access for hunting and other recreational purposes. The Gap seeks to exclude the public from 900 acres of the Stony Creek corridor and has arranged with the PGC to draft a lease under which the Gap could prohibit public access for 90 days per year.

Stony Creek and its corridor are designated as a Pennsylvania Scenic River. In fact, it was Pennsylvania's first designated Scenic River.

The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers (POWR) is a charitable organization that advocates for watershed conservation throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As such, we maintain relationships with more than ninety local watershed conservation groups and become aware of many proposals that affect the health of our State's resources. Having administered the State's river signage program, we at POWR know first-hand that there are hundreds of named streams in the Commonwealth. Being one of only thirteen rivers earning the designation as Scenic under the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act of 1982, the Stony Creek is in very exclusive company indeed. The vast majority of streams in the Commonwealth that are proximal to human population centers are severely degraded by mining, dams, urban development or agricultural activities. Stony Creek stands out as a natural resource that not only provides high quality habitat, but serves as a visible example to a sizable segment of the public of what a stream *should* be like because so many of us need respite from the din of daily life in a developed world. Therefore, it has extraordinary educational as well as recreational and intrinsic value. I personally visit the Stony Creek occasionally to not only partake of its beauty but to remind myself that a stream is not and should not be a foul-smelling ditch with muddy banks and a trickle of dirty water. Instead it should be the rejuvenating, sparkling heart of an ecosystem that attracts and sustains a stunning diversity of birds, mammals, plants, reptiles, fish and amphibians that treat our senses and restore a sense of tranquility. How can we abide by the conversion of such a rare oasis to just another piece of despoiled ground that is unfit for wildlife habitat and human recreation? How can we lure wildlife to one of few remaining tracts of undeveloped land and then subject them to the risk of being struck by ordnance with no benefit derived from their sacrifice?

The action proposed by the Gap and the PGC is contemplated under at least two statutes that were intended to protect extraordinary places like Stony Creek from just this kind of despoliation. The Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act expresses the General Assembly's intention to "assure the people of this generation and their descendants the opportunity to refresh their spirits with the aesthetic and recreational qualities of unspoiled streams." Rendering 900 acres of the Stony Valley inaccessible for human recreational could hardly be in keeping with this statute. If the PGC and the gap decide to execute this plan, what does it say about the seriousness of the State's intent to preserve those important qualities of Pennsylvania's streams? And if Pennsylvania's first Scenic River corridor is rendered nothing but a boneyard for M1 tank ordnance, what will be the fate of the regular streams that do not warrant such star status?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) embodies a serious intent by the federal government to protect natural resources since it requires the proposing agency to issue a public statement of the impact it will have on the environment, subject to comment from others. It also requires the agency to consider alternatives to the proposed action.

Although NEPA does not authorize the administration of penalties for its violation, it does allow for the challenge of actions that are not properly considered under its auspices. The Gap has clearly not fulfilled the requirements of NEPA with respect to the Stony Creek. There is no environmental impact analysis on the effects on wildlife and humans of the use of 900 acres of the Scenic Stony Creek corridor as a "buffer zone" for refracted ordnance. The Gap is duty bound to conduct a serious analysis, and not brush off the intent expressed by Congress to "create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony." On March 21st the Gap admitted that it is one of several bases where M1 tank training can be conducted regionally, and that Fort Drum, among others is utilized for such at present. The Gap prefers not to consider utilizing alternative sites for training because the trainees would be inconvenienced in having to drive for a few hours. Under NEPA the Gap must consider alternatives to its proposed action, such as conducting M1 tank training at Fort Drum and Fort Pickett, where the existing range resources can accommodate needs without subjecting a Scenic River corridor to tank ordnance and depriving the public of this vital natural resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Judith H. Jordan, Esq.
Executive Director
PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers
(717) 234-7910


www.pawatersheds.org

Join POWR - only \$30 per year!

June 15, 2007

Executive Director Roe
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Adjutant General Wright
Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Bldg P-0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5002

Re: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Dear Executive Director Roe & Adjutant General Wright:

How many "Cooperative Agreements" deny PA licensed hunters access to State Game Lands purchased with the aid of the Federal Wildlife Restoration Act during a hunting season?

To date your answers to my question have been disingenuous. Yes, my question is specific and rather important to those who hunt in State Game Land No. 211. At the public meeting in March 2007, the Adjutant General's envoy, Mr. Guise, boasted of many contracts executed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission similar to this one --implying a commonplace occurrence.

Please enlighten me --I didn't realize so many existed of this magnitude and significance.

Legislators --please read this and initiate the necessary revisions to protect our public land.

Recent action by the Board of Game Commissioners approved a land exchange involving two lots of State Game Land No. 262 totaling 1.67 acres that will allow Arcadia Industrial Corp of Indiana to expand its current manufacturing facilities. In exchange for the lots, the Pennsylvania Game Commission will receive 6.68 acres adjoining State Game Land No. 262.

The portion of State Game Land No. 211 involved in this "Cooperative Agreement" is about 700 times larger than 1.67 acres. The Board of Game Commissioners approved the exchange of 1.67 acres but any action by the Board will be absent regarding this agreement --are you beginning to smell something?

Counsel for the Pennsylvania Game Commission revealed several Pennsylvania statutes that allow Executive Director Roe to sign this "Cooperative Agreement" without the approval of the Board. The intentions of the Executive Director regarding this issue are very suspicious.

"It boggles the mind how often the foxes guarding the hen house come up with an excuse to violate the very principles and resources they've been sworn to protect."

The above sentence appeared in a recent Patriot-News editorial. Although the editorial was referring to the behavior of Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources, it certainly applies to the conduct of the Pennsylvania Game Commission regarding this issue.

Aerial photos of the Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) were on display at the public meeting in August 2005. I asked for a copy of the aerial photos and received an unrelated drawing by Ogden Environmental. The official response to my request by Fort Indiantown Gap officials was:

"The PAARNG has not completed the 100 percent design for the proposed MPTR; therefore, the commentor will be provided a copy of the requested map by the PAARNG when the 100 percent design is completed for the proposed MPTR."

General Wright's agent, Mr. Guise, stated in his April 2007 letter that detailed design and construction plans are not available at this time for the Multi-Purpose Training Range. Two years later the MPTR design still continues to exist in some mystifying form hidden from public scrutiny.

That's quite remarkable considering the taxpayer funded consultant for Fort Indiantown Gap is presently crafting the necessary environmental documents for the takeover of the public land.

The Adjutant General's representative refused comment on the IMPACT AREA/DANGER AREA, approximately 1400 acres located within the training corridor at Fort Indiantown Gap. The IMPACT AREA/DANGER AREA should be cleared or partially cleared of unexploded ordnance and utilized.

Please use your damaged land before you defile more!

Finally --please comment on this statement from the correspondence of former garrison commander Colonel Raymond Hulings --General Wright and Mr. Guise received copies of the letter:

"Military regulations dictate that we must control lands that are part of a safety buffer. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has told us that they are prevented by law from simply selling or granting use of their lands to an outside entity. If they relinquish control of their lands, it can only be accomplished by trading for lands of equal or greater value. These facts negate any possibility of a use agreement for the proposed portion of State Game Lands 211."

Cooperative agreement and use agreement --what's the difference?
Thanks for your time --awaiting your reply,

Jim Rice
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



June 15, 2007
Page 3

Cc.

___ U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey

___ Congressman Tim Holden

___ Governor Edward G. Rendell

___ John F. Organ, Ph.D.

___ PA Board of Game Commissioners

___ Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola

___ Senator Mike Folmer

___ Hon. Edward G. Staback

___ Hon. Susan C. Helm

___ Hon. RoseMarie Swanger

___ Hon. Ron Marsico

___ Faegre & Benson, LLP

___ DLA Piper US LLP

___ Ad Crable

___ Marcus Schneck

___ Paul Baker

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RANDALL G. HURST
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

June 18, 2007

Colonel Robert L. Hodgson
Garrison Commander
Fort Indiantown Gap
Bldg T-O-1
Annville, PA 17003-5002

**Re: Cooperative Agreement with Pennsylvania Game Commission
for use of State Game Lands 211**

Dear Col. Hodgson:

Thank you for your offer and agreement to consider the input of the Stony Creek Valley Coalition in the drafting of the above-referenced agreement.

I am a board member of the Coalition and a practicing environmental attorney. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Tom Scott, with whom you have been corresponding, is unable to provide comments on behalf of the Coalition with regard to the referenced agreement and I have been asked to do so.

We have reviewed the latest draft agreement which you kindly provided, which is dated May 2, 2007. Our comments are with regard to this draft. I understand that several of these comments have been previously provided to you, but that you indicated that you would not consider comments not coming from an attorney. Therefore, I have included all of the comments we believe are relevant, whether or not they had been provided by others.

Standing and Participation of the Coalition

As you are aware, the Coalition was instrumental in the passage of the Stony Creek Wild and Scenic River Act in 1980, and has been active in monitoring the area at issue. Over the last 2 years Coalition members have brought several environmental violations to your attention, including the most recent problem in which the Guard conducted illegal earthmoving activities on over 80 acres of land, partially in SGL 211 and partially on FTIG property, without obtaining the necessary permit from the PaDEP and County Conservation District. It was only after I filed a formal complaint with the PaDEP on behalf of the Coalition that your office belatedly conducted the planning and reporting that are required by law. Additionally, our members have repeatedly brought to your attention the many trespasses committed by troops training at the FTIG, who seem to have permission from their commanders to continually violate this protected wilderness area by driving vehicles into the valley and, on occasion, into and along the protected waterways.

We raise these matters in the context of the Agreement to illustrate that the only entity that has demonstrated consistent and diligent oversight with regard to environmental matters in this area is the Stony Creek Valley Coalition. Neither the Game Commission nor the FTIG environmental officers have displayed any diligence in obeying the law in these matters. Therefore, as a matter of practicality, we believe that it will be necessary in years to come for the Stony Creek Valley Coalition to continue to monitor the activities of the FTIG operations as they impact this area, especially since it is likely that, as has already happened at Cold Springs, some training officers may eventually come to believe that this portion of the Valley is FTIG property to use as they see fit. With compliance at issue and protection of this wilderness area the goal, responsible and effective third party oversight is clearly a necessity.

Given the poor record of the Gap and the Game Commission in observing and enforcing existing environmental regulations, we believe that it is both necessary and reasonable to recognize the role of the Stony Creek Valley Coalition in the *Cooperative Agreement*. That is, it will be necessary for the SCVC to have a "voice" with regard to the implementation of and compliance with the *Cooperative Agreement*. If one of the parties breaches its obligations, the Coalition requires standing to bring the transgression to the attention of the party and, if ultimately necessary, to the courts. We understand that you and your counsel have taken the position that this agreement, which is between two Commonwealth agencies, cannot include the Coalition as a signatory, but that you are willing to sign some sort of memorandum of understanding, which has not yet been provided for our review. Whether or not the SCVC should or may be a party need not be debated; it is eminently possible to provide the Coalition with rights by making the Coalition a third party beneficiary of the *Agreement*.

Accordingly, we propose the following paragraph be added to the Background section of the *Cooperative Agreement*:

24. The PGC and DMVA recognize the valuable role that the private organization known as the Stony Creek Valley Coalition ("SCVC") has played in protecting and preserving SGL 211. Accordingly, SCVC is accorded certain rights under this agreement with regard to ensuring that the parties continue to protect the environment and public health and safety in accordance with the laws of this Commonwealth and the terms of this Agreement. The DMVA will enter into a memorandum of understanding with the SCVC memorializing its role.

In addition, the following paragraph should be added to the terms of the Agreement. For convenience, I have numbered it paragraph 39:

39. The Stony Creek Valley Coalition shall have the right to bring to the attention of either party any breach or irregularity in the administration or compliance with the terms of this Agreement by notifying the appropriate official in writing. For such purposes, the SCVC shall be considered a third party beneficiary of this agreement and if, upon such notice, the alleged breach shall not be

promptly remedied by the responsible party, the parties covenant and agree that the SCVC shall have standing as a third party beneficiary of this Agreement to bring an action for the enforcement of the terms hereof before an appropriate tribunal.

Signs, Fences, and Roads

We understand that some sort of warning signs will be necessary near the perimeter of the SDZ, per ¶ 28.c and DA Pamphlet 385-63. You have requested input from the Coalition regarding the kind of signs to be posted, so that they would not be obtrusive during non-exclusion periods. Our members are discussing this and we hope to have some suggestions in the near future.

However, the issue of fences is not clearly addressed in the draft Agreement. We understand that the Army's standards for establishing a SDZ do not require fences unless UXO is present, which we have been assured will not be the case. While ¶ 29.a of the draft *Agreement* provides that "no buildings or structures will be placed in the SDZ," this does not adequately address the matter. We suggest that this paragraph be clarified to say:

- a. DMVA shall engage in no development, construction, or improvements within SGL 211 within or near the SDZ. No buildings, structures, fences, walls, observation posts, land clearing, or other construction of any kind, excluding only the signs referenced in paragraph 28.c, will be undertaken anywhere on SGL 211.

Similarly, the restriction on road building in ¶ 29.c is very narrow and requires some expansion to address all possible construction activities. In the same paragraph, mention is made of upgrading "Second Mountain Trail" using best management practices applicable to dirt and gravel roads. However, the area called "Second Mountain Trail" in the Agreement is not now and never was a "road," but instead is the fire break bulldozed along the top of the mountain last fall (without first obtaining the necessary permit from the Conservation District). While the Coalition recognizes that it will be necessary to keep the area cleared so that it can continue to function as a fire break, it is not, and never has been, a road or a trail and the Coalition opposes grading or other activities to turn it into one. The Coalition is also opposed to "upgrading" Cold Spring Road, although maintaining it in its current condition is acceptable. (We note that Cold Spring Road is a dedicated Township Road not under the jurisdiction or ownership of the DMVA, and we assume that the FTIG intends to enter into some sort of agreement with the Township to undertake this work as well as to effect the proposed temporary road closures during training.) Finally, in the same vein, we are opposed to creating foot trails within or on the perimeter of the SDZ, another subject not addressed in the draft *Agreement*. Hence, we suggest that paragraph 29.c be revised to state as follows.

- c. DMVA will build no roads, trails, access points, or any other form of access by vehicle on this site or elsewhere in SGL 211. No vehicles from the FTIG will be allowed to enter the site

or any other portion of SGL 211 for any purpose. The fire break known as Second Mountain Trail will be maintained sufficient to maintain its purpose as a fire break only, and will not be used as an access road by vehicles for any purpose other than maintenance and fire fighting. DMVA will maintain Cold Spring Road in its current condition as a dirt and gravel road. No foot paths or trails will be constructed within or on the perimeter around the SDZ on PGC property.

Hunting Restrictions

Paragraph 28.d is ambiguous as to the days of access during the turkey hunting seasons. Specifically, it says that FTIG will work to "designate in advance a minimum of four weekdays and one Saturday (which need not be consecutive) during both the Spring Gobbler season and Wild Turkey season (fall) when the SDZ will not be used." It is not clear whether each of these two seasons will be afforded four weekdays and a Saturday (a total of 10 days), or whether five days total will be allocated between the two seasons. Assuming the former is the intended provision, it would be clearer to say that the days will be designated "during each of the two turkey seasons, Spring Gobbler and Wild Turkey." However, this suggestion is not an endorsement: the Coalition asks again that no access restrictions be imposed during recognized hunting seasons.

Environmental Protection of the Valley

If parts of the State Game Lands are to be off-limits to citizens for part of the year, and if some damage is to be expected from incoming ordinance (which you indicated during the public meeting on the EA would be as high as 2% of fired rounds in some areas¹), it seems that some positive environmental benefit should be conferred to offset the loss of use. The concept is similar to prohibitions on public access to PGC propagation areas: an environmental benefit offsets the loss of public use. In this spirit, the Stony Creek Valley Coalition requests that the PGC covenant to preserve the area by prohibiting logging or any other use that would destroy the wilderness character of the area subject to the *Agreement*.

Similarly, the FTIG should consider other environmental projects to enhance the Valley, to offset some of the environmental degradation that has resulted from the various unauthorized activities mentioned in the introduction to this letter. For instance, a commitment to construct a permanent AMD rehabilitation facility to replace the current one being maintained by Trout Unlimited. Other positive environmental projects to offset the FTIG's negative environmental record would be a sign of good faith in this matter. These need not be detailed in the *Agreement*, but a commitment to spend, say, \$100,000 over five years for environmental remediation and improvement projects, to be designated by the PGC or the SCVC would be beneficial.

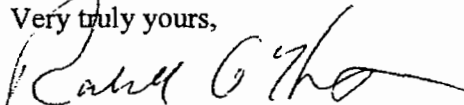
¹ Transcript of Public Meeting, page 14, lines 20-22.

June 18, 2007

5

Thank you for your expressed desire to take the Coalition's concerns and ideas into account in this process. The above comments represent a consensus of the membership, although many individuals have other concerns about this project. Providing these comments does not indicate our endorsement of the proposed agreement, but indicates our continued willingness to work with FTIG to try to come to some accommodation which will protect the rights of the public in its public lands, while recognizing the valuable service that the FTIG performs. Your anticipated cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Handwritten signature of Randall G. Hurst in cursive script.

Randall G. Hurst

cc: Officers and Board Members of the Stony Creek Valley Coalition
Lt. Col. C. Cleaver
D. Guise, Esquire
C. Roe, Pa. Game Commission
M. DiBerardinis, DCNR
Hon. M. Folmer
Hon. J. Piccola
Hon. R. Swanger



APPENDIX E

Newspaper Public Notice Affidavits for Public Circulation of the SEA



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Public Notices

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Meeting Notices

A meeting of PHEAA's Revenue Bond Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. and a meeting of PHEAA's Nominating Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

The meetings will be held at the Elinor Z. Taylor Headquarters Building, 6th Floor located at 1200 North Seventh Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Fairview Township Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 599 Lewisberry Road, New Cumberland, PA 17070, for the purpose of a public hearing regarding a conditional Use Request for a cluster development by the following applicant: Developers Realty Corporation, 433 South Main Street, Suite 310, West Hartford, CT 06110. The applicant has requested to develop the property under Section 1605.1 - Cluster Development Requirements, noted in the Fairview Township Zoning Ordinance. The property is known as the Samuel Weaver Property, Tax Map RE, Parcel 6, located at 971 Old Forge Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339. The property consists of 144 +/- acres and is currently zoned Residential Rural. Copies of the application, submitted materials and the Fairview Township Ordinance are available for inspection Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, at the Municipal Building, 599 Lewisberry Road, New Cumberland, PA 17070.

Miscellaneous Notices

NOTICE OF VACANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Effective January 10, 2008, a vacancy exists on the Board of Directors of the East Pennsboro Area School District. Interested persons should submit a letter of application, resume and statement of reasons why the applicant desires to serve by January 24, 2008, addressed to the East Pennsboro Area School District, Board of Directors, c/o Christine Bright, Board Secretary, East Pennsboro Administration Center, 890 Valley Street, Enola, PA 17025. Interested applicants must be a citizen of PA, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the school district for at least one year.

Miscellaneous Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) announces the availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (DSEA) for establishing a Surface Danger Zone on a portion of State Game Lands No. 211 in connection with the operation of the Multi-Purpose Training Range of the National Guard Training Center-Fort Indiantown Gap.

The DSEA was released publicly Jan. 14, 2008, and is available for public review of the Union and East Hanover (Lebanon) Township Municipal Buildings. The DSEA will have a 30-day public comment period commencing Jan. 14, 2008, and ending Feb. 13, 2008.

Requests for copies of the DSEA, or written questions and written comments regarding the DSEA should be directed to: Lt. Col. Christopher Cleaver, public affairs officer, Fort Indiantown Gap, Building B-41, Annville, Pa., 17003-5002. Telephone: (717) 851-8468. The DEIS is also available online at <http://www.dmv.state.pa.us>.

Ordinances & Proposals

EAST HANOVER TOWNSHIP DAUPHIN COUNTY

The East Hanover Township Board of Supervisors is in the process of revising its Stormwater Ordinance and would like to receive public comments before the ordinance is finalized. The pending ordinance is available for review and comment on the Township website, www.easthanoverpa.com. Copies are also available at the Municipal Building, 8848 Jonesdown Rd., Grantville, PA. Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. As revisions occur, the pending ordinance will be updated and available on the website and hard copies at the Municipal Building.

Deborah A. Casey
Secretary/Treasurer
717-447-0833

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What You Want In Classified.
If You're Selling,
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Proposals & Bids

Acoustical Sound Panels Bid

The Loyalsock Township School District is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of acoustical sound panels for the high school gymnasium. Detailed bid specifications can be obtained by contacting Business Manager, Gerald McLaughlin, 1720 Sycamore Road, Montoursville, or by calling (570) 326-6508. Bids should be submitted to the attention of Gerald McLaughlin, Business Manager, and are due in the District office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. Loyalsock Township School District accepts the right to reject any and all bids.

Baseball Dugout Bid

The Loyalsock Township School District is accepting sealed bids for the construction of two baseball dugouts at the High School Baseball Field. Detailed bid specifications can be obtained by contacting Business Manager, Gerald McLaughlin, 1720 Sycamore Road, Montoursville, or by calling (570) 326-6508. Bids should be submitted to the attention of Gerald McLaughlin, Business Manager, and are due in the District office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. Loyalsock Township School District accepts the right to reject any and all bids.

INVITATION TO BID Dust Collection System Middle School Tech Ed

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Susquehanna School District for the above stated item of the Susquehanna School District, 1225 Schoolhouse Road, Duncan, PA 17020-9540. In a sealed envelope clearly marked "Dust Collection System, Middle School Tech Ed", by 3:00 PM on February 8, 2008. A Bid Package may be obtained by picking one up at the District Office at the above address or by calling (717) 957-6000 option 5; bids must be fully completed and properly signed. The Susquehanna School Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities.

Carol A. Flickinger, Secretary
Board of School Directors

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Miscellaneous Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Ordinances & Proposals

EAST HANOVER TOWNSHIP DAUPHIN COUNTY

The East Hanover Township Board of Supervisors is in the process of revising its Stormwater Ordinance and would like to receive public comments before the ordinance is finalized. The pending ordinance is available for review and comment on the Township's website, www.easthanoverpa.com. Copies are also available at the Municipal Building, 8848 Jonestown Rd., Grantville, PA. Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. As revisions occur, the pending ordinance will be updated and available on the website and hard copies at the Municipal Building.

Deborah A. Casey
 Secretary/Treasurer
 717-469-0833

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 Chances Are You'll Find
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Proposals & Bids

Acoustical Sound Panels Bid

The Loyalsock Township School District is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of acoustical sound panels for the high school gymnasium. Detailed bid specifications can be obtained by contacting Business Manager, Gerald McLaughlin, 1720 Sycamore Road, Montoursville, or by calling (570) 326-6508.

Bids should be submitted to the attention of Gerald McLaughlin, Business Manager, and are due in the District office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. Loyalsock Township School District accepts the right to reject any and all bids.

Baseball Dugout Bid

The Loyalsock Township School District is accepting sealed bids for the construction of two baseball dugouts at the High School Baseball Field. Detailed bid specifications can be obtained by contacting Business Manager, Gerald McLaughlin, 1720 Sycamore Road, Montoursville, or by calling (570) 326-6508.

Bids should be submitted to the attention of Gerald McLaughlin, Business Manager, and are due in the District office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. Loyalsock Township School District accepts the right to reject any and all bids.

INVITATION TO BID Dust Collection System, Middle School Tech Ed

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Susquehanna School District for the above stated item at the Susquehanna School District, 1725 Schoolhouse Road, Duncan, PA 17020-9540. In a sealed envelope clearly marked "Dust Collection System, Middle School Tech Ed", by 3:00 PM on February 8, 2008. A Bid Package may be obtained by picking one up at the District Office at the above address or by calling (717) 957-6000 option 5. Bids must be fully completed and properly signed. The Susquehanna School Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities.

Carol A. Flickinger, Secretary
 Board of School Directors

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The Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) announces the availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (DSEA) for establishing a Surface Danger Zone on a portion of State Game Lands No. 211 in connection with the operation of the Multi-Purpose Training Range at the National Guard Training Center-Fort Indiantown Gap. The DSEA was released publicly Jan. 14, 2008, and is available for public review at the Union and East Hanover (Lebanon) Township Municipal Buildings. The DSEA will have a 30-day public comment period commencing Jan. 14, 2008, and ending Feb. 13, 2008. Requests for copies of the DSEA, or written questions and written comments regarding the DSEA should be directed to: Lt. Col. Christopher Cleaver, public affairs officer, Fort Indiantown Gap, Building 8-41, Annville, Pa., 17003-5002. Telephone: (717) 861-8468. The DEIS is also available online at <http://www.dmva.state.pa.us>.
1/12

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE THE LEBANON DAILY NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF LEBANON

Joan Shields, being duly sworn says: That she is the Advertising Director of the LEBANON DAILY NEWS, a newspaper of general circulation, published at Number 718 Poplar Street, City of Lebanon, County of Lebanon, and State of Pennsylvania.

That said newspaper was established as a daily newspaper of general circulation in 1872, since which date said newspaper has been published in the City of Lebanon; that a copy of the printed notice, hereto attached, is exactly the same as was printed and published in the regular editions and issues which appeared on: **January 12, 2008**

The affiant further deposes and declares that he is not interested in the subject matter of the aforesaid notice of publication and that all allegations in the foregoing statement as to time, place and character of publication are true.

Joan Shields
Joan Shields

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 12 day of January 2008

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Notarial Seal
Colleen A. Novak, Notary Public
City Of Lebanon, Lebanon County
My Commission Expires Mar. 2, 2009
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

Colleen A. Novak
Notary Public

My commission expires 3/2/09

Statement of Advertising Costs
To the Lebanon Daily News
For publishing the notice or publications attached

Advertisement Cost	\$ 94.60
Affidavit Fee	\$ 16.00
Total Cost	\$ 110.60



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APPENDIX F

Public Comments and Responses on the Draft SEA



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Garrett, Laura

Subject: FW: DRAFT Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Stony Valley
Importance: High
Attachments: Sariano, Brian P.vcf

-----Original Message-----

From: Stoner, Chuck [mailto:CStoner@hersheys.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2008 1:52 PM
To: pgccomments@state.pa.us
Subject: DRAFT Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Stony Valley

Mr. William Capouillez
PA Game Commission,
Bureau of Land Management
2001 Elmerton, Ave
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

The DRAFT Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Stony Valley has been released for public comment by the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and is available to view at:
http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/Docs_PNG/Environmental/SGL_211_Draft_EA.pdf

My public comments follow.

A-1 | I will not dispute the findings of the consultant. They are simply people in the employ of the Pennsylvania
A-2 | National Guard (PNG). The most substantive opportunity for comment must address the agreement
A-3 | between PA Game commission (PGC) and PNG. The contractual obligations of the agreement must
A-4 | adhere to the following. The PNG is no stranger to rules and regulations regarding land use on property
A-5 | under their control, and hunters as guests of the PNG MUST follow PNG rules on FTIG. Conversely it is
A-6 | paramount the guard follow the rules of the PGC while utilizing Game Commission Lands (900 acres of
A-7 | SGL 211). This land was purchased by (and is held in trust for) the sportsmen of PA and Federal
A-8 | Pitmann-Robertson Funds from taxes collected on sporting goods. NO military use of SGL 211 is
A-9 | appropriate annually from 15 September through 15 January of following calendar year. NO military use
A-10 | of SGL 211 is appropriate from 1 April through 1 June of any calendar year. Thus the recreational
resource of those contributing sportsmen is reasonably protected during peak demands. In exchange for
the use of this 900 acres the guard shall ensure that access through Cold Springs Road is available
during the above mentioned time frame for peak usage, annually. The agreement may be in effect for 41
years, but MUST be annually renewed at the agreement of both parties. This will assure both parties act
in good faith, and allow flexibility for future. PNG demands adherence to their rules of trespass on FTIG
property and has a right to do so. This writer has observed FTIG attack helicopters performing touch and
go drills on SGL 211 food and cover plots during the Spring Turkey Season in the morning while season
was open. The writer has times, dates, pictures, and witnesses. This was reported to the PGC and is in
direct violation of State Game Land Regulation regarding motorized vehicle use on commission lands.
The PNG must operate honorably and in good faith if they wish the respect and trust of Pennsylvania
sportsmen. The PNG must further realize that it is unacceptable to prematurely plan "developments" on
their property that effect land use on adjacent state game lands and then use this ill advised plan to
justify the attempted taking of Stony Valley. This past strategy is further justification for an annually
renewable requirement.

A-8 | This agreement is a ONE time offer of good will and co-operation by the sportsmen of PA, it is NOT a foot
A-9 | in the door for future larger takings. It should be further stated that the only right of trespass that PNG
A-10 | personnel shall enjoy on this disputed 900 acres is to sweep the area for unexploded ordnance and
disposal after planned use. The requirement for written schedule of planned use is required following the

4/14/2008

A-10 | **guidance stated above, and in the published environmental assessment.**

A-11 | **And finally, despite a statement in the FTIG Base Realignment and Closure Plan to the contrary, FTIG does not have “virtually unlimited opportunity for growth” and has in fact reached its maximum size right now and forever.**

**Thank you.
Charles Stoner
Grantville PA
(717) 534-4692**

.....It's not about the lines on the face – it's about the wisdom behind them. Shall we lament the passing of the years, or celebrate what we have achieved, learned, and earned, for our benefit and the benefit of others?

FEB. 4, 2008
DORRAN SHAVER
P.O. Box 54
MYERSTOWN, PA. 17067

LT. COL. CHRIS CLEAVEN
FT. INDIANTOWN GAP
ANNVILLE, PA. 17003-5003

SIR:

HAVING READ THE S.E.A. PREPARED FOR STATE
GAME LANDS 211; DECEMBER 2007; THIS LETTER
IS TO INFORM YOU OF MY OPPOSITION OF THIS
PLAN; IN MANY WAYS.

B-1

NO WATER IN STUDY AREA?

B-2

POUNDS OF ROUNDS COMPARED TO GAIN'S OF ROUNDS
BY SPORTSMAN?

B-3

HUNTING IMPACT?

B-4

DAMAGE TO TREES AND GAME?

B-4

NOISE? AND DUST?

B-5

RESPONSE FROM USFWS?

B-6

NO ADVERSE LAND USE IMPACTS?

B-7

WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH PITTMAN-ROBERTSON ACT?

B-8

NO EROSION IMPACTS?

B-9

THE REGION SURROUNDING AND INCLUDING THE
INSTALLATION COULD LIKELY EXPERIENCE AN
"ON-GOING DECLINE IN THE NATURAL
ECOSYSTEM!!" ? "YOUR WORDS!!"

B-10

AND SO ON!

I FIND YOUR PLAN FLAWED! I URGE

B-10

YOU TO STOP THIS FOOLISH AND ARROGANT
INVASION INTO OUR STATE GAME LAND
#211, STONY CREEK VALLEY.

Dennis Shaver

February , 7, 2008

Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver
Building 8-41
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003

Dear Lt. Col. Cleaver:

C-1

This letter is in regards to the environmental assessment of Stony Creek Valley. The EA states in it's conclusion that there will be no significant impact to the valley. I hope you are aware that this is only your opinion. In a letter written April 1, 2004 by Congressman Tim Holden, he states that "neither I, the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, nor the community as a whole will accept any decrease in the game land acreage surrounding this installation (FITG)." In my opinion the public has been deceived. If you are not aloud to set foot on a piece of property 90 days a year for 41 years, this is clearly a decrease in the game lands. It will have a significant impact on people's usage of this wilderness area.

C-2

Many well-intentioned congressmen and local representatives think that bombardment of the valley would better serve the community, rather than to leave it alone as a wilderness area. Apparently, these individuals do not know that Stony Creek Valley is the last roadless wilderness area left in Eastern Pa., and is protected by three different laws. The laws are: House Bill 1843, House Bill 963 and the Pitman-Robertson Act. The laws are the laws and must be upheld.

C-3

The Environmental Assessment has failed to include a petition with hundreds of signatures of people wanting to preserve this wilderness area. Also, two years ago on PCN Television Network, the Pennsylvania Game Commission promised there would be public meetings on this environmental impact. To this day, there have been no meetings. The quarterly, public meetings at the PA Game Commission do not allow public questions. How can this be our promised meetings? Clearly it's not a fair meeting to the public. How can a person decide what impacts this bombardment will have on the environment if you cannot ask questions?

C-4

- C-5 | The EA is not clear were the SDZ would start. Is it seventy meters from the creek or seventy feet ?
- C-6 | I question the EA's claim there are no wetlands within the SDZ.
- C-7 | Records indicate that there is a African American cemetery on this SDZ, do you think this was missed by the EA ?
- C-8 | The EA does not address what will happen if a fence is required in the future, will the land be put back to wilderness status or be made a permanent firing range?
- C-9 | What will happen if shells land on the north side of the railroad bed, will the land be put back to wilderness status or will FITG take more land in the valley ? This will have a huge impact as to whether this whole concept should even go any further.
- C-10 | Records indicate the SDZ land was bought and paid for by hunters. How much tax payer money was spent on this EA? The people of central Pennsylvania have a right to know what it will cost to take away the last roadless wilderness area left in eastern Pa. and turn it into a tank range.
- C-11 | The economic impact of this environmental statement will be astronomical. No one will want to enter the valley for fear of being shelled. Millions of dollars will be lost because of this environmental impact to tourism.
- C-12 | What will happen if I shoot a deer during archery season and it runs into the SDZ, while it is in use? This will have a super impact on the game laws , because by law you must make every attempt to retrieve wild game.
- C-13 | This EA and the concept of turning the last roadless wilderness area left in Eastern Pa. into a tank range will have a huge impact on Section 27 , Article 1 of the Pa. Constitution. It took hundreds of people six years to save this valley thirty years ago, only to have it destroyed, and our constitution violated, by the same people that are supposed uphold our laws. Since when does military law take precedence over the laws of the Pa. Constitution ?

Why was this EA not submitted with the EIS back in 2001 ?

Fort Indiantown Gap has many monuments to honor our soldiers and I respect them . I consider Stony Creek Valley a monument to our environment and to all the people that worked so hard to preserve it thirty years ago.

I take it very seriously when the Pa. National Guard, feels they have the right to bombard my monument , in the name of homeland security. One last thing, I am a veteran.

Please submit this letter into the public comments section of your EA.

John E. Rossey
1061 Collingswood Drive
HBG, PA. 17109

Cc: Lebanon Daily News

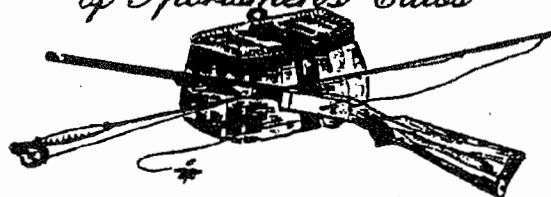
Cc: Congressman Tim Holden

Cc: Senator Mike Folmer

Cc: The Patriot News

Cc: Pa. Game Commission

Cc: Rep. Ron Marsico

*Lebanon County Federation
of Sportsmen's Clubs*

DMVA
Fort IGMR
Annville Pa. 17003-5002
Col. Chris Cleaver

February 7, 2008

Dear Sir;

D-1 The Lebanon County Federation of Sportsmens Clubs was involved with the successful effort to save Save Stony Valley from commercial development in the 1970's and at that time we were told that there would be no further efforts to encroach upon this area. We feel that the use of the 900 acres by the military would break that agreement.

D-2 The Pa. State Game Lands were aquired to protect Pa. wildlife and for use by hunters, fishermen and other nature lovers to pursue their sport. It looks like the area would be off limits during some hunting seasons and during the trout season.

D-3 A recent article in the Lebanon Daily News stated that 700 plus projectiles are predicted to land in this area. That has to have an adverse effect on the trees and other vegetation, and possibly to the wildlife in the area.

D-4 For the above mentioned reasons the Lebanon County Federation of Sportsmens Clubs urge the military to reconsider the use of the proposed 900 acres and not use the area for military purposes.

Thanks for your consideration on this matter,

Glenn Blauch

Sec., Lebanon Co. Federation of Sportsmens Clubs
44 Northcrest Acres
Lebanon, Pa. 17046

Glenn Blauch

February 9, 2008

Patricia Rickard
NEPA Project Manager
Bldg 0-11
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003

Brian Sariano
Senior Project Manager
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1308

Re: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (DSEA) for establishing a Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) on a portion of State Game Lands No. 211 (SGL 211) in connection with the operation of a Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) at the National Guard Training Center-Fort Indiantown Gap (NGTC-FTIG)

Dear Ms. Rickard & Mr. Sariano,

The purpose of this letter is to establish a record of challenge to the environmental document referenced above. There is no need to point out the numerous inaccuracies in this document, I'm sure others will. As an alternative, I will point out the fraud upon which this document is based and your obvious contempt for the laws that govern this unique wilderness area known as Saint Anthony's Wilderness or Stony Creek Wild & Scenic River Area.

Purpose and Need

From the 2007 supplemental EA, page 1-4, lines 8-9:

"The standard, two-dimensional SDZ for the NGTC-FTIG MPTR does not fit within the borders of NGTC-FTIG."

E-1

The Department of the Army (DA), National Guard Bureau (NGB), Pennsylvania National Guard (PANG) or personnel at the National Guard Training Center-Fort Indiantown Gap (NGTC-FTIG) changed the location of the MPTR between the final Public Scoping in June 1999 and the draft EIS in October 2001.

The MPTR was moved 4000 ft.¹ north toward the boundary of State Game Lands No. 211.

E-2

Personnel at NGTC-FTIG knew when the MPTR was moved that a standard two-dimensional SDZ for the MPTR would not fit within NGTC-FTIG boundaries.

¹ My requests to review the drawings, calculations, etc. have been denied and therefore my distance is approximate.

- E-3 | The public has been told that no one responsible for the live-firing at NGTC-FTIG scrutinized the MPTR safety danger zone prior to the preparation of the 2002 EIS. Even though thousands of rounds are fired annually during training exercises at NGTC-FTIG and the siting of ranges, SDZ layouts, and their validation are the liability of the garrison commander, range safety officer and others at NGTC-FTIG.
- E-4 | A working knowledge of the range safety pamphlet, AR 385-63, is the responsibility of the garrison commander, range safety officer and others at NGTC-FTIG. A standard, two-dimensional SDZ for each weapon system can be drawn from the tables in AR 385-63.
- E-5 | Overlaying the drawing on each firing position of each weapon system and its associated ammunition types indicates the limits of the SDZ. The total SDZ area requirement is a composite SDZ of all of the weapons used. When the SDZs are overlaid, the total area is determined by the greatest weapon system or ammunition need.
- E-6 | Since the MPTR was moved closer to the boundary of State Game Lands No. 211, a configuration for all the ranges and associated SDZs of the Stryker brigade and MPTR on NGTC-FTIG land became impossible.
- E-7 | The preparers of the 2002 EIS concealed the fact that off-Post land was needed and created a flawed document. The mitigation measures in the 2002 EIS are impracticable and based on deceit.

Land Use

From the 2007 supplemental EA, page 5-1, lines 17-22:

“Further, the implementation of Alternative 1 would not conflict with the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 USC 669 et seq.), with regard to SGL 211. As stated in Section 4.2, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act authorizes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish laws governing the conservation of wildlife, as well as to provide funds to develop wildlife conservation and restoration programs; however, the Act itself does not establish the laws or regulations for the management of wildlife areas owned by the State.”

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (P-R) is an example of a law that actually works. P-R is a landmark law in the United States and proves that funds from wildlife hunting can be effectively used to conserve wildlife. The first suggestion that excise taxes on guns and ammo might be good sources of financing for wildlife conservation appeared in the 1920's.

P-R has a long history of excellent performance, free of scandals and serious problems. If the program is to continue another 50 years, the sportsmen and industries that pay the excise taxes and those millions of others who enjoy and appreciate wildlife will be the force that causes it to happen.

- E-8 | State Game Lands No. 211 (Stony Creek Valley) was acquired with revenue from the “Game Fund” (hunter’s licenses, fines, contributions from the Federal government, etc.) --29,058 acres was purchased for \$58,275.40. Property acquired with Federal Aid funds must continue to serve the purpose for which acquired.
- A Pennsylvania licensed hunter cannot be denied access to state game land purchased with the aid of Federal funds during a Pennsylvania hunting season. There is no mention of safety danger zones and ricochet analysis in the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act --only wildlife.

E-9 | When a State official signs and forwards a proposal to the Federal government, he certifies that his agency will comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. As I write this, the question of whether using State Game Lands No. 211 as a “safety danger zone for errant shells” has not been addressed by the Federal government. Your decision to proceed with this document without a legal opinion is disrespectful.

From the supplemental EA, page 5-4, lines 29-31:

“The establishment of an SDZ within a portion of SGL 211 would not adversely impact a wild river area, a scenic river area, and/or a recreational river area.”

One of the most important commitments in America has been to set aside part of the nation as public land. Public land is where every person has equal access and an opportunity to refresh their souls. Some believe that public land belongs to “the government.” But in this country “the government” is us --we, the people.

The intent of the Stony Creek Wild & Scenic River Act is to preserve the watershed for future generations in its natural state. Less than one generation has passed since this Act became law and already NGTC-FTIG wants to violate it. Such impermanence is one of the worst things that can be said of a society.

E-10 | Your statement, *“the establishment of an SDZ within a portion of SGL 211 would not adversely impact a wild river area, a scenic river area, and/or a recreational river area,”* exhibits extraordinary arrogance.

The noise alone, along with tree destruction, shell residue, and soil instability mocks the law for 41 years.

E-11 | *Significance* as used in NEPA asks whether or not the action threatens to violate Federal, state, or local law imposed for the protection of the environment. The decision by NGTC-FTIG to disparage both federal and state law protecting this unique wilderness area is completely unacceptable.

Your conclusion that there is no significant impact to the Stony Creek Wild & Scenic River Area is disgraceful.

E-12 | “Rule of law” is intended to be a safeguard against arbitrary governance. “Rule of law,” in its most basic form, is the principle that no one is above the law. However, this document implies that NGTC-FTIG is above the law.

E-13 | This is not surprising based on past performance by NGTC-FTIG. As environmental awards were being bestowed on NGTC-FTIG by the governor and others, their aged wastewater treatment plant continued to spew fecal matter (and other pollutants) into the Swatara Creek. During a three month period, from June through August 2005, the amount of fecal matter discharged into the waterway was 5000% more than the allowable limit.

E-14 | NGTC-FTIG was well aware of the problem since the Army closed their active garrison at Fort Indiantown Gap in 1998. For nearly a decade, it appears that NGTC-FTIG believed the problem had no significant impact on the environment. Finally, after years of violations, NGTC-FTIG constructed a new wastewater treatment plant.

Agency and Public Involvement

From the supplemental EA, page 1-5, lines 24-26, 31-32:

"On 30 August 2005 the DMVA and PAARNG conducted a public information meeting to discuss the potential acquisition, via a "land exchange," of approximately 1,900 acres of SGL 211 by the DMVA."

"Approximately 52 members of the public expressed interest in the potential acquisition of the estimated 1,900 acres of SGL 211 by the DMVA."

These statements are deceptive. This public meeting was advertised as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Transformation of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 56th Brigade into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. The MPTR and SGL 211 were not mentioned in the public notices.

Personnel at NGTC-FTIG provided the background for an article in the Sunday Patriot-News on August 28, 2005. The headline read: "Proposal for Base Might Help Butterflies" and the article stated that the public can "air their views" at a meeting on plans to build facilities for a Stryker brigade on Tuesday, August 30, 2005 @ 6:00 PM. The article and other public notices never mentioned the MPTR and NGTC-FTIG plans to take the public land.

The meeting was a "science fair format" --tables and displays for the Stryker around the perimeter of the main room in the NGTC-FTIG Community Center. After inspecting the main room, one would eventually find the side room with enlarged aerial photos depicting the proposed MPTR and Stony Creek Valley.

Many people did not attend the meeting because of the dishonesty expressed in the public notices.

The deceit began with the preparation of the 2002 EIS. Deliberately withholding data and creating false mitigation measures is disgraceful. Two environmental impact statements have been compiled and neither has addressed the impact to the Stony Creek Wild & Scenic River Area. The 2007 supplemental EA is tiered upon an EIS that is flawed and therefore all the documents are fraudulent. Collectively, your actions associated with the proposed project have been disingenuous.

Your disrespect for the public and disdain for the NEPA process is inexcusable.



Jim Rice
5126 Circle Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112

153 Hiddenwood Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110
February 11, 2008

Lt. Col. Christopher Cleaver
Fort Indiantown Gap
Building 8-41
Annville, PA 17003-5002

Dear Lt. Col. Cleaver:

F-1

I realized that I forgot to sign the letter that I sent you yesterday. I also forgot to ask you if the owners of the 66 residences, mention in the Assessment, have been notified that they will experience unacceptable noise levels 90 days a year?

The following is a signed copy of the letter I sent Feb. 10, 2008.

My name is Dennis Coffman. I am a sixty year old resident of Dauphin County. Since my childhood I have enjoyed the beauty and tranquility of Stony Valley.

I am writing to you because it is obvious that the beauty and tranquility of the Stony Valley wilderness area is about to be altered in a reprehensible manner.

I have read the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment. There are two areas of contention that I have with this Assessment.

F-2

1) The Assessment states that the number of projectiles (779) that are estimated to enter the SDZ (900 acres) in a 90 day period is "potentially less than the number of projectiles fired by the general public on an annual basis (365 days) in SGL 211 (44,343 acres). The Assessment when making this non-scientific comparison doesn't even mention the difference in the size of the projectiles of those that will enter the 900 acres and those fired by the public in 44,343 acres.

F-3

The conclusion reached in this assessment states that no significant environmental impact will occur in the SMZ beyond several trees and a few animals being hit. How many trees? 779 projectiles over 41 years is 31,939 projectiles. How many trees a year will die in that 900 acres?

F-4

How many trees are in that 900 acres? The Assessment states the SDZ is on steep terrain and comes within 70 feet of Stony Creek. Over a 41 year period and 31,939 projectiles how can this Assessment reach the conclusion that the MPTR will have no significant environmental impact on the area or Stony Creek?

- F-5 2) The Noise Control Act of 1972 requires that an environmental impact assessment be made of the noise produced by the activities of the proposed project. The Draft Assessment states that "the 2002 EIS identified that the noise environment of the project study area is currently affected by training operations at NGTC-FTIG at levels above acceptable standards for recreational lands." Now, with this new range being build according to the Supplement "the revised future-case noise contours of the 2006 FEIS indicate that 2,240 acres of off-Post land, 66 residences and 423 acres within SGL 211 are included within Noise Zones II and III. The Supplement states there are no residences located within the project study area. What about the resident animals located in the study area? How will they be affected by Noise Levels of II and III for 90 days a year? The Supplement states on page 4-7, line 6 that Noise Levels of II and III will affect 423 acres within SGL 211. However, on page 4-7, beginning on line 18 it states "particular weapons firing at the MPTR, the noise environment within particular sections of the project study area can escalate to noise Zones II and III. Specifically, approximately 90 acres of the project study area would experience Zone II noise levels (normally unacceptable) and approximately 10 acres of the project study area (1900 acres) experience Zone III noise levels (Unacceptable) during MPTR training activities." Therefore, according to the Supplement, 100 acres will experience "normally unacceptable" and "unacceptable" noise levels within the 1900 acre study area and 323 more acres in 211 SGL will experience "normally unacceptable" and "unacceptable" noise. Where exactly are these places that will experience this level of unacceptable noise for 90 days a year? If it is determined that "normally unacceptable" and "unacceptable" noise levels will be reached in a public recreational area how can the conclusion be made on page 5-3 line 22, that "no adverse noise impacts would be anticipated to result from implementation of Alternative 1" ? Line 23 states "The establishment of a SDZ would not involve any noise-generating activities" and page 5-4 beginning with line 4 contradicts that conclusion when it states, "However, under the No-Action Alternative the SDZ would not be established, and consequently, the MPTR would not be constructed or operated; this would result in a minor long-term positive impact to the noise environment."
- F-6
- F-7

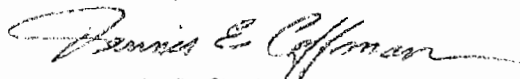
Perhaps you can explain to me why this Assessment seems incomplete and contradictory.

I will close with two questions. If the MPTR is built:

- F-8 1) The simulated ricochet analysis indicated that not more then one in one million projectiles will exit the SDZ within SGL 211. Does this mean that, if in fact, two in one million projectiles exit the SDZ that the MPTR will be immediately and permanently shut down?
- F-9 2) The environment assessments states that 90 acres of the SDZ will experience Zone II noise levels, 10 acres of the SDZ will experience Zone III and 323 acres of SGL 211 will experience Zone II and III noise levels. If areas of SGL 211, beyond those indicated in this report, experience Zone II and III levels of noise because of the MPTR activities will the the MPTR be immediately and permanently shut down.
- F-10 I am expecting that the military will follow the law and the agreements made with the State Game Commission. If the MPTR is build I will do everything I can to help monitor the projectiles entering SGL 211 and the noise impact on SGL 211 to make sure the environment impact of the MPTR is kept at a minimum. I am not sure everyone involved in this proposed

project realizes the treasure that exists in SGL 211. No other land or amount of money will be able to replace what is about to be lost.

Sincerely,



Dennis E. Coffman

Home Phone (717) 541-1389

e-mail: dencoffman@comcast.net

cc:

State Senator Mike Folmer

Senate District 48

Senate Box 203048 46

457 Main Capitol 47

Harrisburg, PA 17120-30 48

State Senator Jeffrey Piccola

Senate District 15 Senate Box 203015 4

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Stony Creek Valley Coalition, Inc.

455 Hale Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17104-2130

Pennsylvania Bureau of Land Management Pennsylvania Game Commission

2001 Elmerton Avenue 30

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Attn: Carl G. Roe, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

400 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17105

Attn: The Hon. Kathleen McGinty, Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 1700-2993

February 11, 2008

Ms. Patricia A. Rickard
Bureau of Facilities and Engineering/Environmental Division
Bldg 0-11 Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003

Re: Surface Danger Zone
Dauphin County, PA

As requested in a letter dated January 9, 2008, we have reviewed the project location for possible areas of concern to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- G-1 Some of the area inside the project boundaries are mapped as Prime Farmland or Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance. If these areas have not already been converted to development or are not indicated as urbanized area on U.S. Census maps, and if federal funds will be used to convert them to non-agricultural use, a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Form AD-1006 should be completed to evaluate the impacts to agricultural lands. Copies of the form can be downloaded from <http://www.info.usda.gov/nrcs/fpcp/fppa.htm>.
- G-2 Some of the soil mapping units in the project area are classified as hydric soil or could have inclusions of hydric soils, hydric soil being one indicator of the presence of wetlands. A non-site investigation should be done to determine the presence of wetlands.
- G-3 As for any project involving earthmoving, both temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control practices should be planned, implemented and maintained. We recommend consultation with appropriate county conservation districts for review of erosion and sedimentation control plans and practices.

Contact me at (717) 237-2218; FAX (717) 237-2238; email: timothy.emenheiser@pa.usda.gov if you need more information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Emenheiser", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Emenheiser
Resource Conservationist

cc: Marcia Farbotnik, Supervisory District Conservationist, Lebanon, PA

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Stony Creek Valley Coalition
445 Hale Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2130
www.savestonyvalley.com

February 11, 2008

LT. Colonel Chris Cleaver
PAO
Pa. National Guard
Building 0-11
Annville, Pa. 17003

Subject: Comments on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment
Establishing a Surface Danger Zone on a Portion of State Game Lands No.
211 in Connection with the Operation of a Multi-Purpose Training Range

Comment # 1

5.12 Infrastructure
5.12.1.2 Transportation Infrastructure
Line 13-Line 20 Addressing delays through Cold Springs Road

Cold Springs is a Public Road. It is owned by several entities, such as East Hanover Township, Union Township & The Pennsylvania Game Commission. In order to delay traffic of any kind on a public highway it is stated in State Law Closing of Highways to Vehicular Traffic-section 670-422, public roads in general it states that in the case of emergencies only wherein the safety of the public would be endangered, no state highway shall be closed to vehicular traffic, except upon the order of the department nor for a longer period than is necessary for the purpose for which such order is issued. No public road or highway shall be closed to vehicular traffic when the same is designated as a detour by the department unless written consent of the department has first obtained, or unless authorities having jurisdiction over the said road or highway shall by resolution duly recorded on their minutes, declare such closing necessary for the protection of the public safety.

When any borough, town or city street, which forms a part or section of State highway, is closed to vehicular traffic, the borough, town or city shall at once notify the

department of the creation of a detour, as hereinafter provided, and when such a detour is removed, the department shall also be notified at once of the removal. 1945, June 1, P.L.1242, art 422.

H-1

Publication 213-Short term Work Zone Traffic Control Guidelines, (67 PA CODE, CHAPTER 212), may be a possibility in this situation. There are no traffic control devices within the hand book that accommodate a Firing Range Operation, to control traffic on a public road, which is dictated by the Federal Highway Administration, and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, as uniformed way to control traffic on public highways in the United States. Currently there seems to be no legal way to stop vehicles on public highway for this kind of activity.

H-2

Comment # 2
Section 4.12 Infrastructure
4.12.1.6 Transportation
Local Roadways Line 22
Subject: Cold Springs Road

It states that a paved road and a sand road are maintained by DMVA. It is the responsibility of the paved part of the road to be maintained by East Hanover Township in Lebanon County. They receive Liquid Fuels Monies from the state to maintain this road. The sand part of the road is owned and maintained by Union Township in Lebanon County. They also receive Liquid Fuels Monies to maintain their part of the road.

H-3

Comment # 3
Section 4.0 Affected Environments
4.2.1.5 Property Status
Reference: Allowable Recreational Activities and Related Facilities on Federal Assistance Lands 522 FW 21

21.1 What is the purpose of this chapter? This chapter provides guidance on recreational activities and related facilities constructed on lands acquired, developed, or managed with Federal Assistance Funds under:

21.1 B. The Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program.

21.3 To what lands does this chapter apply? This chapter applies to the following, unless otherwise specified in the grant agreement between the State Fish and Wildlife Agency and the service.

21.3 A. Lands States acquire with Federal Assistance Funds, regardless of when they acquired them.

H-4

21.4 What are the Authorities for this chapter?

21.4 B Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669)

21.5 What recreational activities and related facilities may states allow on lands they acquire, develop, or manage with Federal Assistance Funds/The state's Fish and Wildlife Agency determines what recreational activities and related facilities to allow Federal Assistance supported lands, which is based on authorizing legislation.

21.5 A The statutes and applicable regulations prohibit a State Fish and Wildlife Agency from allowing recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the state acquired, developed, or is managing the land. This means that the State Fish and Wildlife Agency may not allow an activity or facility that would interfere with the fulfillment of grant objectives for restoration, conservation, management, and /or enhancement of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats eligible for funding through the programs listed in section 21.1.

21.5 B The statutes and applicable regulations require that grants used to acquire, develop, or manage lands must have a purpose consistent with the Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Acts, the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, in the State Wildlife Grants Program (non-Tribal), or the Landowner Incentive Program (non-Tribal):

21.5 (1) States generally allow fish or wildlife-dependent activities (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing, birding, wildlife photography, or viewing platforms) because these activities do not interfere with the purpose.

This section refers to assets protected under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Section (80.4) refers to assets acquired with license fees; the second section (80.14) refers to assets bought with Federal Aid Monies.

50 CFR apply to assets protected under the Wildlife Restoration Act

80.4 Diversion of license fees. Revenues from licenses fees paid by hunters and fisherman shall not be diverted to purposes other than administration of the State Fish and Wildlife Agency.

- a. Revenues from licenses fees paid by hunters and fisherman are any revenues the state receives from the sale of licenses issued by the state conveying to a person the privilege to pursue or take wildlife or fish. For the purpose of this rule, revenue with respect to license sales by vendors is considered to be the net income to the state after deducting reasonable vendor fees or similar amounts retained by sales agents. License revenues include income from:
 - i. General or special licenses, permits, stamps, tags, access and recreation fees or other charges imposed by the state to hunt or fish for sport or recreation.
 - ii. Sale, lease, rental, or other granting of rights of real or personal property acquired or produced with license revenues. Real property includes but is not limited to, lands, building, minerals, energy

resources, timber, grazing and animal products. Personal property includes but is not limited to, equipment, vehicles, machine, tools and annual crops.

- iii. Interest, dividends, or other income earned on license revenues.
- iv. Federal Aid Project reimbursements to the states to the extent that license revenues originally funded the project for which the reimbursement is being made.
- b. For the purposes of this rule, administration of the State Fish and Wildlife Agency include only those functions required to manage the fish and wildlife oriented resources of the state for which the agency has the authority under state law.
- c. A diversion of license fee revenues occurs when any portion of license revenues are used for any purpose other than the administration of the State Fish and Wildlife Agency.
- d. If a diversion of license revenues occurs the state becomes ineligible to participate under the Pertinent Act from the date the diversion is declared by the director until:
 - i. Adequate legislative prohibitions are in place to prevent diversion of license revenue, and
 - ii. All license revenues or assets acquired with license revenues are restored or an amount equal to license revenue diverted or current market value of assets diverted (which ever is greater) is returned and properly available for use for the administration of the State Fish and Wildlife Agency.
- e. Federal Funds obligated for projects approved prior to the date a diversion is declared remain available for expenditure on such projects without regard to the intervening period of the state's ineligibility.

[54 FR 15209, April 1989]

80.14 Applications of Federal Aid Funds

- a. Federal Aid Funds shall be applied only to activities or purposes approved by the regional director. If otherwise applied, such funds must be replaced or the state becomes ineligible to participate.
- b. Real property acquired or constructed with Federal Aid Funds must continue to serve the purpose for which acquired or constructed.
 - i. When such property passes from management control of the fish and wildlife agency, the control must be fully restored to the State Fish and Wildlife Agency or the real property must be replaced using non-Federal Aid funds. Replacement property must be of equal value at current market prices and with equal benefits as the original property. The State may have a reasonable time, up to three years from the date notification by the regional director to acquire replacement property before becoming ineligible.
 - ii. When such property is used for purposes which interfere with the accomplishment of approved purposes, the violating activities must cease and any effects resulting must be remedied.

- iii. When such property is no longer needed or useful for its original purposes, and with prior approval of the regional director, the property shall be used or disposed of as provide by attachment N of OMB circular A-102. Federal Aid Funds shall not be used for the purpose of producing income. However, income producing activities incidental to accomplishment of approved purposes are allowable income derived from such activities shall be accounted for in the project records and disposed of as directed by the Director.

The next item is a comment that Governor Rendell made on February 21, 2006.

It is stated as follows: Governor Rendell made it clear that the administration will not consider moving forward with this process unless and until the transaction is reviewed and approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, for consistency with the Pittman-Robertson Act, as well as the completion of a supplemental environmental assessment necessary to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. We concur that the studies and evaluations required to comply with those two statutes are necessary components of a completed transaction. We also wish to make clear that we reserve the right to be full participants in those proceedings to ensure that they give adequate consideration to the Stony Creek Wild River Corridor and Wilderness Area. For Stony Creek using the process set forth in The Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act. Once the specifics of the new arrangement are incorporated into the Management Guidelines, then the act itself can be amended to simply reflect that the designated area must be managed in accord with Management Guidelines as amended. The coalition has established a good working relationship with the legislative delegation from Central Pennsylvania. Assuming everyone is onboard; the actual amendment of the Act should be possible without too much problem (and might even provide an opportunity for a bi-partisan "win-win" resolution).

Pittman-Robertson Funded Land

Lands purchased with the assistance of P-R Funds are managed by State Wildlife Agencies and are typically referred to as game management areas or game lands. The agencies have traditionally denied requests for or minimized recreational access to such lands accept for those purposes of hunting or activities judged to be closely related to hunting, such as field trails, hunting dog training, target shooting sports and hunter safety training. Nowhere in the Pittman-Robertson Act does it say anything about allowing for Surface Danger Zone.

Appendix-A

The letters and attempts to contact United States Fish and Wildlife Service have not been successful. Stony Valley Coalition needs to see an approval or disapproval letter from United States Fish and Wildlife Service to be added to this EA document.

Section 4.6.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers

HB1843 designates Stony Creek as a component of Pennsylvania Wild and Scenic Rivers System in accordance with the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act; providing for cooperation and coordination in its protection and use for the responsibilities of its management. The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Short Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Stony Creek Wild and Scenic River Act."

Section 2. Legislative Findings and Purpose.

The Department of Environmental Resources has in accordance with the act of December 5, 1972 (P.L.1277, No.283), known as the "Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act," fulfilled its obligations and responsibilities prerequisite to the designation of Stony Creek as a component of the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers System. The designation of Stony Creek by this act is for the purpose of conserving and enhancing its scenic quality and promoting public recreational enjoyment in accordance with the provisions of the "Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act."

Section 3. Designation and Classification.

The 16-Mile main stem of Stony Creek and the three tributary streams, Rattling Run, Yellow Springs, Rausch Creek and related adjacent land areas from the headwaters at Lebanon County to the Pennsylvania Game Commission gate in Ellendale Forge, Dauphin County, which is designated a wild component of the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers System under the "Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act". The boundaries of the component corridor have been defined by the Department of Environmental Resources and are shown on the map entitled, "Stony Creek Study" on file and available for public inspection in the Bureau of Land Records, Department of Community Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 4. Management responsibilities.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Department of Environmental Resources shall exercise administrative responsibilities in implementing the "Management Guidelines for Wild River Corridors" outlined within the "Discussion of Management Guidelines" in the text of Stony Creek conducted by the Department of Environmental Resources under the "Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers Act," know as the "Stony Creek Study." The Pennsylvania Game Commission shall exercise administrative responsibilities in implementing the land management guidelines on Commonwealth Lands within the designated component. The Department of Environmental Resources shall exercise administrative responsibilities in implementing the water resource management guidelines and where applicable, the surface mining and solid waste disposal provisions of the land management guidelines.

Section 5. Cooperation and Coordination.

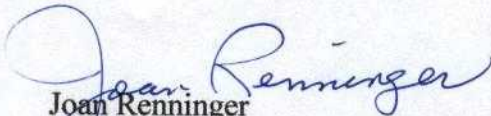
All State agencies are authorized to seek the help of and enter into agreements with the Federal Government and its agencies and commissions, local governments and concerned private individuals and organizations with the view of fostering cooperation and coordination to further the purpose of this act. To this end, the Department of Environmental Resources shall also seek cooperation of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

Section 6. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately. Approved-The 24th day of March, A.D. 1980.

Governor Dick Thornburgh

In the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act there was no provision made for a Surface Danger Zone, nor was one ever intended. These laws and acts are to protect land from developments such as this. This concludes our review from the Stony Valley Coalition.



Joan Renninger

Co-Chairman, Dauphin County Stony Valley Coalition



Mike Kneasel

Co-Chairman, Lebanon County Stony Valley Coalition

12 Feb 2008

Dear COL Cleaver,

I-1

Did AMEC have full access to the ricochet analysis while doing their assessment, or were they working with figures furnished by DMVA?

Thank you,

Joan Renninger
Co-chairman, Coalition to Save Stony Valley
174 Brownstone Park
Hummelstown, PA 17036

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BY FEDERAL EXPRESS

February 12, 2008

Ms. Patricia Rickard
NGTC-FTIG Public Affairs Officer
DMVA Headquarters
Building 0-47
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-5002

Brian Sariano
Senior Project Manager
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1308

Subject: No-Net-Loss's Comments on the NGTC-FTIG Draft Supplemental
Environmental Assessment: Establishing a Surface Danger Zone on a Portion of
State Game Lands No. 211 in Connection with the Operation of a Multi-Purpose
Training Range

Dear Ms. Rickard and Mr. Sariano:

This firm represents No-Net-Loss, a non-profit organization working to preserve the Stony Creek Valley. It is No-Net-Loss's position that any Finding of No Significant Impact based on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment ("DSEA") referenced above will violate the National Environmental Policy Act. A full Environmental Impact Statement is required to assess the significant adverse impacts to the environment that the proposed action entails.

I. Background

The National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") declared it a national policy to "promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere." Most notably, it requires federal agencies to perform an environmental analysis on projects they undertake, fund, or approve, and in doing so, take a "hard look" at the environmental consequences of the proposed action. This includes all foreseeable impacts, both direct and indirect.

Where questions are raised as to whether a project may cause significant environmental impacts, the agency must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) rather than a more abbreviated Environmental Assessment (“EA”). If an agency relies on an EA in moving forward with a project, it must supply a convincing statement as to why the potential impacts of the project are likely to be insignificant. The statement is crucial in determining whether the agency took the requisite hard look at the potential environmental impacts of a project. A failure to take a hard look at environmental impacts is grounds for vacating the agency’s decision and requiring preparation of a full EIS.

In determining whether a project requires preparation of an EIS because it significantly affects the environment, an agency must consider both the context and the intensity of the impacts. The context of this project is the near-pristine wilderness at the southern border of State Game Land 211 (“SGL 211”). This land is a crown jewel among the tracts held by the State of Pennsylvania in trust for its citizens. Preservation of this land from development in the 1970’s was at the heart of Pennsylvania’s grassroots environmental movement. Indeed, its natural qualities led the state legislature to designate Stony Creek, just a stone’s throw from the surface danger zone proposed in the DSEA, as the first scenic river under the Pennsylvania Wild and Scenic River Act.

J -1

An analysis of the intensity of a project’s impacts requires consideration of, among other things, the degree to which effects are likely to be highly controversial. The DMVA is well aware of the controversy surrounding this project. The Department of Military and Veteran Affairs’s (“DMVA”) initial efforts to acquire almost 8,000 acres of SGL 211 have led its neighbors to question its intentions with respect to the rest of SGL 211. The comments the DMVA has received have been consistently opposed to each iteration and reiteration of the project, including a petition, omitted from the DSEA, with over 200 signatures from local residents. By any measure, the impacts of this project are likely to be controversial.

J -2

With these principles of law in mind, the DSEA clearly does not support a finding that the project described therein would cause no significant environmental impact. The document is incomplete and flawed. It glosses over, fails to resolve, and in some cases fails to even address substantial questions as to whether the project may cause significant impacts. An agency finding that the project will cause no significant impact, if based on the DSEA in its current form, will be unconvincing. Indeed, it would be grounds for a court to vacate the decision to approve the project, and require the preparation of a full EIS.

J -3

The following comments set forth the principal deficiencies in the environmental analysis. First, the DSEA inappropriately minimizes the scope of the project. It does so by failing to properly define the affected environment and failing to consider all the additional human activities that will be undertaken in conjunction with the project.

J -4

Second, the DSEA underestimates or ignores potentially significant impacts of the

J-4 | project.¹ Third, the DSEA is based on inadequate public involvement. The DMVA has
J-5 | failed to abide by the public participation requirements that are at the heart of the
J-6 | National Environmental Policy Act, rescheduling and interrupting public meetings, and
not providing adequate time for the public to file comments. Finally, the DSEA fails to
consider all reasonable alternatives, as is required by NEPA.

II. Inappropriately Minimizing the Scope of the Project

A. Improper Determination of Affected Environment

J-7 | The DSEA improperly considers a fully constructed military training range, as
planned in the 2002 Environmental Impact Statements (“EIS”), to constitute the affected
(i.e. existing) environment. (See §§ 1.5, 4.1.1.) If the establishment of a Surface Danger
Zone (“SDZ”) on SGL 211 is not approved, the Multi-Purpose Training Range
 (“MPTR”) will not be constructed and certain negative impacts contemplated in the
earlier EIS will not be realized. (See § 1.2 (“[I]t is necessary for the PAARNG to gain
limited control of the affected portion of SGL 211 to accommodate the modeled SDZ of
this MPTR.”).)

J-8 | Therefore, the affected environment for purposes of the DSEA should not include
an already constructed MPTR. If the DSEA has properly defined the affected
environment, it would not have been able to disregard adverse impacts in the project area
associated with operation of the MPTR as “baseline conditions. (See §§ 1.5, 4.1.1.)
Most notably, the DSEA does not even analyze the noise impacts of the MPTR as an
environmental consequence of the project.

B. Failure to Consider Activities Associated with Project

J-9 | The DSEA fails to properly define the impacts of the project not only because it
considers the fully constructed MPTR to be the affected environment, but also because it
ignores activities that will be directly associated with the project.

J-10 | First, the DSEA fails to consider how munitions will be located and removed
from SGL 211, as is required under the Interagency Cooperative Land Use Agreement.
Certain obvious questions go unanswered. Will DMVA personnel regularly survey the
SDZ? Will they use motorized vehicles to do so?² Will they rely on recreational users of

¹ While these comments are limited to the more serious defects, they are not intended to
waive the right to assert other deficiencies in the future.

² The DSEA states that the DMVA and the Pennsylvania Game Commission agreed to a
restriction on the use of motorized vehicles of any kind in the SDZ (§ 3.1). In fact,
no such restriction is found in the Interagency Cooperative Land Use Agreement. If

J-10 | SGL 211 to report ordinance? Will the removal operations be conducted using motorized vehicles? Without answers to these questions, the DSEA cannot take the requisite hard look at the impacts of the project.

J-11 | Second, the DSEA fails to lay out a program for posting signs warning the public that military artillery may be landing on public land. Will the signs only be posted on the several approaches by road to SGL 211? Will signs be posted throughout the woods at the boundary of the SDZ? Will the signs be left year round, removed after use, or some combination? Will the personnel putting up the signs be using motorized vehicles, going along the same tracks each time? Because of the failure to address these questions, the DSEA is unable to properly consider the impacts of the project.

III. Underestimating or Ignoring Significant Environmental Impacts of the Project

A. Inadequate Analysis of Impacts on Land Use

J-12 | The DSEA asserts that the action will have “no significant adverse land use impacts.” (§ 5.2.1.) It bases this assertion on its belief that the proposed SDZ is “less than ideal” for recreational use due to its steepness and because the restrictions on use are limited to ninety days a year. This is a far cry from the hard look required by NEPA. Even if people rarely enter the proposed SDZ, a proposition for which the DSEA provides no empirical support, its bombardment could easily discourage the use of the Stony Creek basin, only seventy feet away, for reasons of safety, noise, or otherwise. The DSEA artificially and improperly limits its analysis of land use impacts to the boundaries of the proposed SDZ.

J-13 | Nor are land use impacts likely to be limited to the ninety days during which the proposed SDZ is closed. Families may choose to avoid the area altogether rather than chancing an encounter with a stray munition, even if inert. The surveying and collection of munitions, if done using motorized vehicles, may compromise the wilderness experience and hunting outside of the ninety days. While two (of many) hunting seasons may be fully protected, those who wish to hike outside of hunting season will find fewer days on which to do so.

J-15 | The DSEA suggests that the transfer of 440 acres of property known as TA E-1 and assistance in the acquisition of lands with a value of \$2 million at some unspecified point and time compensates for the temporary loss of access to a portion of SGL 211. Unfortunately, the DSEA provides no support for this assertion. A trail running through the property is already available for public use. The transfer may “potentially” open up the property for “additional local hunting and trapping opportunities.” (§ 5.2.1.) The

the DMVA has not contractually agreed to this restriction, there is no basis to believe they will abide by it.

J-15 DSEA does not examine the extent to which TA E-1 provides similar recreational opportunities to the land to be used as a SDZ.

J-16 The DSEA also states that the use of SGL 211 as a surface danger zone for ninety days a year will not conflict with the Pittman Robertson Act (also known as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act) because the Act “does not establish the laws or regulations for the management of wildlife areas owned by the state.” (§§ 4.2, 5.2.1.) An analysis of the legality of the project under federal law is outside the scope of an environmental analysis. Having chosen to undertake this analysis, however, the DSEA should not have so flippantly denied a conflict.

While the Act, quite appropriately, does not dictate a state’s management practices in its wildlife areas, it does withhold funding to states who use their public lands purchased with funds provided under the Act for purposes other than wildlife conservation and restoration. The use of state game land, whose acquisition was funded under the Act, as a SDZ is a clear violation of this requirement. As such, it puts Pennsylvania’s continued funding, estimated at over \$8 million for 2008, in jeopardy.

J-17 Finally, the DSEA states conclusorily that “significant impacts to aesthetic and visual resources are not anticipated.” (§ 5.2.1.) It is unclear how this conclusion is reached when the program for signage is not laid out. There is no basis for the SEA’s conclusion of no visual impact without an explanation of how the signage program will be conducted.

J-18 The DSEA fails to take the requisite hard look at the potential impacts of the project on land use. If it had done so, it would have found there to be substantial unresolved questions as to the significance of those impacts.

B. Failure to Consider Significant Noise Impacts

J-19 The DSEA states that “[n]o adverse impacts would be anticipated” and does not list noise impacts in its overview of potential project impacts. (§§ 5.4.1, ES-4–5.) This conclusion is based on the incorrect statement that “[t]he establishment of a SDZ would not involve noise-generating activities.” To the contrary, the establishment of a SDZ on SGL 211 is required for the operation of the MPTR, which clearly constitutes a noise-generating activity. As explained earlier, the DSEA should have directly considered the adverse impacts, including noise impacts, of the MPTR on the project area. If the MPTR will have an adverse noise impact on the project area, it must be stated clearly as a potential project impact.

J-20 While the “Environmental Consequence” chapter of the DSEA contains no analysis whatsoever of whether the use of the MPTR will have a significant adverse noise impact, the “Affected Environment” chapter briefly considers the question. Relying on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Transformation of the Pennsylvania

J-20

Army National Guard 56th Brigade into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (“2006 FEIS”), it concludes that only 10 acres of the project area would experience unacceptable noise levels and 90 acres would experience generally unacceptable noise levels. (§ 4.4.1.) The 2006 FEIS in no way supports this conclusion.

J-21

The 2006 FEIS does not analyze the impacts, noise or otherwise, of the MPTR. A review of a map showing proposed project components of the 2006 FEIS indicates that the MPTR is *not even considered*. (2006 FEIS Map 2.2-6.) Nonetheless, the DSEA uses the noise contour map taken directly from the 2006 FEIS in considering noise impacts, stating that “[t]he 2006 FEIS provides the noise contours of the proposed MPTR.” (*Compare* 2006 FEIS Map 3.4-2 with DSEA Fig. 4-2.) It does no such thing. The map from the 2006 FEIS, entitled Large Caliber Weapons Noise Contours, does not describe the noise generated by the proposed MPTR, but instead the noise generated from existing large caliber firing points on Fort Indiantown Gap (“FTIG”), none of which are located where the MPTR is planned. (*See* 2006 FEIS Map 3.4-1.)

J-22

Unlike the 2006 FEIS, the Final Environmental Impact Statement: Enhanced Training and Operations at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap (“2002 FEIS”) *directly addresses* the noise impacts of the MPTR in the exact location that it is shown in the DSEA. The noise contour map contained in the 2002 FEIS clearly indicates that noise impacts on most of the proposed SDZ will be unacceptable for recreation. (*See* 2002 EIS Fig. 5-3.) While the 2002 FEIS found that the noise levels at all of the recreational assessment points it chose were acceptable, none of these points were within the proposed SDZ or the Stony Creek basin.³ The DSEA attempts to attribute the discrepancy between the map contained in the 2002 FEIS and that in the 2006 FEIS to “improved computer noise models that are now available.” (DSEA § 4.4.1.) While this may of course be true, that is not why the maps look different; the maps are different because they are mapping the noise generated by different activities in different locations.

J-23

There are substantial questions as to whether the project will cause significant noise impacts and thus require an EIS. The 2002 FEIS clearly suggests that it will. The 2006 FEIS is irrelevant. The DSEA may not avoid the issue altogether by defining the scope of the project’s impacts to artificially carve out any effects of the operation of the MPTR.

C. Inadequate Analysis of Impact on Water Quality and Soils

J-24

At least one type of munitions that may land in the proposed SDZ is made of copper jacketed lead, raising the possibility of lead contamination after up to forty-two

³ The recreational points north of FTIG were located along the Appalachian Trail and the Rattling Run Trail, and at the DeHart Reservoir.

J-24

years of use. (§ 2.0.) The DSEA's statement that the project "is not expected to result in metal (lead) contamination of ground or surface water resources" is conclusory and unsupported by scientific data. (§ 5.6.1.) Instead, it is based on selective anecdotal evidence from a single study on Manada Creek and Indiantown Run, the two creeks that drain the main impact area and small arms ranges of FTIG. The DSEA does not even address the possibility of lead contamination in soils. (§ 5.5.1.)

J-25

In dismissing the possibility of lead contamination, the DSEA ignores anecdotal evidence from all the former firing ranges throughout the United States where the EPA is requiring remediation. In 2002, Congress required the Department of Defense (DOD) to estimate what it would cost to clean up its operational ranges. In April 2003, the DOD identified 10,444 operational firing ranges located in the United States and its territories and estimated that it would cost up to \$165 billion to clean up unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents, particularly lead, trinitrotoluene (TNT), and ammonium perchlorate salt.

J-26

The DSEA's halfhearted attempt to analyze the possibility of lead contamination does not represent the hard look required by NEPA.

D. Inadequate Analysis of Impact on Biological Resources

J-27

The DSEA makes no attempt to analyze the flora and fauna that occupy the project area. Instead, it simply relies on responses from various state agencies to list species of concern and concludes that no adverse impacts are anticipated.⁴ (§ 5.7.1.)

J-28

The only potential impact on biological resources that the DSEA analyzes is the possibility that a plant or animal might be directly struck by munitions and killed; it states that this possibility is remote.⁵ It relies on the lack of empirical evidence finding increased wildlife mortality due to being struck by projectiles during training activities at FTIG, as if the absence of such a study is indicative of anything.

J-29

Even if this possibility of a strike is indeed remote, it is not the only way in which wildlife and plants may be affected by the project. The DSEA entirely fails to take a hard look at other potential impacts on biological resources. First, the combination of landing

J-30

⁴ The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas suggests that several sensitive species, including the winter wren, Cerulean warbler, and northern water thrush, as well as Lebanon County's first confirmed raven's nest, are located in the proposed SDZ.

⁵ The DSEA oddly notes that the number of potential ricochets is likely to be less than the number of shots fired by hunters in SGL 211, which is entirely beside the point—comparing shots fired purposefully at animals in the entirety of SGL 211 to large munitions landing haphazardly in the proposed SDZ.

J-29 munitions, noise, and potentially the use of motorized vehicles for survey and collection of munitions might permanently drive wildlife out of the proposed SDZ or even the Stony Creek basin. At the very least, there is a question as to how significant such an impact might be. Second, even inert munitions may have some potential to start a fire in the
J-31 proposed SDZ, with its obvious impacts on plants and wildlife. Practice munitions usually contain some type of high-explosive spotting charge, in addition to the fuses, primers, igniter charges, and propellants. Tracers, which would likely be used for nighttime activities, may also create a fire hazard.

J-32 Third, the lead and other potentially hazardous components of the munitions landing in the proposed SDZ may impact plants and animals. The DSEA entirely ignores the extensive body of scientific literature regarding bioaccumulation of lead and other metals (such as copper) in the tissues of plants and animals. The potential for bioaccumulation of lead in the food chain in the project area as a result of the proposed action is significant and may have serious adverse impacts.⁶

IV. Insufficient Public Involvement

J-33 Under the National Environmental Policy Act, agencies are required to make a diligent effort to involve the public in preparing their environmental analysis and choosing between alternatives. Public involvement in the preparation of the DSEA was inadequate. The DMVA held only a single meeting, which took place on March 21, 2007 at the FTIG Community Center. It began at 6:00 p.m., although it was publicized as beginning at 6:30 p.m., leading many attendees to arrive late. Moreover, only thirty minutes were allotted for questioning, leaving numerous people without answers to their questions. After the meeting, members of the public who had not had an opportunity to speak were given a chance to record their comments with a stenographer. The public then had only 26 days to submit any further comments. The DSEA itself only provides for a 30-day comment period during which the public must review, understand, and develop comments on the document. This is not the public involvement as envisioned by NEPA.

V. Failure to Consider All Reasonable Alternatives

The NEPA process is intended to be applied at the earliest possible time so that ultimate decisions can be made based on the issues raised in the environmental analysis. All reasonable alternatives are to be given legitimate consideration. Where an agency has

J-34 ⁶ Other potential impacts of the project not considered in the DSEA include: accelerated erosion and permanent tracks caused by the repeated use of motorized vehicles for signage and survey and removal of munitions; damage to a historic African American cemetery in the SDZ, the existence of which is not even acknowledged.

already made a decision before it conducts the environmental analysis, the purpose of developing alternatives is entirely undermined.

J-35 | Such was the case here. The location of the MPTR was set by the time the 2002 FEIS was published and has not moved since. (*Compare* 2002 FEIS Fig. 2-14 *with* DSEA Fig. 1-2.) At that time, “[t]he topography of Second and Blue Mountains [was] expected to keep the MPTR safety fan [i.e. SDZ] on-post.” (2002 FEIS § 2.2.4.) It was later recognized that the “required, three-dimensional SDZ . . . extends off of NGTC-FTIG and onto a 900-acre portion of SGL 211.” (DSEA § 1.1)

J-36 | Nonetheless, the DSEA does not suggest changing the *location* of the MPTR as an alternative to establishing a SDZ on public lands. Instead, the DSEA claims that DMVA tried various alternatives to the *design, construction, and operation* of the MPTR, but was unable to find a configuration that kept the three-dimensional SDZ within FTIG. (*Id.*; § 3.4.4.) The DSEA even states that DMVA considered building a 500-foot tall barrier wall to protect public land.⁷

J-37 | If the DMVA had not made a final decision almost six years as to the location of the MPTR, perhaps it would have considered moving the MPTR. Unfortunately, they did not, and the DSEA does not offer a relocated MPTR as an alternative. Only DMVA can say for certain whether there is a viable location for the MPTR where the entire SDZ would be contained within FTIG. It is worth noting, however, that the MPTR is currently situated a mere quarter mile from the boundary with SGL 211.

J-38 | The only alternatives actually offered in the DSEA are the required no action alternative and the establishment of a *larger* SDZ in SGL 211. Since the larger SDZ is unnecessary and has a greater impact, it is not a reasonable alternative. This leaves a decision-maker with a choice of either going forward with the project as proposed or nothing. While the DMVA may not consider this lack of alternatives to be problematic, given that it appears to have already made its decision, it is clearly deficient under the National Environmental Policy Act.

VI. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment establishing a surface danger zone on State Game Lands 211. We hope that you will take these comments as an opportunity to revisit issues that were

J-39 | ⁷ The remaining three alternatives eliminated from further study concern the method of acquiring a portion of SGL 211, assuming that such an acquisition is required. Another alternative that the DSEA fails to consider is the use of Short Stop ammunition, or other munitions specially designed for short training ranges where ricochets are of concern.

J-40

ignored or minimized in the current draft. When you do so, we are confident that you will find substantial questions raised as to whether the project will cause significant impacts. This in turn will require preparation of an EIS, and, we hope, reconsideration of this project in its entirety.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harry Zirlin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harry Zirlin

LTC Chris Cleaver
Public Information Officer
Fort Indiantown Gap

February 13, 2008

Comments regarding Supplemental Environmental Assessment

4.6.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers

K-1

The Supplemental Environmental Assessment acknowledges statements from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that the entire Stony Creek watershed is protected. Since the “buffer zone” lies wholly within the watershed, even moderate or low impact should be unacceptable.

4.7.1.2 Special Status Species

K-2

This section deals with species of concern. It acknowledges the presence of several species on the north side of Stony Creek, specifically the Alleghany Woodrat, and indicates a possible presence of species within the “buffer zone”. Amateurs and professionals alike have noted woodrats near or in the “buffer zone” so a complete inventory of all species should be undertaken for the entire “buffer zone” before a final environmental assessment is released.

4.8 Cultural Resources

K-3

No less than 14 native American tribal organizations were asked to “sign off” on the presence of native American sites in or near the “buffer zone”. Those that responded did so because their records indicated no such sites. Likewise with the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission, which has no reported Indian sites in Stony Valley.

However, the 1979 Pennsylvania Wild and Scenic Rivers Program – Stony Creek Study which is referenced in the Supplemental

Environmental Assessment clearly mentions the presence of such an encampment between Cold Spring and Yellow Spring on the north side of Stony Creek, just across from the “buffer zone”. It is unrealistic to believe this is the only Indian site in Stony Valley so the entire 900 acre “buffer zone” should be investigated by trained professionals to ascertain the presence or absence of other sites.

When I showed the following picture to archeologists at PHMC they said they thought the artifacts might be much older than the 7500 year old figure I had estimated in 1979. This is made more significant by the presence of the “Shoop Paleo Indian Site” in Powells Valley, just 2 valleys north of Stony Valley. That site was once considered the older Indian site in North America. I will be helping to excavate that site this summer.

I have now officially reported this Stony Valley site to the PHMC.



Appendix A Memorandum of Record (with USF&WS)

K-4

It is appalling to me that USF&WS, being charged with endangered species AND (as I read it) must sign off on the whole project, has been totally unresponsive to requests from the writers of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment. The entire project should be halted until such time as USF&WS renders an opinion and communicates with the writers of the SEA.

Dale Ibberson
445 Hale Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2130

Garrett, Laura

Subject: FW: Comment re Draft Environmental Assessment

Attachments: Sariano, Brian P.vcf

-----Original Message-----

From: Debra [mailto:ddeis@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 11:31 PM

To: Christopher Cleaver

Subject: Comment re Draft Environmental Assessment

Hello Chris...

Would you please forward my comment to the correct person? Thanks, Debra Deis

Feb. 13, 2008

Lt Col. Christopher Cleaver

L-1

The initial EIS for the MPTR was completed without regard to the likelihood of ricochet landing in the Stony Creek Valley. A low "saddle" on the ridgetop near the proposed range is obvious on topographic maps. Omitting a reliable ricochet analysis renders the entire document flawed. The 2002 EIS recognized the value of Stony Creek Valley and found that there would be no impact. I do not think that EIS would have passed if it had been known at that time that the MPTR would not fit within the boundary of FTIG. The proposed 900 acre SDZ within SG 211 is two to three times the size of the MPTR firing range itself.

Is there an explanation how such an oversight occurred?

L-2

Further, it is obvious in looking at the maps, that the Surface Danger Zone within FTIG boundaries encompasses most of the new Stryker Brigade training ranges. If the MPTR is built, the new and important ranges constructed for the Stryker Brigade will not be safe to use for training troops while the MPTR is in use. Therefore I believe this EA should also address the loss of use of Stryker Brigade ranges for troop training and the accompanied economic loss.

Debra Deis

7559 Appalachian Trl E
Harrisburg, PA 17112
717-469-8098



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
 2001 ELMERTON AVENUE, HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

February 13, 2008

Ms. Patricia Rickard
 NEPA Project Manager
 1119 Utility Road
 Fort Indiantown Gap
 Annville, PA 17003-5002

In re: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment
 Surface Danger Zone for Multi-Purpose Training Range
 National Guard Training Center - Fort Indiantown Gap
 Dauphin & Lebanon Counties, PA

Dear Ms. Rickard:

This is in response to the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (DSEA) dated December 2007. The PGC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this project. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) has received and reviewed the document and has the following comments.

M-1

In the event of extreme drought weather conditions an increased potential for fire hazards will exist from the use of the proposed ranges. What additional measures will be taken to control any range fires from spreading onto adjoining properties and impacting natural resources? Will range use be suspended under extreme dry weather conditions that are conducive to starting fires?

M-2

How will the public be alerted when the range will be in operation and they should not enter the Surface Danger Zone? Will the trailheads, parking lots, or roads be posted with the dates when the range(s) will be in operation? Please provide the PGC with some additional insight on the public notification process.

M-3

The Allegheny woodrat (*Neotoma magister*) occurs in close proximity to the Surface Danger Zone. Based on the current level of information that we have, there will be no direct impacts to woodrat habitat so the project should not have any known impact on state listed bird and mammal species based on our office review. Should project plans extend beyond the present study area, or if additional information on endangered or threatened species of birds or mammals becomes available, this review may be reconsidered.

Ms. Patricia A. Rickard

-2-

February 13, 2008

Based on our review of the DSEA the PGC is in agreement that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate due to no major natural resource impacts resulting from the action. Please contact me at (717) 787-4250 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Kevin L. Mixon
Division of Environmental
Planning and Habitat Protection
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management

Cc: Capouillez, PGC
Killough, PGC
Metz, PGC
Bechtel, PGC
Camus, PGC

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUS:

PERSONNEL: 717-787-7836 ADMINISTRATION: 717-787-5670 AUTOMOTIVE AND PROCUREMENT: 717-787-6594
LICENSE DIVISION: 717-787-2084 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 717-787-5529 INFORMATION & EDUCATION: 717-787-6286
WILDLIFE PROTECTION: 717-787-5740 WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT: 717-787-6818 REAL ESTATE: 717-787-6568
AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS: 717-787-4076

WWW.PGC.STATE.PA.US

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

February 14, 2008

Commonwealth of PA, Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs
Bureau of Facilities and Engineering/Environmental Division
Building 0-11, Ft Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5002

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be advised that the current address for The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania is:

The Nature Conservancy
Pennsylvania Chapter
2101 North Front Street
Building #1, Suite 200
Harrisburg, PA 17110

In addition, please note that our state headquarters has moved from Conshohocken to Harrisburg.

We ask that you please change your records accordingly.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the address above, or call me at (717) 232-6001 ext. 100.

Regards,



Jessica M. Seminara
Executive Assistant to the State Director

Garrett, Laura

Subject: FW: SGL 211 Environmental Assessment

Attachments: Sariano, Brian P.vcf

-----Original Message-----

From: Bowen, Rebecca H

Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 2:33 PM

To: Rickard, Patricia

Subject: SGL 211 Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Rickard,

I am an Environmental Reviewer for DNCR, and I have just gone over the Supplemental Environmental Assessment for SGL 211 in connection with the operation of a MPTR at the NGTC-FTIG. I apologize for getting my comments in a little late, I do have some concerns however.

0-1 | How was it determined that no adverse affects would come to the Biological Resources found on SGL 211? It mentions American Holly and Forked Chickweed in the assessment, but then goes on to say that no adverse affects are expected. Was a survey done in the area for these species or any species of special concern under DCNR's jurisdiction? Will the area be surveyed?

0-2 | Is there a chance for fires being started by munitions which may fall in this area? If there is, DCNR suggests a survey of the area which may be affected by fires.

0-3 | Also, the assessment mentions that Amec personnel conducted a review utilizing the PNHP's PNDI Project Environmental Review, and that according to the review, the study area is not known to contain Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and is not known to contain sensitive vegetative resources. Was this project screened with the Online Environmental Review Tool? If so, did the receipt generated state that No Known Impacts were associated with this project?

Thank you for taking my questions into consideration.
Sincerely,

Rebecca H. Bowen
Environmental Review Specialist
Ecological Services Section
DCNR/BOF/PNDI
717-772-0258
c-rbowen@state.pa.us

4/14/2008



A NOTE FROM...
THOMAS MRICKER

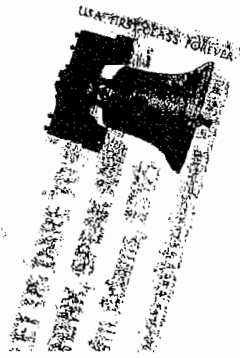
MEMBER

Criss

As a Fisherman Hunter and
lover of Public land in Scotland
Pennsylvania, I want to go on
record that my civil Rights
are being violated with the
land agreement that is being
made between the National
Geared and Pennsylvania Game
Commission.

Thank you for your Time

Thomas W. Dickson



THOMAS MRICKER
555 WENRICH ST
HARRISBURG, PA 17112

March 12, 2008

Brian Sariano
Senior Project Manager
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
One Plymouth Meeting, Suite 850
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1308

Re: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment for establishing a Surface Danger Zone on a portion of State Game Lands No. 211 in connection with the operation of a Multi-Purpose Training Range at the National Guard Training Center-Fort Indiantown Gap

Dear Mr. Sariano:

For almost a year, I have asked to review a set of preliminary drawings, construction drawings, expenditures, etc. for the above project. Each time the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has denied my request.

The draft supplemental environmental assessment has been released to the public. Within the documents are figures indicating the boundary of Alternative 1. It is very difficult to discern the exact boundary of Alternative 1.

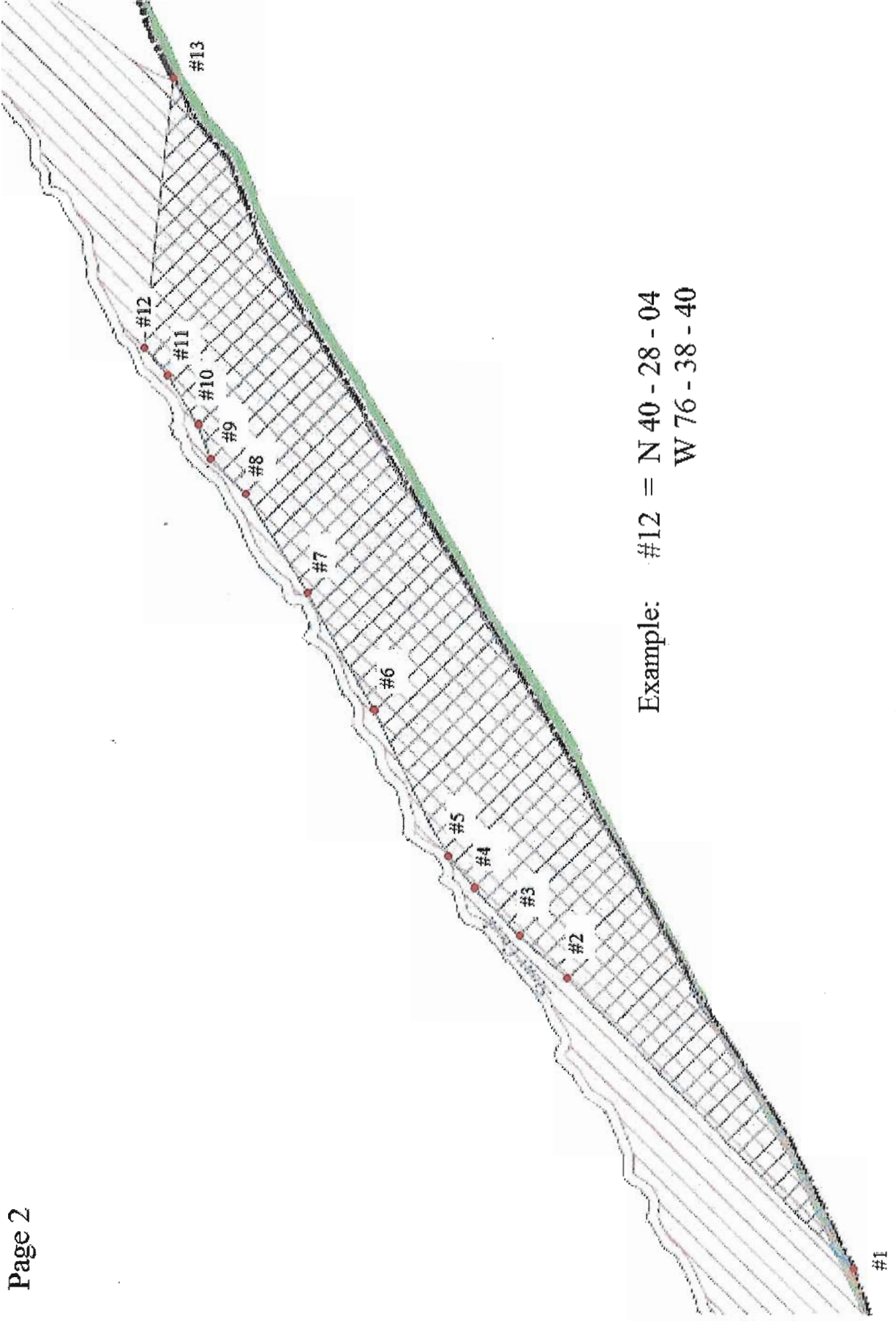
Please refer to the illustration on Page 2. I have numbered the points where I believe you indicate a change in the boundary. Please acknowledge if this is correct. If not, please correct my error and provide a list of the coordinates for the points.

Thank you,



Jim Rice
5126 Circle Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Cc. Adjutant General Jessica Wright



Example: #12 = N 40 - 28 - 04
W 76 - 38 - 40



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/Region 5/WSFR

MAR 10 2008

LTC Christopher Cleaver
Public Affairs Officer
Fort Indiantown Gap, Building 8-41
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-5002

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Cleaver:

About 3 weeks ago, we received copies of comments from a Pennsylvania citizen on your Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding the "Establishment of a Surface Danger Zone on a Portion of State Game Lands 211 in Connection with the Operation of a Multi-Purpose Training Range." Subsequently, we went to the Pennsylvania State Department of Military Affairs Web site on February 14, 2008, and downloaded an EA consisting of some 300 pages, noting that the comment period had closed the day before.

We (the Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration – formerly the Division of Federal Assistance) have known for several years that you would likely be working on such a document. However, we have never received any direct, formal request for information or comments on the EA, despite our urging that this be done (most recently per telephone conversations and electronic mail, AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc., October 15, 2007, and Brian Sariano, October 19, 2007).

We have legal responsibility for ensuring lands purchased with Federal Aid funds continue to serve the purpose for which they were acquired. Also, it is our responsibility to ensure that lands purchased with hunting license revenue are used for the administration of the State fish and wildlife agency. As a result, we are a directly affected party, and as noted above, did not receive a copy of this critical environmental document nor a formal request to comment on it. We will review and comment on the EA as quickly as we can. Please let us know promptly if it is not your intent to take our comments into consideration. Any future communication or requests for comment on this matter should be directed specifically to me at the Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035.

Sincerely,

John F. Organ, Ph.D.
Division Chief, Wildlife
and Sport Fish Restoration

cc: Brian Sariano, Senior Project Manager, AMEC



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/Region 5/WSFR

APR 2 2008

Ms. Patricia Rickard
NEPA Project Manager
DMVA-ENG, Bldg 0-11
Fort Indiantown Gap, Building 8-41
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-5002

Dear Ms. Rickard:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration has reviewed your Draft Supplementary Environmental Assessment (SEA) on "Establishing a Surface Danger Zone on a Portion of State Game Lands No. 211 in Connection with the Operation of a Multi-Purpose Training Range." Comments are provided below.

Our interest in the SEA stems from our legal responsibility to ensure that lands purchased with Federal Aid funds continue to serve the purpose for which they were acquired. As such, we have focused our comments on those elements of the SEA that address these concerns or interpret our regulations. A skewed characterization of the relationship of the Wildlife Restoration Act to the alternatives seems to have led to incomplete analysis of some important elements of the SEA. Section 4.2.1.5 is misleading in stating that the Wildlife Restoration Act "itself does not establish laws or regulations for the management of wildlife areas owned by the State."

S-1

Regulations issued for the Wildlife Restoration Act at 50 CFR 80 clearly establish administrative requirements for management of lands purchased with hunting license revenue or Wildlife Restoration Program funds. Assets acquired with hunting license revenue, e.g., real property, may only be used to manage the fish and wildlife-oriented resources for which the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) has authority under State law (50 CFR 80.4). Moreover, the PGC must maintain full management control of lands purchased with Wildlife Restoration funds (50 CFR 80.14(b) (1)). The PGC may become ineligible to receive further grant moneys if these regulations are not followed or any misuse of the land is not corrected

S-2

The above being said, it should also be noted that, as the owner of the 900 acres in question, the PGC has broad discretion as to how it manages the lands it owns. State fish and wildlife agencies frequently manipulate habitat for the benefit of wildlife resources or open and close areas of their holdings to serve a variety of management purposes, such as the protection of brood or nursery areas. It is well within the management purview of the State fish and wildlife agencies to enter into agreements with other parties, such as the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), as long as they do not violate the terms of 50 CFR 80. This information needs to be presented in the SEA so that the public fully understands both the constraints and latitude that govern the PGC in its management of SGL 211.

Section by Section Comments:

- S-3 | Page 2-1, line 27: For the sake of clarity, the mechanisms of exactly how the Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) will be controlled under the pertinent regulations should be described and summarized.
- S-4 | Page 2-2, lines 1-2,6-7,12-13,17-18: The number and type of rounds landing in the SDZ over a 41-year period should be determined and clearly presented, as "approximately 32,000 metal fragments totaling almost 16 tons will fall on the SDZ over a 41-year period, or about 35 rounds/35 pounds per acre."
- S-5 | Page 3-1, lines 36-37, Page 3-2, lines 1-3: The maximum percentage of days of the spring gobbler season that could be lost to public use because of Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR) operation, given these restrictions, should be identified. Similarly, the alternatives should describe whether or not MPTR use will affect hunting seasons for all other legally hunted birds and game animals, and estimate the potential maximum amount of impact as above. Other elements regarding traditional uses are also not considered for analysis. For instance, as much time or more can be spent in pre-season scouting by hunters as in hunting. This is as integral a part of use as the open season itself. Providing a list of mitigation measures for losses of public use, and not specifically measuring and listing those losses and other losses, does not serve the purpose of effective public review and analysis.
- S-6 | Page 4-4, lines 3-10: The statements concerning the Pittman-Robertson Act are not totally germane to the situation. Section 4.2.1.5 is misleading in stating that the Wildlife Restoration Act "itself does not establish laws or regulations for the management of wildlife areas owned by the State." The Federal regulations that support the Wildlife Restoration Act very explicitly prescribe that assets acquired with license fees "shall not be diverted to purposes other than the administration of the State....wildlife agency" (50CFR80.4), and that when real property acquired with Federal Aid funds "passes from management control of the wildlife agency, the control must be fully restored or the real property must be replaced using non-Federal Aid Funds" (50CFR80.14). This information needs to be presented in the SEA so that the public fully understands both the constraints and latitude that govern the PGC in their management of SGL 211.
- S-7 | Page 5-1, lines 17-22: As stated previously, the statements concerning the Pittman-Robertson Act are not totally germane to the situation. The requirements at 50 CFR 80.4(c) and 50 CFR 80.14(b) should be noted
- S-8 | Page 5-1 lines 23-26: While the extent of proposed land use may not represent a significant adverse impact, we disagree with the characterization that it is limited or minor. The proposed use amounts to 25 percent of the year, or a little over 10 years in a 41-year period.
- S-9 | Page 5-2 lines 1-18: Transfer of TA E-1 to the PGC does not seem to represent adequate compensation. It represents an isolated tract encompassing little over one-half the acreage given up, contains an equestrian trail that more likely would present management and maintenance problems for the PGC, and may only "potentially" include additional hunting and trapping opportunities. The likelihood of acquiring \$2,000,000 (the source of which is unknown) in other unidentified lands by a coalition of unidentified State agencies is highly speculative and does not address the needs of analysis in the SEA, nor does it necessarily satisfy the requirements of 50CFR 80.14 in that replacement property must be of equal value at current market prices and with equal benefits as the original property.
- S-10 | Page 5-9: An assessment of whether the proposed training will cause an increased fire risk on SGL 211 should be included for each alternative.

- S-11 | Page 5-16 lines 5, 8: We disagree with the characterization of cumulative impact as minor. The proposed use amounts to 25 percent of the year, or a little over 10 years in a 41-year period.
- S-12 | Page 5-21, lines 5, 8, 20, 23: We disagree with the characterization of impact as minor. The proposed use amounts to 25 percent of the year, or a little over 10 years in a 41-year period.
- S-13 | Page 6-3, Table 1: We disagree with the characterization of land use impacts under Alternatives 1 and 2 as minor. The proposed use amounts to 25 percent of the year, or a little over 10 years in a 41-year period.
- S-14 | **Figures:** As we have previously recommended to PGC and DMVA, a map is needed depicting the proposed Safety Zone in relation to tracts acquired with Wildlife Restoration Funds and or hunting license revenue to determine exactly where the Federal nexus of these actions is on the ground so potential conflicts with pertinent sections of the regulations can be accurately assessed and appropriately resolved. No such map accompanies the SEA or Memorandum of Understanding.
- S-15 | In summary, we find that sections of this SEA that relate to the Wildlife Restoration Act are inadequate to provide the public enough information to effectively participate in the decisionmaking process. Specific analyses pertaining to resource damage, public use, and legal responsibilities of the PGC are missing.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding our comments, please contact us at the above address or by telephone at 413-253-8501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John F. Organ", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John F. Organ, Ph.D.
Chief, Division of Wildlife
and Sport Fish Restoration

cc: Gary Camus, WSFR Coordinator, PGC
LTC Christopher Cleaver, Public Affairs Officer
Brianna Kenny, SOL



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Response to Comments

Charles Stoner – Letter A dated 25 January 2008

Response to Comment A-1

The purpose of this SEA is to analyze the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of establishing a temporary Surface Danger Zone on the subject portion of SGL 211, as prescribed in the Final Interagency Cooperative Land Use Agreement (LUA). The DMVA will adhere to the conditions and terms set forth in the LUA. The LUA contains provisions and contingencies to address the necessary approvals from agencies with cognizance over the matters discussed in this comment.

Response to Comment A-2

The DMVA will adhere to the Final Interagency Cooperative LUA as agreed to by the PGC and the DMVA. The LUA identifies specific periods which would be excluded from use; these periods include: during the regular antlered deer season (typically the last week in November and first two weeks in December), antlerless deer season (typically 3 days in mid-October), bear season (typically the second or third week in November), a minimum of four weekdays and one Saturday during the Spring Gobbler season (from late April to late May) and a minimum of four weekdays and one Saturday during the fall Wild Turkey season (late October into early November). These are the specific times that the SDZ would not be in use per the agreement between the PGC and DMVA. DMVA does not believe it is necessary or appropriate to alter the terms and conditions of the LUA as suggested in this comment.

Response to Comment A-3

Please refer to Response to **Comment A-2**.

Response to Comment A-4

Please refer to Responses to **Comments A-2** and **A-3**. **Section 5.12.1.2** of the SEA describes the effects that would occur as they relate to use of Cold Springs Road. Specifically, Cold Springs Road would not be closed; however, traffic could be temporarily delayed for short periods of time (i.e., less than 1 hour) through the use of proper traffic controls (i.e., crossing guards and controls) while training occurs at the MPTR. The DMVA, in conjunction with the PGC, would publicize as far in advance as possible the dates required. In no instance would the notice be less than 15 calendar days prior to the use of the MPTR/SDZ.

Response to Comment A-5

This comment appears to discuss the terms and conditions of the LUA and is not directly relevant to the dSEA. DMVA believes the duration of the LUA is appropriate; it was agreed to by the PGC subject to the reviews discussed in the contingencies.



Response Comment A-6

This comment is not relevant to this dSEA. The DMVA would be bound by the terms of the LUA between it and the PGC.

Response Comment A-7

The DMVA would be bound by the terms of the LUA. This SEA analyzes the potential environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural impacts of the establishment of the proposed SDZ as codified in the LUA. Land use impacts to on- and off-post lands associated with the construction and operation of the MPTR were assessed in the 2002 Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD), from which this SEA is tiered. When the 2002 ROD was signed, the requirement for an off-Post SDZ per Army Regulation (AR) 385-63 was not known; all other potential impacts associated with the proposed MPTR were fully assessed within that 2002 Final EIS and ROD. When this off-Post SDZ requirement became known, the SEA process was initiated at an appropriate time in accordance with Federal law and Army requirements, as described in the SEA. Please also refer to **Response to Comment A-5** concerning the annual review of the LUA.

Response Comment A-8

Comment noted. No response is required.

Response to Comment A-9

No unexploded ordnance (UXO) would enter SGL 211 as a result of this Proposed Action. Ricochets that could potentially enter SGL 211 as a result of this Proposed Action include ONLY inert (non-explosive) steel or copper-jacketed lead rounds (see **Section 5.13.1**). In addition, historically, the PANG has maintained an unlimited right-of-entry into SGL 211 to monitor safety in accordance with Army, Army National Guard, and Fort Indiantown Gap requirements whenever potential UXO is reported. Per **Section 3.1** of the SEA, when ordnance is found/located in the 900-acre buffer and reported, DMVA will secure and remove/eliminate said ordnance at no cost to PGC.

Response to Comment A-10

Section 3.1 of the SEA discusses the method the DMVA intends to use in order to publicize the schedule for controlling access to the proposed SDZ.

Response to Comment A-11

Comment noted. We believe the commenter is referencing the Army's/ARNG's 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Plan for FTIG, which set forth the overall vision for the installation in the Post-BRAC95 environment. The statement referenced is taken out of context. The Plan referenced "virtually unlimited opportunity for growth" of the installation, clearly within the context of what military training values and missions the installation could support, but which would be subject to analysis and review on a case-by-case basis, as is being done



systematically over time. This SEA is one component of the overall iterative, evolving planning and review process as mission requirements change over time.

Dorman Shaver – Letter B dated 4 February 2008

Response to Comment B-1

Based on an examination of USGS and National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapping, coupled with a limited site reconnaissance, the closest surface water to the project study area is Stony Creek, which is not within the proposed SDZ footprint. As discussed in **Section 4.6.1.1**, based on the above sources there is 0.976 acre of wetlands present within the Alternative 2 project study area. No wetlands are present within the Alternative 1 project study area. Thus, with the implementation of Alternative 1, the Preferred Alternative, there would be no direct surface water impacts (see **Sections 4.6.1.1** and **5.6.2**).

Response to Comment B-2

Section 2.0 describes the total potential number of rounds that might ricochet into the SGL 211 portion of the SDZ. By extrapolating the data presented in **Section 2.0**, it is evident that a total of approximately 695 pounds of steel and 6.7 pounds of copper-jacketed lead has the potential to ricochet into the SGL 211 portion of the proposed SDZ on an annual basis. Over the course of 41 years, this would calculate to a total of approximately 28,495 pounds of steel and 274.5 pounds of copper jacketed lead that could land in SGL 211, or about 32 pounds/acre of steel and 0.3 pounds/acre of copper jacketed lead over 41 years. In actuality, the ricochets that might enter SGL 211 would be shards or fragments of the larger, original projectile, as most of the projectiles would shatter or break when they ricochet. Thus, the expected total amount of steel and copper-jacketed lead that could potentially enter SGL 211 would be less than the figures presented above. Additionally, a lack of acidic waters and soils within the proposed SDZ within SGL 211 would slow the break down of lead bullets and fragments. With increased exposure to potentially acidic precipitation, the chance of transportation by stormwater runoff increases. However, in areas such as the proposed 900-acre SDZ, grass and other vegetation assist in reducing the runoff and act as a filter to remove suspended solids (USEPA 2005). Hunting season SDZ use limitations, per the LUA, are discussed under **Response to Comment A-2**.

Response to Comment B-3

Section 2.0 describes the total potential number of rounds that might ricochet into the SGL 211 portion of the proposed SDZ. **Section 5.7.1** discusses the impacts to vegetation and wildlife as a result of the implementation of Alternative 1. As explained within the section, there is the possibility of projectiles striking trees or wildlife; however, this possibility is considered to be a less-than-significant impact. As noted within the SEA at **Section 5.7.1**, significant damage to trees and animal mortality from rounds landing in SDZs within FTIG has not been observed to be an issue after over 60 years of military training use. While anecdotal, the SEA compares historic biological resource impacts attributable to similar training within the boundaries of NGTC-FTIG to the potential impacts that 779 potential ricochets/year may have to vegetation and wildlife within the SGL 211 portion of the proposed SDZ. The biological resources at NGTC-FTIG comprise a healthy and diverse ecosystem even in areas that are subject to a



significantly higher number of projectile hits per year; thus, the Proposed Action is anticipated to have no significant adverse impacts on the biological resources, including vegetation and wildlife, within SGL 211.

Response to Comment B-4

Potential on- and off-Post impacts (including impacts to SGL 211) from the operation and construction of the proposed MPTR, including dust and noise, were analyzed in the 2002 FEIS and ROD. That document identified that there would be significant unmitigable noise impacts within SGL 211 from training activities associated with the MPTR. This SEA is tiered from the 2002 FEIS and ROD and specifically analyzes the impacts associated establishment of a SDZ within a portion of SGL 211, the only element of the proposed MPTR that has changed since the analysis completed in the 2002 FEIS and ROD. Because the construction and operation of the MPTR was fully analyzed in the 2002 FEIS and ROD, impacts associated with the construction and operation of the MPTR are not re-assessed in this SEA.

Response to Comment B-5

A letter requesting a project review for the proposed SDZ in SGL 211 was sent to the USFWS Pennsylvania Field Office, addressed to David Densmore, on 17 May 2007. Additional phone and email contact to the USFWS was made to Pamela Shellanberger in October 2007. The DMVA received comments on the Draft SEA from the USFWS on 7 April, 2008, approximately 45 days after the official closing of the comment and review period for the Draft SEA. Please refer to **Comment Letter S** and the associated **Response to Comments S-1 through S-15** below.

Response to Comment B-6

As discussed in **Section 5.2.1** of the SEA, there are no significant adverse land use impacts anticipated due to the implementation of Alternatives 1 or 2.

Response to Comment B-7

The applicability of the federal Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1947 is not within the scope of matters evaluated in the dSEA. However, it is noted that the LUA indicates compatibility with the requirements of this Act.

Response to Comment B-8

The establishment of the proposed SDZ within SGL 211 would not involve any ground-disturbing activities and would only involve ricochets landing in the SDZ; therefore, no soil erosion within SGL 211 would be anticipated. As noted in **Response to Comment B-4**, potential on-Post erosion impacts from construction and operation of the proposed MPTR were analyzed in the 2002 FEIS and ROD. As described in **Response to Comment J-10**, no motor vehicles would be used within this proposed SDZ.



Response to Comment B-9

The statement is written in regard to planned and anticipated future growth and development within the region of the installation associated with commercial and private development, outside of the installation's boundaries. Previous to the quoted statement, **Section 5.14.4** discusses the cumulative impacts that would likely occur as a result of increased use of NGTC-FTIG coupled with the "need for land to accommodate the area's increasing population and economic development, including additional businesses, homes, and related services and infrastructure." This increase in demand, and subsequent cumulative impacts, are anticipated throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the nation as a whole. Through mitigation measures, these cumulative impacts would be reduced impacts to a minimum; however, an "on-going decline in the natural ecosystem" is anticipated as a result of development that is beyond the control of the DMVA and/or the PAARNG. Furthermore, commercial and private development in the region along with associated infrastructure projects and housing construction in the region surrounding NGTC-FTIG, all of which are beyond the control of the DMVA and the PAARNG, place additional strain on the region's natural ecosystem.

John E. Rossey – Letter C dated 7 February 2008

Response to Comment C-1

Comment noted. The proposed closure of this particular piece of property for up to 90 days per year for 41 years does not constitute a significant impact within the context of the 44,343 acres of SGL 211 available (2% of the total area). The particular 900 acres (Alternative 1) under consideration in this SEA is very steep (i.e., averaging 31 degrees, or a 2:1, slope), rocky, difficult to access, and challenging to traverse. Persons most likely to utilize this particular part of SGL 211 would be hunters. The subject 900 acres would remain open during certain hunting seasons (see **Response to Comment A-2**). Data are not available regarding how many people actually use this particular 900-acre parcel; the PGC does not keep utilization data. In addition, no formal letters or comments were received through this NEPA process from Congressman Tim Holden or any other elected officials.

Response to Comment C-2

The DMVA believes that the Proposed Action evaluated by the dSEA does not violate any applicable law or regulation.

Response to Comment C-3

Comment noted. However, no such petition has been received by the DMVA in association with this NEPA process.

Response to Comment C-4

As discussed in **Section 1.4** of the SEA, public meetings were held on 30 August 2005 and 21 March 2007 pertaining to the proposed land "acquisition" and the proposed establishment of a SDZ on a portion of SGL 211, respectively, in connection with the operation of the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Both of these public meetings were held by the DMVA and the PAARNG at



NGTC-FTIG. Additionally, both public meetings were publicized in the Harrisburg Patriot News prior to the date of the meeting. Copies of the meeting minutes from these two public meetings along with comments received as a result of the two public meetings are included in **Appendix D** of the SEA. All public involvement was conducted in accordance with NEPA, CEQ Guidance, and 32CFR651, as well as the ARNG NEPA Manual (2006).

Response to Comment C-5

Sections 4.6.1.1 and **5.6.1** explain the location of the proposed SDZ in relation to Stony Creek. As discussed in the SEA, the SDZ would start seventy (70) feet south of Stony Creek, and extend southward (upslope) to the NGTC-FTIG boundary.

Response to Comment C-6

Please refer to **Response to Comment B-1**.

Response to Comment C-7

According to an 1875 Union Township, Pennsylvania map, the town of Africa was located in the northwest border of Union Township, north of SR 433, near the border of East Hanover Township. Ranktown, south of Africa, was another settlement like Africa. These towns are thought to have existed at Indiantown Gap, near where Indiantown Run passes through Blue Mountain, although the exact location of Africa and Ranktown and any associated cemetery is not known. The proposed SDZ assessed in this SEA is located on the north slope of Second Mountain, approximately 1 mile north of the area depicted on the 1875 map showing the location of Africa. The 2002 FTIG INRMP, Appendix 5 - Potential Historic Site Inventory, states that the former Ranktown School was destroyed. The 1995 KFS Cultural Resources study referenced two sites as Africa Area Homesteads. The D.P. Fluing homestead was not located; the Steward homestead was not standing. Like most of the farmsteads and homesteads that were previously located on FTIG, they were either destroyed when they became FTIG property or they were converted to become military housing such as Quarters 18 (demolished in 2005) and Quarters 35, both log homes. Due to the remote location of the proposed SDZ in SGL 211, and the rugged and steep rocky terrain, it is highly unlikely that any settlements and/or cemeteries would be located on this particular piece of land (Meneses, 2008). The proposed use of the SDZ would, therefore, have no impact to any known African American cemetery. However, per Section 5.8.4 of the SEA, if an inadvertent discovery of a potential archeological site is made, the PAARNG Cultural Resources Manager is to be immediately contacted by telephone or radio, and work would cease in that area until specific PAARNG Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are initiated and followed, including: National Historic Preservation Act SOP #3, Archeological Resource Protection Act of 1997 SOP #5, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act SOP #12. Furthermore, the PAARNG Cultural Resources Manager would immediately:

- 1) Notify the PA State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and any other appropriate state and/or federal agencies by telephone
- (2) Notify the PAARNG JAG and FMO
- (3) Visit the find within 24 hours with appropriate experts.



Response to Comment C-8

The construction of a fence is not part of the Proposed Action; a fence is not required by AR 385-63 or DA PAM 385-63 for non-duddled impact areas at the present time. The DMVA will adhere to the conditions and terms set forth in the LUA. Unless the term of the LUA is extended after 2049, the land would then no longer be used intermittently as a SDZ.

Response to Comment C-9

The ricochet analysis was conducted by the United States Army Research and Development Engineering Center (ARDEC). The analysis and computer modeling take into account the existing terrain, proposed firing points, target locations, and the type of weapons and ammunition to be fired. Literally millions of computer simulated shots from every conceivable firing point to each and every target for each weapons system and ammunition type are figured into the ricochet analysis. The limits of the SDZ as depicted in **Figure 1-3** of the SEA depict the maximum extent of possible ricochets that could escape FTIG boundaries as a result of training activities that would occur on the MPTR. This modeled SDZ does not extend north of Stony Creek or to the referenced railroad bed. As such, no additional area other than that depicted in the SEA would be involved.

Response to Comment C-10

Please refer to **Response to Comment B-7**. The A/E firm was contracted to prepare the SEA for a fee of approximately \$68,000.

Response to Comment C-11

The SEA demonstrates that the socioeconomic impact of the Proposed Action would be less-than-significant. The Proposed Action would not be expected to cause widespread avoidance of SGL 211. For the last 60+ years, this area (now SGL 211) has existed compatibly adjacent to the boundary of FTIG, an active military training installation. No data exist that recreational use of this land has been affected by this proximity. In fact, public recreation (hunting and fishing) occurs within the boundaries of FTIG on a regular basis.

Response to Comment C-12

The subject 900 acres would remain open during the regular antlered and antlerless deer hunting seasons, bear hunting season, and four week days and one Saturday during the Spring Gobbler and Wild Turkey hunting seasons. Therefore, if a shot deer would venture into the 900 acres during those hunting seasons, the hunter would have no restrictions on going and collecting the deer. If, however, a hunter would shoot a deer during other deer hunting seasons and the SDZ restriction is in effect, then that hunter would be required to contact the FTIG Range Control office to request access in order to retrieve the deer, should that deer enter the SDZ. This is the practice that has been historically and successfully used within the FTIG boundaries.



Response to Comment C-13

The DMVA believes that the Proposed Action and the LUA are in compliance with the Environmental Rights Amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution (Article 1, Section 27).

Response to Comment C-14

As detailed in **Section 1.0** of the SEA, the FEIS for the Enhanced Training and Operations at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap is dated March 2002. The ROD on that FEIS is dated 16 June 2002. **Section 1.1.1** of the SEA provides explicit detail as to why this additional analysis was necessary. The commenter is referred to those sections of the SEA.

Glenn Blauch – Letter D dated 7 February 2008

Response to Comment D-1

The Proposed Action would not involve any development within SGL 211. The DMVA believes the limited use of this small portion of SGL 211 is consistent with earlier efforts to "Save Stony Valley."

Response to Comment D-2

Please refer to Response to **Comments A-2, B-1, and B-7**. As no surface waters exist within the Alternative 1 footprint, no fishery resources or public fishing would be affected. At no time would access to Stony Creek be restricted. The SDZ would terminate 70 feet south of Stony Creek at its closest point. Stony Creek would remain open for the trout fishing season.

Response to Comment D-3

Comment noted. Please refer to **Response to Comments B-2 and B-3**.

Response to Comment D-4

Comment noted. All public comments provided as part of this NEPA process are carefully considered by the Government decision-makers as described in **Section 1.4** of the SEA, prior to making a final decision on the Proposed Action.

Jim Rice – Letter E dated 9 February 2008

Response to Comment E-1

Comment noted. During the MPTR initial project siting and design phases (within the specified period of June 1999 through October 2001), the MPTR footprint was modified as design information became available. The 4,000-foot shift observed by the commenter, as captured in **Figure 4** of the Final Public Scoping Document vs. the footprint analyzed within this 2001 Draft EIS, resulted from on-going review and project development conducted within this period. The depiction of the MPTR in the June 1999 Public Scoping document was a preliminary depiction



of the proposed range, and did not include the correct portrayal of the standard 2-dimensional MPTR SDZ for all weapon systems to be used on the range, including .50 caliber. The SDZ shown in 1999 only addressed two firing points firing at single targets engaged with the 120mm inert HEAT training round. Further SDZ and impact analysis of this preliminary proposed siting revealed many significant issues, including the 2-dimensional SDZ (with all weapon systems included) extending over the southern FTIG boundary, significant impacts to streams and wetlands (including the Indiantown Run watershed), and significant conflicts with other mission-critical (at the time) training facilities, such as Range 23E and tactical vehicle maneuver lands. To reduce those impacts, the proposed MPTR was relocated to its present location, even though the standard 2-dimensional SDZ exited the boundary to the north, under the assumption that Second Mountain would contain the ricochets.

Response to Comment E-2

The use of a standard, two-dimensional SDZ is impractical given the extent of mountainous terrain at NGTC-FTIG. The DMVA and PAARNG, as a result, retained ARDEC to conduct 3-dimensional ricochet analyses in order to ascertain the extent of required SDZ, factoring in the affect of the terrain. The results of this 3-dimensional SDZ modeling analysis were not available until after the 2002 FEIS and ROD were signed.

Response to Comment E-3

Comment noted. The commenter is referred to the 2002 ROD. Within that ROD, specific mitigation measures were adopted to ensure the construction and operation of a safe MPTR per AR 385-63 and DA PAM 385-63. Subsequent to signing of the 2002 ROD, additional, 3-dimensional analyses, coupled with numerous additional design configurations, were conducted by ARDEC and the PAARNG in an attempt to retain the SDZ on Post. This was found not to be possible. The Proposed Action, as described in **Section 1.0** of the SEA, represents the minimum off-Post SDZ possible based on these analyses. This process conforms with the requirements of NEPA and with the 2002 ROD.

Response to Comment E-4

Comment noted. The commenter is correct.

Response to Comment E-5

Comment noted. The commenter is generally correct, as this applies to a standard 2-dimensional SDZ.

Response to Comment E-6

Please refer to **Response to Comment E-1**. The layout and positioning of the MPTR was not influenced by the placement of the Stryker Brigade ranges; the siting of the MPTR occurred prior to siting of the Stryker Brigade ranges. The proposed location of the MPTR as analyzed in the 2002 FEIS/ROD and within the SEA represents the only available location and orientation for this range within FTIG that minimizes the amount of required off-Post SDZ.



Response to Comment E-7

Please refer to **Response to Comment E-3**. Since the signing of the ROD for the 2002 FEIS in June 2002, the original FEIS-assessed MPTR configuration and a number of alternative design configurations (generally within the same footprint) were analyzed by the PAARNG, and associated 3-dimensional ricochet analyses were conducted on each by ARDEC. These analyses determined that no practical MPTR design alternative exists that would retain projectiles within the boundaries of NGTC-FTIG. This data was not available at the time the 2002 FEIS and subsequent ROD were published. As a result, it was necessary to prepare this SEA in order to address the impacts the operation of the MPTR would have on SGL 211 (in the form of an SDZ). This SEA was properly tiered from the 2002 FEIS pursuant to CEQ Regulations 40 CFR Part 1502.10 and 40 CFR Part 1502.20.

Response to Comment E-8

Please refer to **Response to Comment B-7**.

Response to Comment E-9

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) is the Federal proponent of this project, was involved in the review of this SEA, and will be responsible for the ultimate decision concerning this Proposed Action. Furthermore, several Federal Government agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service were consulted during the IICEP process for this SEA and were provided copies of the Draft SEA for review and comment. Comments were received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No comments were received from any other Federal agencies.

Response to Comment E-10

The commenter is referred to **Sections 4.4.1** and **5.4.1** of the SEA. The analysis of noise as it pertains to the operation of the MPTR was fully assessed in the 2002 FEIS. In that document, it was stated that the noise environment in parts of SGL 211 could escalate to Noise Zones II and III; Noise Zone III is above acceptable standards for recreational lands, as this level could affect the recreational users' enjoyment of the lands. The noise environment of SGL 211 was re-assessed in the 2006 SBCT FEIS. As re-assessed in the 2006 FEIS, the operation of the MPTR would result in significant short- and long-term adverse noise impacts to SGL 211. Specifically, the noise modeling concluded that approximately 90 acres of the 900-acre SDZ would experience Zone II noise levels and approximately 10 acres of the 900-acre SDZ would experience Zone III noise levels during MPTR training activities. As these areas would be off-limits to the public during MPTR usage (see **Figure 4-2** in the SEA), these noise levels would not affect the recreational experience. The commenter is also referred to **Responses to Comments B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, and B-8**.



Response to Comment E-11

The PADMVA has not violated or "disparaged" any Federal or State laws concerning this proposal. As analyzed within the SEA, the Proposed Action would not result in any significant environmental, socioeconomic, or cultural impacts, including to SGL 211.

Response to Comment E-12

The PADMVA and PAARNG make all attempts to abide by all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations and do not consider themselves above the law.

Response to Comment E-13

This comment does not pertain to this SEA.

Response to Comment E-14

This comment does not pertain to this SEA.

Response to Comment E-15

Please refer to **Response to Comment C-4**. The public comment meeting conducted on 30 August 2005 was a public meeting to discuss the SBCT DEIS. However, because public interest associated with the MPTR and the SDZ issues on SGL 211 was expressed during several previous public forums which were meant specifically for the SBCT proposal, the DMVA and PAARNG determined it important to make arrangements to accommodate those members of the public who were interested solely in the MPTR and SGL 211 SDZ issues versus the SBCT proposal. This was accomplished by providing a separate court stenographer as a means for those to provide comments in association with the MPTR and SGL 211 SDZ issue. The 30 August 2005 meeting was conducted in this fashion so that the comments for the two issues (e.g., the SBCT DEIS and the MPTR SGL 211 SDZ issue) could be captured separate from each other. Subsequent to the 30 August 2005 meeting, the PAARNG and DMVA remained active in meeting with representatives of the Stony Valley Coalition to discuss the SGL 211 SDZ issue and the associated "land use agreement". Although not specifically required under 32 CFR Part 651 as part of the NEPA process for an Environmental Assessment, the DMVA and PAARNG held a second public meeting on 21 March 2007 pertaining specifically to the establishment of a SDZ on a portion of SGL 211 (the subject of this SEA) in connection with the operation of the MPTR at NGTC-FTIG. Notices were placed in the Harrisburg Patriot News announcing the date, location, and time of that meeting. The public was afforded ample opportunity to attend a variety of public meetings associated with this proposal and the opportunity to review and comment on the SEA as required under 32 CFR Part 651.



Response to Comment E-16

Please refer to **Responses to Comments E-1 through E-3**. No data was deliberately withheld in association with this Proposed Action, or with the 2002 FEIS/ROD, and no false mitigation measures were created or proposed. The NEPA analysis conducted at each stage was based on the best available information at the time. The DMVA and PAARNG have, in their opinion, been forthcoming with all pertinent information concerning this SGL 211 SDZ proposal.

Response to Comment E-17

The SBCT EIS completed in 2006 did not involve any projects that would have any significant impact on the Stony Creek Wild and Scenic River area. The 2002 EIS and this subsequent SEA do discuss implications of the Proposed Actions on the Stony Creek Wild and Scenic River area and have concluded that no significant impact, other than significant unmitigable noise impacts, would occur within the Stony Creek Valley.

Response to Comment E-18

The 2002 EIS was written in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as amended (P.L. 91-190, 42 USC 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), Analysis of Army Actions (AR 200-2), and the Environmental Impact Analysis Process (AFI 32-7061; 32 CFR 989). In addition, the 2002 EIS was prepared as prescribed in the Army National Guard Manual for Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 - Guidance and Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA (ARNG NEPA Manual 1998). The 2007 SEA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as amended (P.L. 91-190, 42 USC 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR 651) and the NGB NEPA Handbook - Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (ARNG NEPA Manual 2006). All applicable Federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the preparation of NEPA documents were followed and neither of these documents is considered to be flawed or fraudulent in any way.

Dennis E. Coffman – Letter F dated 11 February 2008

Response to Comment F-1

Projected future-case noise levels and impacts associated with the operation of the MPTR were addressed in the 2002 FEIS/ROD. Several residences located within NGTC-FTIG (in-holdings), as well as several residences generally east of the MPTR, will experience Zone II and/or Zone III noise levels; per Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 (Dec 2007), Zone II is considered "not recommended for" and Zone III is considered "incompatible with" residential land use. These noise impacts were fully addressed in the 2002 FEIS/ROD and identified as significant, unmitigable impacts. It is also noted that noise levels at NGTC-FTIG fluctuate from year-to-year based on training levels. For example, noise analyses conducted in 1999 at NGTC-FTIG



identified that many of these same residences were exposed to Zone II and Zone III levels due to artillery firing points (FPs) being used at that time.

Response to Comment F-2

Section 2.0 details the number and size of projectiles that have the potential to enter SGL 211. The number of projectiles and the caliber fired by the general public in SGL 211 is unknown and not recorded. Typically, the general public would be expected to fire a variety of calibers, from shotgun up to .50 caliber, into SGL 211. Please also refer to Response to Comment B-2.

Response to Comment F-3

Please refer to **Response to Comment B-3**. It is not possible to accurately estimate the number of trees that would be damaged or killed by this activity. However, based on anecdotal information from similar activities within NGTC-FTIG, this mortality would be low and is considered less than significant.

Response to Comment F-4

The ricochet analysis was conducted by the United States Army Research and Development Engineering Center (ARDEC). The analysis and computer modeling take into account the existing terrain, proposed firing points, target locations, and the type of weapons and ammunition to be fired. Literally millions of computer simulated shots from every conceivable firing point to each and every target for each weapons system and ammunition type are figured into the ricochet analysis. As detailed in **Section 2.0** of the SEA, a total of 779 projectiles/year have the potential of ricocheting into SGL 211. This would equate to a total of 31,939 potential ricochets that could enter into SGL 211 over the period of 41 years. Extrapolation of this data indicates that a total of 0.9 projectiles per acre might ricochet into SGL 211 per year, or a total of 35 projectiles per acre might ricochet into SGL 211 over the course of 41 years. This would not be considered a significant impact. Please also refer to Responses to **Comments A-9, B-2, and C-9**.

Response to Comment F-5

Please refer to **Responses to Comments E-10 and F-1**. The proposal being assessed in this SEA assesses the establishment of an SDZ within a portion of SGL 211 and does not involve any new or additional noise impacts; the prior 2002 FEIS adequately analyzed the potential noise impacts of the MPTR.

Response to Comment F-6

Please refer to **Responses to Comments E-10, F-1, and F-5**.

Response to Comment F-7

It is correct that implementing the proposed SDZ would not result in any noise-generating activities; establishing an SDZ would produce no noise in and of itself. It is also correct that by not establishing the proposed SDZ (i.e., under the No Action Alternative), a minor long-term



positive impact to the noise environment would result, as the MPTR would not be operated and would not produce the noise levels modeled (see also **Responses to Comments E-10 and F-1**).

Response to Comment F-8

Comment noted. Please refer to **Responses to Comments A-9, B-2, C-9, and F-4**. The modeling conducted by ARDEC provides extreme confidence that the 1:1,000,000 round escapement thresholds will not be exceeded.

Response to Comment F-9

Comment noted. Please refer to **Response to Comments E-10 and F-1**. The noise modeling conducted by CHPPM for the MPTR in the 2002 FEIS/ROD, and updated with more current, accurate noise modeling analyses in the 2006 FEIS/ROD, provides extreme confidence that the modeled noise levels, including identified Noise Zones I, II, and III, are accurate and reflect the anticipated future condition, provided MPTR operation is conducted in accordance with the usage inputs entered into the model as identified in the EIS.

Response to Comment F-10

Comment noted. The DMVA is bound by the terms of the LUA between it and the PGC.

United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service – Letter G dated 11 February 2008

Response to Comment G-1

Comment noted. The proposed SDZ within SGL 211 would not involve any development, earthmoving, or earth disturbance of any kind; thus, no soils that are classified as "Prime Farmland" or "Additional Farmland or Statewide Importance" would be impacted by the Proposed Action.

Response to Comment G-2

Please refer to **Response to Comment B-1**. A non-site investigation was performed to determine the presence of wetlands. Specifically, as discussed in **Section 4.6.1.1**, reviews of the NWI maps indicate that there is 0.976 acre of wetlands present within the Alternative 2 project study area. No wetlands are present within the Alternative 1 project study area. Furthermore, Laidig extremely gravelly loam is present in the Alternative 1 and 2 study areas. This soil type is categorized as hydric in the Lebanon County portion of the project study area, but is not categorized as hydric in the Dauphin County portion of the project study area. It is possible that portions of the Laidig soil type in Lebanon County have hydric inclusions, although this has not been confirmed through field studies. Regardless, no earthmoving or any other intrusive types of activities are proposed under this proposal and no direct impact to wetlands is anticipated. Utilizing these data along with review of the NWI maps, the conclusion was made that no impact to wetlands or hydric soils would be anticipated as a result of implementation of either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2.



Response to Comment G-3

The Proposed Action would not involve any earthmoving or ground disturbing activities. Thus, no erosion and sedimentation control plan is required.

Stony Creek Valley Coalition, Inc. – Letter H dated 11 February 2008

Response to Comment H-1

Please see **Response to Comment A-4**.

Response to Comment H-2

Comment noted. The SEA correctly identifies that DMVA provides this maintenance on a regular basis. The DMVA re-gravels, plows, and maintains this portion of Cold Springs Road on an as-needed basis. Presently, there is uncertainty as to which Township's jurisdiction that this segment of road actually falls; Cold Springs Township may ultimately have maintenance responsibility. Regardless, this activity has been, and continues to be, conducted by the DMVA.

Response to Comment H-3

It is the opinion of DMVA that the Proposed Action would not violate the intent of 522 FW 21.

Response to Comment H-4

Please refer to **Response to Comment H-3**.

Response to Comment H-5

This comment does not pertain to the Proposed Action assessed in the SEA.

Response to Comment H-6

The DMVA believes that the Proposed Action does not violate this regulation. The LUA with the PGC contains provisions to ensure adequate review of issues related to the cited laws and regulations.

Response to Comment H-7

These comments appear to be directed at the LUA and not the Proposed Action. In any event, the LUA contains provisions to ensure adequate review of issues related to the cited laws and regulations.

Response to Comment H-8

Comment noted.



Response to Comment H-9

Please refer to **Response to Comment B-5**.

Response to Comment H-10

The 2002 FEIS/ROD and this SEA analyze possible impacts of the PADMVA's and PAARNG's Proposed Actions on the Stony Creek Wild and Scenic River Area, and have concluded that no significant impact would occur.

Response to Comment H-11

Comment noted. Please refer to above responses. The Proposed Action assessed within this SEA does not represent or include any "development" of any portion of SGL 211 or any land protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Joan Renninger – Letter I dated 12 February 2008

Response to Comment I-1

The consultant who prepared the SEA (AMEC) was furnished with the ricochet analysis conducted by ARDEC when that analysis was completed; the data were provided via the DMVA, but were the original data from ARDEC.

Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP – Letter J dated 12 February 2008

Response to Comment J-1

Please refer to **Response to Comment C-3**. The PADMVA has received both positive and negative comments concerning this proposal.

Response to Comment J-2

Comment noted. The DMVA, PAARNG, and NGB have prepared this SEA in full accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, and have complied with all requirements of NEPA, CEQ Guidance, and 32 CFR 651. The Government does not consider this DSEA to be flawed or incomplete.

Response to Comment J-3

The scope of the Proposed Action is accurate and the SEA defines the proposal and its Region of Influence (ROI) in full (within the Affected Environment section), with all impacts that would be expected to result from the establishment of a SDZ within SGL 211 fully addressed in the Environmental Consequences section.



Response to Comment J-4

The Government believes the SEA fully analyzes the potential impacts of this proposal. Per 32 CFR Part 651.32(a)(4), adequate data regarding the ricochet analysis were not available at the time the 2002 FEIS/ROD was published. Thus, the SEA analyzes and focuses on those impacts that would be anticipated within the proposed SDZ in SGL 211 as a result of the operation of the MPTR; the balance of impacts associated with the construction and operation of the MPTR were adequately analyzed within the 2002 FEIS/ROD.

Response to Comment J-5

Please refer to **Responses to Comments C-4 and E-15**.

Response to Comment J-6

All reasonable alternatives for implementation of the Proposed Action are included in the SEA in accordance with NEPA.

Response to Comment J-7

Please refer to **Response to Comment E-7**. The SEA is properly tiered from the 2002 FEIS/ROD pursuant to CEQ Regulations 40 CFR Part 1502.10 and 40 CFR Part 1502.20.

Response to Comment J-8

Please refer to **Responses to Comments E-10, F-1, and F-5**. As discussed in **Section 4.1.1**, the noise impacts of the MPTR were fully assessed in the 2002 EIS, and are referenced within the SEA.

Response to Comment J-9

The SEA addresses all activities that would be directly associated with the establishment of a SDZ within a portion of SGL 211. Specifically, the SEA addresses how the SDZ would be controlled, the number and type of projectiles that potentially may enter the SGL 211 portion of the SDZ, and the related environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the establishment of the SDZ. The SEA is properly tiered from the 2002 EIS pursuant to CEQ Regulations 40 CFR Part 1502.10 and 40 CFR Part 1502.20.

Response to Comment J-10

The use of motorized vehicles within the SGL 211 portion of the SDZ is not part of the Proposed Action and is prohibited by PGC regulations. Please also refer to **Response to Comment A-9**. No unexploded ordnance (UXO) would enter SGL 211 as a result of this Proposed Action. Ricochets that could potentially enter SGL 211 as a result of this Proposed Action include inert (non-explosive) steel or lead rounds, the majority of which would be 25mm rounds. No specific removal of this inert ordnance is proposed. As is done presently, should anyone identify suspect ordnance within SGL 211, they are to call the PGC/DMVA (FTIG Range Control Office). This Office will properly investigate and address the issue, as appropriate.



Response to Comment J-11

Section 3.1 of the SEA discusses the methods the DMVA intends to use in order to publicize the schedule for closing access to the proposed SDZ. In accordance with the LUA, the DMVA would comply with the requirements of the LUA, AR 385-63, and DA PAM 385-63 to provide sufficient control of the SDZ and ensure public safety during MPTR operation. Per the LUA, no motorized vehicles would be used off of established roadways to monitor the SDZ or emplace/remove appropriate signage. The control measures to be used would be discussed and agreed upon between the DMVA and the PGC prior to their implementation. These measures would be sufficient to meet the requirements of both the LUA, DA PAM 385-63, and AR 385-63, with the overarching goals of making them as unobtrusive as possible, while still meeting these requirements.

Response to Comment J-12

Please refer to **Responses to Comments C-1 and C-11**. The number and type of projectiles that may potentially land in SGL 211 would not comprise a "bombardment", with a less than 1 projectile/acre landing each year. No explosive rounds would be fired from the MPTR; only inert steel and/or copper-jacketed lead training rounds would be used. The commenter is referred to **Section 2.0** of the SEA which describes the number and type of projectiles that may enter the SGL 211 portion of the proposed SDZ.

Response to Comment J-13

Please refer to Responses to **Comments J-10 and J-12**.

Response to Comment J-14

Please refer to **Response to Comment A-2**.

Response to Comment J-15

The transfer of the 440-acre property referred to as TA E-1 to the PGC would provide an additional 440 acres of land that would be available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year for recreational opportunities. TA E-1 is significantly more accessible to the public than the 900-acre portion of SGL 211 proposed for the SDZ, primarily due to adjacent public roadways, extant trails, and more favorable topography. The Horseshoe Trail currently passes through TA E-1; however, with the exception of the trail, the remainder of TA E-1 is currently not authorized for recreation by the public. Further, based on scientific data collected by the DMVA's Wildlife Division as part of the 2007 FLIR Deer Survey, TA E-1 was found to contain 48.4 deer/sq. mile, while this portion of SGL 211 was found to contain 25.7 deer/sq. mile. The average density for SGL 211 is significantly less. While just one indicator, this identifies at least comparable wildlife values between the two parcels. For more details, please refer to:

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/deer/sql211.aspx



Response to Comment J-16

Please refer to **Response to Comment B-7**.

Response to Comment J-17

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-11**. The establishment of the proposed SDZ within SGL 211 would not involve any construction, clearing, or the application of any other man-made items, other than the required warning signs, which would be as unobtrusive as possible while still meeting the requirements of the LUA, DA PAM 385-63, and AR 385-63. As such, no visual resource impacts are anticipated as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action.

Response to Comment J-18

As discussed in **Section 5.2.1**, there are no significant adverse land use impacts anticipated due to the implementation of Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. This conclusion is further explained within the SEA, as well as within **Responses to Comments J-12 through J-17**.

Response to Comment J-19

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-8**.

Response to Comment J-20

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-8**.

Response to Comment J-21

The 2002 FEIS/ROD analyzed and identified the potential noise impacts associated with operation of the MPTR. The 2006 (SBCT) FEIS analyzed and identified potential noise impacts associated with the SBCT and associated ranges at NGTC-FTIG, not including the MPTR, as the MPTR was not a component of the SBCT proposal and had been previously assessed in the 2002 FEIS/ROD. However, as part of the cumulative impacts analysis within the 2006 FEIS (please refer to **Map 8-13.1** in the 2006 FEIS; the commenter is reviewing/referencing the incorrect maps), the MPTR noise modeling was re-conducted by CHPPM using improved modeling tools to provide more accurate data. The 2006 recalculated noise contours resulted from the model being improved to account for terrain in its calculations, as described in the SEA; this technology was not available to CHPPM in 2002. The topography at NGTC-FTIG has sufficient relief that it affects how sound propagates. In the 2006 FEIS, the MPTR was considered "existing noise," as the MPTR had already been approved through the 2002 FEIS NEPA process, and the noise from the MPTR was considered part of the cumulative noise environment. As these analyses had already been conducted and completed for the construction and operation of the MPTR, this SEA focused on the only element of that MPTR proposal which had changed; that is, the proposed extension of the SDZ into SGL 211. This change was based on new data that became known only after the 2002 FEIS/ROD was complete. As identified within the SEA, the establishment of the proposed SDZ would not involve any noise generating activities; thus no noise impacts are anticipated.



Response to Comment J-22

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-21**. In 2002, the BNOISE model did not have a terrain calculation capability, but it was the best technology available at that time. For the 2002 FEIS noise analysis, the contours were run using 1999 operational data and proposed MPTR information. The contours depicted on **Figure 4-2** of the SEA depict FY03 operations as existing and then the FY03 operations with the addition of the SBCT facilities (2006 FEIS) and MPTR activity for cumulative. These were the data used for, and included in, the 2006 FEIS (please refer to **Map 8-13.1**). CHPPM did not re-model the contours for this SEA as the Proposed Action (i.e., SDZ establishment) would have no impact on the noise assessment that had already been completed. Under all modeled scenarios, the MPTR has remained in the same location. The smaller size of the contours extending to the north (2002 FEIS v. 2006 FEIS) is due to the effect of the terrain being taken into consideration by the modeling tool.

Response to Comment J-23

Please refer to **Responses to Comments J-8, J-21, and J-22**.

Response to Comment J-24

Please refer to **Response to Comment B-2**. One ammunition type (i.e., .50 cal) is copper-jacketed lead. A single round of .50 cal ammunition weighs approximately 0.10 lb. The weight of lead in a single .50 cal bullet is approximately 0.08 pound. The ricochet analysis conducted by ARDEC determined that up to 67 .50 cal bullets could land within SGL 211 each year. In all likelihood, the ricochets that would enter SGL 211 would be small fragments and not the rounds in their entirety. However, assuming that the entire .50 cal bullets would enter the SGL portion of the SDZ, this would calculate to a total of 6.7 pounds of copper-jacketed lead bullets that could land in SGL 211 per year. This further calculates to a total of 2,748 pound of copper-jacketed lead bullets over the span of 41 years. The commenter must recognize that the concentration of projectiles that might enter SGL 211 is not isolated or concentrated to one particular spot, but, rather, a projectile could land anywhere within the 900-acre area. Considering this, the amount of copper-jacketed lead .50 cal projectiles that might enter SGL 211 would be on the order of 0.007 pounds per acre per year, or 0.3 pounds per acre over the period of 41 years. Again, the commenter must recognize that this is the maximum that might possibly land in SGL 211 and that, in all likelihood, the amount of projectiles that would enter SGL 211 would be significantly less. The data used to support the conclusion that no impact to surface and ground water resources is considered valid. The studies conducted on Manada Creek and Indiantown Run that drain the main impact area of NGTC-FTIG do not show any elevated concentrations of lead even though the main impact area has received projectiles from military training at levels several orders of magnitude greater than what is expected within the SGL 211 portion of the proposed SDZ, and for a period of time in excess of 60 years. Furthermore, the total possible amount of copper-jacketed lead bullets that might enter SGL 211(0.3 pounds per acre over the course of 41 years) is not a condition that would result in a concentrated area where lead contamination in soils would be a concern.



Response to Comment J-25

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-24**. The ranges referenced by the commenter requiring remediation are typically associated with areas that received concentrated amounts of projectiles over years of use (i.e., range backstop berms and direct impact areas), and/or that contain unexploded ordnance (UXO). This is not the case here.

Response to Comment J-26

The Government believes that the level of assessment concerning the possibility of lead contamination is appropriate and meets the requirements of NEPA; please refer to **Responses to Comments J-24 and J-25**.

Response to Comment J-27

The purpose of the SEA was not to conduct an inventory of all species in SGL 211. The SEA relied on available information from existing documents and State and Federal regulatory agencies, is considered appropriate, and meets the requirements of NEPA given the nature and anticipated impacts of the proposal.

Response to Comment J-28

Comment noted. Please refer to **Responses to Comments B-3 and F-3**.

Response to Comment J-29

The Proposed Action assessed in the SEA (i.e., the establishment of an SDZ within a portion of SGL 211) does not involve the use of any motorized vehicles in SGL 211, nor does it involve any noise-generating activities. There is no evidence that military training activities would permanently drive wildlife out of the proposed SDZ or the Stony Creek basin. The biodiversity of animal species on NGTC-FTIG, which experiences significantly more military training activity than is envisioned by this proposal, is healthy and thriving. As just one example, the recent 2007 FLIR deer survey studies conducted at NGTC-FTIG and a portion of SGL 211 demonstrate that the population of deer per acre is greater within the confines of NGTC-FTIG than within SGL 211 (approximately 50 deer/sq. mile v. 25 deer/sq. mile, respectively).

Response to Comment J-30

The USFWS, PADEP, PGC, and PADCNr were all consulted to provide information and/or data regarding species of concern that are known to occur and/or would be expected to occur within the project study area. All of these agencies, with the exception of the USFWS, have provided responses that are included in **Appendix A** of the SEA. All identified species of concern referenced by the agencies consulted are identified in the SEA.

Response to Comment J-31

The training rounds that would be used on the MPTR would be inert steel and/or copper-jacketed lead rounds. No high-explosive spotting charges, fuses, primers, igniter charges, or propellants would have the potential to enter SGL 211, as no firing would be done from within



SGL 211. As such, these munitions would pose no unusual fire hazard within SGL 211. Training on the MPTR would involve the use of tracer rounds. The DMVA maintains an active fire prevention and management program, working cooperatively with the PGC, that includes a current Fire Response Management Plan, regular prescribed burning activities (fuel reduction burns), and maintaining adequate fire breaks between FTIG and SGL 211. These plans and measures also address training during dry (or drought) conditions. In addition, the DMVA is currently preparing an Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan (IWLFP) that will integrate all of these fire-related/control activities and measures. Multiple DMVA personnel, including FTIG Fire Department, Range Operations and Wildlife/Forestry personnel, are trained in wildland fire fighting, further providing rapid fire management response. In addition, any tracer ammunition entering into the proposed SGL 211 portion of the SDZ would be in the form of a ricochet, and would likely have burned out prior to entering this area. Based on this information, any increased potential for fires within SGL 211 would be minimal, and would be controlled via the DMVA's current fire management and prevention program.

Response to Comment J-32

Comment noted. In a study conducted in 2000, the ecological and human health risks associated with lead exposure were examined. The ecological receptors assessed included game animals, such as white-tailed deer, and the effects of lead exposure on humans including through ingestion of game animals, specifically white-tailed deer. The study concluded that although effects may occur in the ecological receptors at the individual level, impacts are not expected at the population, community, or ecosystem level. In the instance of white-tailed deer, the study noted that the potential for incidental ingestion of lead shot poses little actual risk to the animals. Additionally, the study concluded that the lead exposure and risk for humans from incidental ingestion of contaminated soil, sediment, surface water, and ingestion of deer were within an acceptable range and did not pose any adverse effects (Peddicord 2000). Further, no similar issues have been found on NGTC-FTIG proper with regard to this issue. The amount of material anticipated in the proposed SDZ would be considered inconsequential as compared to that within the NGTC-FTIG Impact Area.

Response to Comment J-33

Please refer to **Responses to Comments C-4 and E-15**.

Response to Comment J-34

Please refer to **Responses to Comments C-7, J-10, and J-11**.

Response to Comment J-35

Please refer to **Responses to Comments E-3 and E-7**.

Response to Comment J-36

Please refer to **Responses to Comments E-3 and E-7**. Standard, composite, 2-dimensional SDZs for all MPTR locations considered within NGTC-FTIG escape the installation's



boundaries. Alternative 1 within the SEA represents the minimum off-Post SDZ alternative available at NGTC-FTIG.

Response to Comment J-37

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-36**.

Response to Comment J-38

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-36**. Two alternative locations of the MPTR were analyzed in the 2002 FEIS: an east-to-west alignment (Preferred Alternative) and a west-to-east alignment (Competing Build Alternative). The Preferred Alternative was ultimately determined to be the superior alternative for reasons specified in the 2002 FEIS/ROD. As described in **Responses to Comments E-3, E-7, and J-36**, a host of alternative design configurations at the Preferred Alternative site were examined after completion of the 2002 FEIS, with a ricochet analysis performed by ARDEC on each. Other sites within NGTC-FTIG were also considered during this exercise. Through this exhaustive, iterative examination, the DMVA and ARDEC determined that no design configuration was available within the boundaries of NGTC-FTIG that would retain the 3-dimensional SDZ on the property, and that the Preferred Alternative analyzed in this SEA included the minimum off-Post SDZ possible. The purpose of the SEA is to analyze the proposed establishment of this SDZ within that portion of SGL 211. Viable alternatives to the proposed SDZ include Alternative 1 (900-acre area) and Alternative 2 (1,900-acre area). These alternatives are considered valid alternatives for the proposed SDZ. Alternative 1 would be slightly more difficult to demarcate in the field because the boundaries are not distinguished by readily identifiable landmarks, as is the case with Alternative 2. Alternative 2 utilized Cold Springs Road as the eastern boundary, the western boundary of NGTC-FTIG extended into SGL 211 as the western boundary, and 70 feet south of Stony Creek as the northern boundary. The DMVA's opinion is that the alternatives considered in the SEA are valid, represent the full spectrum of possible alternatives given the purpose of and need for the proposal, and have been developed and analyzed in accordance with NEPA.

Response to Comment J-39

Comment noted. The commenter is referring to frangible ammunition, or ammunition which effectively disintegrates upon impact. However, "short stop" or frangible ammunition is not within the Army inventory and, therefore, cannot be used in MPTR training activities. The ARNG is not authorized to fire non-standard ammunition, including frangible ammunition. In addition, there exists SRTA (Short Range Training Ammunition, or plastic bullets) for 5.56mm, 7.62mm and .50cal. These rounds are designed for close quarters combat training and do not have the range necessary to conduct qualification on the MPTR.

Response to Comment J-40

The DMVA has carefully evaluated these comments and considers the SEA to be legally sufficient based on the above-provided data, as well as the data presented in the SEA; the Government does not believe that an EIS is not required.



Dale Ibberson – Letter K dated 13 February 2008

Response to Comment K-1

Please refer to **Responses to Comments A-7 and E-17**. Per the analysis presented, as well as the significance criteria contained within the SEA, the Proposed Action assessed within this SEA would not produce a significant impact to the Stony Creek Watershed.

Response to Comment K-2

Please refer to **Responses to Comments J-27, J-30, and M-3**. In addition, within **Comment Letter M**, the PGC, through their review of the SEA, has concluded that the Proposed Action would not have any impact to the Allegheny Woodrat or its habitat. The DMVA does not intend to conduct a species inventory of the proposed SDZ. A copy of the PGC Comment Letter is included in **Appendix F** of the Final SEA. In addition, the DMVA has an active woodrat monitoring program in place, which includes assisting the PGC with monitoring for this species on the northern slope of Second Mountain (Hovis, 2008).

Response to Comment K-3

Please refer to **Response to Comment C-7. Sections 1.4 and 4.8** of the SEA describe the government-to-government Native American Consultation that was properly conducted, per specified requirements, in conjunction with preparation of this document. **Section 5.8.1** of the SEA documents that the PHMC has identified that there may be historic buildings and/or archaeological resources located in the project study area, but in the opinion of the PHMC, the Proposed Action should have no effect on any historic or archaeological resources. A copy of the referenced PHMC letter is included in **Appendix A** of the SEA. It is also noted that the site to which the commenter refers is not located within the project study area. In addition, the commenter should be aware that any item that is of a cultural origin found on state property belongs to the state agency that owns the land - not the "discoverer." Furthermore, the commenter should be aware that pursuant to the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Historic and Museum (Title 37) Historic Preservation, Section 511 - Criminal Penalties: "A person who conducts a field investigation on any land or submerged land owned or controlled by the Commonwealth, without first obtaining a permit from the Commission, or a person who appropriates, defaces, destroys or otherwise alters any archaeological site or specimen located upon lands owned or controlled by the Commonwealth, except in the course of activities pursued under the authority of a permit granted by the Commission, commits a misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$2,500 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. In addition, such person shall forfeit to the Commonwealth all archaeological specimens collected or excavated together with any photographs and records relating to such specimens." The commenter may be in violation of the above law by collecting and keeping the various arrowheads and artifacts as referenced in his comment letter.

Response to Comment K-4

Please refer to **Responses to Comments B-5 and H-9**.



Debra Deis – Letter L dated 13 February 2008

Response to Comment L-1

Please refer to **Responses to Comments E-3, E-7, J-36 and J-38.**

Response to Comment L-2

Comment noted. The SDZ for the MPTR would encompass several of the recently constructed Stryker Brigade ranges and utilization of the MPTR would require coordination and scheduling by the NGTC-FTIG Range Control Office. The PAARNG and PADMVA are aware of this situation, have carefully considered the effect on all required training that is conducted at the installation, and have determined that this situation would not impede training mission accomplishment per Army and ARNG requirements.

Pennsylvania Game Commission – Letter M dated 13 February 2008

Response to Comment M-1

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-31.**

Response to Comment M-2

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-11.**

Response to Comment M-3

Comment noted.

The Nature Conservancy – Letter N dated 14 February 2008

Response to Comment N-1

Comment noted.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Letter O dated 15 February 2008

Response to Comment O-1

Please refer to **Responses to Comments B-3, F-3, J-27, and J-30.** A survey of the SGL 211 project study area for species of concern was not conducted and is not planned to be conducted in association with this SEA.

Response to Comment O-2

Please refer to **Responses to Comments J-31 and M-1.**



Response to Comment O-3

Comment noted. AMEC personnel did conduct a PNDI Project Environmental Review utilizing the Online Environmental Review Tool as part of the preparation of this SEA. The PNDI did note that five potential impacts existed within the project study area and that several agencies would need to be contacted for additional information. These agencies included the PGC, PADCNR, and the Fish and Boat Commission. All three of these agencies were contacted and the responses are included within **Appendix A** of the SEA. To further satisfy the review process, an additional PNDI search was conducted to include a larger area within the SGL 211. The receipts generated by the online review tool are included in **Appendix A** of the Final SEA.

Thomas Ricker – Letter P undated

Response to Comment P-1

Comment noted. The DMVA and PAARNG make all attempts to abide by all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations and do not consider the Proposed Action to have the potential to violate any laws or individual's civil rights.

Comments received after the 13 February 2008 official closing of the Public Comment Period for the Draft SEA

Jim Rice – Letter Q dated 12 March 2008

Response to Comment Q-1

Comment noted. The boundary of Alternative 1 as depicted at **Figure 3-1** in the SEA was delineated based on accurate geospatial data provided by ARDEC from ARDEC's modeling of the 3-dimensional SDZ for the MPTR. This polygon was delineated to provide complete capture of the modeled SDZ, and to provide more identifiable, "straight" lines for future field demarcation. During further discussions with PGC as part of the LUA, these points will be field verified exactly using appropriate Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. Please refer also to **Response to Comment J-11**.

United States Department of the Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service – Letter R dated 10 March 2008

Response to Comment R-1

Comment noted. Please refer to **Response to Comment B-5**. In addition to several requests for input from the USFWS as documented in the SEA and as noted in the above response, a hard copy of the draft SEA was sent via certified mail, return receipt requested, to the USFWS Hadley, MA office on 11 January 2008. That document was received at the USFWS office on 16 January 2008. The DMVA recognizes the USFWS's involvement in this proposal, and has made multiple efforts to solicit the USFWS' input and comments. The DMVA received comments on the Draft SEA from the USFWS on 7 April, 2008, approximately 45 days after the official closing



of the comment and review period for the Draft SEA. Please refer to **Comment Letter S** and the associated **Response to Comments S-1 through S-15** below.

United States Department of the Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service – Letter S dated 2 April 2008

Response to Comment S-1

Comment noted. Per the commentor's request, **Section 4.2.1.5** of the Final SEA has been revised in order to more clearly discuss the Wildlife Restoration Act, the regulations issued for the Wildlife Restoration Act at 50 CFR 80, and the administrative requirements for management of lands purchased with hunting license revenue or Wildlife Restoration Program funds. The DMVA will adhere to the Final Interagency Cooperative LUA as agreed to by the PGC and the DMVA. Under the LUA, the PGC would maintain full management control of the lands subject to this SEA throughout the life of the LUA. Further, as noted in Response to Comment B-7, the applicability of the federal (Pittman-Robertson) Wildlife Restoration Act of 1947 is not within the scope of matters evaluated in the SEA. However, it is noted that the LUA indicates compatibility with the requirements of this Act. The commentor is also referred to **Response to Comment S-14** concerning the funding used to acquire the subject lands.

Response to Comment S-2

Comment noted. Please refer to **Response to Comment S-1. Section 4.2.1.5** of the Final SEA has been revised to more clearly discuss the responsibilities and purview of the PGC.

Response to Comment S-3

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-11** and **Section 3.1** of the SEA that discuss the methods the PADMVA proposes to: 1) publicize the schedule for closing access to the SDZ; and 2) control the SDZ.

Response to Comment S-4

Comment noted. Please refer to **Response to Comment B-2. Section 2.0** of the SEA describes the total potential number of rounds that might ricochet into the SGL 211 portion of the SDZ. By extrapolating the data presented in Section 2.0, it is evident that a total of approximately 712 steel projectiles or projectile fragments (695 pounds of steel) and 67 copper-jacketed lead rounds (6.7 pounds of copper-jacketed lead) have the potential to ricochet into the SGL 211 portion of the proposed SDZ on an annual basis. Over the course of 41 years, this would calculate to a total of approximately 29,192 steel projectiles (28,495 pounds of steel) and 2,747 copper-jacketed rounds (274.5 pounds of copper jacketed lead) that could land in SGL 211, or about 32 pounds/acre of steel and 0.3 pounds/acre of copper jacketed lead over 41 years. In actuality, the ricochets that might enter SGL 211 would be shards or fragments of the larger, original projectile, as most of the projectiles would shatter or break when they ricochet. Thus, the expected total amount of steel and copper-jacketed lead that could potentially enter SGL 211 would be less than the figures presented above.



Response to Comment S-5

Please refer to **Response to Comment A-2**. The DMVA will adhere to the Final Interagency Cooperative LUA as agreed to by the PGC and the DMVA. The LUA identifies specific periods that would be excluded from use (i.e., regular antlered deer season, antlerless deer season, bear season, Spring Gobbler season, and Wild Turkey season). These are the specific times that the SDZ would not be in use per the LUA between the PGC and DMVA. The DMVA recognizes that there are other open hunting seasons in Pennsylvania and that pre-season scouting is a part of hunting. However, the DMVA does not believe it is necessary or appropriate to alter the terms and conditions of the LUA as suggested in this comment. Further, the DMVA and the PGC agree that the measures in the LUA (and restated in the SEA at **Section 3.1**) concerning monies and lands to off-set the intermittent loss of access to this area are sufficient compensation.

Response to Comment S-6

Please refer to **Responses to Comments S-1 and S-2**.

Response to Comment S-7

Please refer to **Responses to Comments S-1 and S-2**.

Response to Comment S-8

Comment noted. The DMVA agrees with the commentor that the impact to land use would not represent a significant adverse impact, but rather a direct, less-than-significant, long-term adverse impact. **Section 5.2.1** of the SEA provides six bullet points that support this conclusion. In addition, it is noted that the subject 900 acres represent 2% of the total 44,343 acres that comprise SGL 211.

Response to Comment S-9

Comment noted. The DMVA and PGC have cooperatively defined the terms and conditions of the LUA. Both the PGC and the DMVA believe that the transfer of TA E-1 and the \$2,000,000 in assistance from the DMVA for the PGC to acquire additional lands does represent adequate compensation for the temporary, limited use of the 900-acre portion of SGL 211 as an SDZ. As part of both the LUA and this SEA, these measures represent a legal commitment by both parties, and will be implemented; therefore, these measures are not "highly speculative." The transferred 440 acres of TA E-1 would be available for public use 365 days per year; in addition the PCG will receive \$2,000,000 in assistance to purchase additional lands which would also be available for public use 365 days per year. The SGL 211 SDZ lands would be available to the public the remaining 275 days each year (30.89 years over the course of 41 years of the LUA).

Response to Comment S-10

Please refer to **Response to Comment J-31**.



Response to Comment S-11

Please refer to **Responses to Comments S-8 and S-9**.

Response to Comment S-12

Please refer to **Responses to Comments S-5, S-8, and S-9**.

Response to Comment S-13

Please refer to **Responses to Comments S-8 and S-9**.

Response to Comment S-14

Comment Noted. DMVA does not believe that a map as described is a needed addition to the SEA because the applicability of the federal Wildlife Restoration Act is not within the scope of the matters evaluated. The LUA preserves the PGC's wildlife and land management and control over the 900 acres.

Response to Comment S-15

Comment noted. The DMVA disagrees with this comment. Given the volume and nature of public comments received on the Draft SEA, the DMVA believes that the public was provided with sufficient information to effectively participate in the decision-making process and to provide input regarding their concerns. Each comment received from the Draft SEA public review process has been adequately addressed within this Final SEA. Further, as noted in **Response to Comment B-7**, the applicability of the federal (Pittman-Robertson) Wildlife Restoration Act of 1947 is not within the scope of matters evaluated in the SEA.



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APPENDIX G

Conformity Rule Compliance Record of Non-Applicability



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Conformity Rule Compliance Record of Non-Applicability

Project/Action Name: Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Establishing a Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) on a portion of State Game Lands No. 211 in Connection with the Operation of a Multi-Purpose Training Range (MPTR)

Contractor Contract #: Contract # W911S1-04-D-0017 Task Order 0033

Project/Action POC: National Guard Training Center – Fort Indiantown Gap (NGTC-FTIG)
Mr. John Fronko, Environmental Program Manager,
Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (PADMVA),
Building 0-11, Annville, PA 17003, Tel (717) 861-8250

Action Duration: Up to 90 days per year for 41 years

Conformity under Clean Air Act, Section 176, has been evaluated for the above-described project per 40 CFR Part 51. The requirements of this rule are not applicable to this action because:

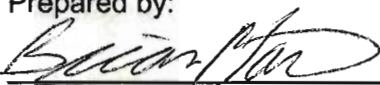
- This SEA addresses a short-term, periodic land use re-designation. This would not result in any additional direct, indirect or cumulative air emission increases.
- A full conformity determination, including a RONA, was produced for the original *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Enhanced Training and Operations at the National Guard Training Center at Fort Indiantown Gap*. March 2002. The AQ impacts from construction and operation of the MPTR were addressed fully and adequately in the 2002 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.

The emission increases from the proposed action are below the *de minimus* threshold established at 40 CFR 51.853(b) of 50 tpy VOCs and 100 tpy NOx, and the proposed action is not considered "regionally significant" under 40 CFR 51.853(i).

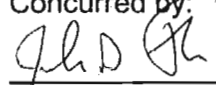
The supporting documentation and emissions estimates are:

ATTACHED
ATTACHED TO NEPA DOCUMENT
X OTHER - Not Applicable

Prepared by:


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Sr. Project Manager
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
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Concurred by:


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PADMVA
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