

Erie Army Depot

Site Number: G05OH0027

Erie Army Depot is located on a three mile stretch of beach on Lake Erie between the Touissant River and Camp Perry, in Ottawa County, Carroll Township. It is six miles west of Port Clinton and 37 miles east of Toledo. The depot is 1428 acres. The two main areas are the ordnance activities (with Lake Erie as the impact area) and a landfill.

In 1918 the Department of Defense purchased the land for the construction and operation of a facility to test Army artillery. Small caliber items, artillery, mortar shells up to 240mm, and rockets were tested. Industrial operations at the site used hazardous materials including fuels, paints, solvents, toxic metals, acids and caustics. The Ares Corporation, which operates the industrial park, currently test fires cannon balls into the Lake Erie impact area.

The landfill area was used by the Army during WWII and was also reportedly used by the Uniroyal company for some time. In 1965, the site was declared surplus and was sold to numerous buyers by the General Services Administration. Currently most of the acreage is used for the Erie Industrial Park, although a number of pre-existing buildings were leased to private companies by USCO Distribution Services, Inc.

Contaminants known and suspected in Lake Erie and the surrounding soil are directly relate to chemicals used for the production and firing of ordnance. Contamination from the landfill includes known and suspected components. Currently the landfill has a soil cover, but no liner or leachate collection system. The landfill is surrounded on two sides by drainage ditches which run into Lake Erie thus, there is a potential for contamination of ground water, surface water, and the adjoining properties.

Over 5000 ordnance items were discovered during an interim action. Additional site investigation, geophysical surveys, soil borings, and soil and ground water sampling is planned. Surface water and sediment sampling of leachate seeps, standing water within the landfill area and wetland areas adjacent to the landfill is also recommended.

Related link: [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

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