



**New Boston Space Force Station
New Boston /Amherst/Mont Vernon
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New Boston Space Force Station (NBSFS) is located in Hillsborough County in south central New Hampshire, approximately 8 miles west of Manchester. NBSFS falls within the boundaries of three towns: Amherst, Mont Vernon and New Boston and is comprised of approximately 2,826 acres of federally owned land. Roughly 200 acres in the northeast corner of the property comprise the operation area of Space Force's satellite tracking mission; the remaining acreage is largely undeveloped. The military established the installation in 1942 as an aerial bombardment and gunnery range for the Army Air Corps and later transitioned the property to the Air Force. Bombing training activities were terminated in 1956 and by 1958 portable radar tracking equipment was set-up. In 1959, the installation was designated an Air Force Satellite Control Facility and by 1964, permanent structures had been constructed comprising the then named New Boston Air Force Station. The Air Force Space Command assumed control of the installation in 1987. The installation was transferred to the newly created Space Force in 2020.

Currently, NBSFS serves as one of eight worldwide Satellite Control Network Tracking Stations, providing critical satellite command and control capability to Department of Defense (DoD) and civilian satellites. NBSFS also supports National Aeronautics and Space Administration missions as well as National Atlantic Treaty Organization and other allied nations satellite operations.

There are two separate DoD environmental restoration programs at NBSFS: the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) and the Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The MMRP addresses munitions and explosives concerns (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC) associated with NBSFS historic use as a bombing range. The IRP addresses contamination associated with hazardous waste or petroleum releases that are unrelated to munitions activities. The Air Force is the responsible party for the MMRP and IRP at NBSFS.

Under the MMRP, a Comprehensive Site Evaluation (CSE) Phase I was completed in the summer of 2006. The results of the CSE concluded that MEC and MC were potentially present on approximately 2,571 acres of the installation and also adjacent off-site areas. A follow-on Phase II CSE in the autumn of 2006 conducted non-intrusive site survey/site reconnaissance. This work included walking closely spaced transects by qualified teams consisting of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and field sampling technicians that covered both on-site and off-site areas. Hand-held Global Positioning System units were used to guide the teams and record the location of each transect. The CSE Phase II supported no further investigative action for 1,450 acres of NBSFS and the off-site areas. For the remaining 1,200 acres, the continued presence of MEC warranted development of a removal and clearance plan that was implemented in 2008 and 2009. MEC investigation and removal technologies have been pilot tested at NBSFS. Significant investigation and clearances were subsequently conducted in (1) 2010 for the shallow areas of

Joe English Pond (the primary aerial bombing target) and (2) in 2015 from selected on-base roads and high use areas. Under the MMRP NBSFS is divided into various Munitions Response Areas (MRA) to distinguish and track the investigation and management of the MMRP within each area. One MRA, Joe English Pond, has advanced to the Record of Decision (ROD) stage of the CERCLA process. This ROD formalizes that the remaining risks associated with munitions within Joe English Pond are to be managed indefinitely with land use controls, site access restrictions, education and signage and a long-term monitoring program. The remaining Munitions Response Areas will advance to the ROD stage pending completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) work required under CERCLA.

The IRP at NBSFS began in 1985 with a records search to identify possible releases of hazardous wastes or petroleum to the environment. Ten sites where hazardous waste may have been released and 25 sites where petroleum was used, stored or released were identified. RI/FS work was completed in 1990 and no further action or long-term monitoring was recommended for most locations. A Preliminary Assessment (PA) conducted in July 2007 to review previous work identified additional unresolved environmental issues at two existing IRP sites and found six new areas of concern that need further investigation. The last IRP site to be identified was during the routine removal of an oil/water separator in 2015. Additional investigation at this and several of the other identified sites has been conducted to characterize the distribution of contaminant impacts and evaluate possible remedial alternatives to achieve the desired site closure objectives.

As part of their nationwide prioritization of the investigation of the possible presence of per and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) at their facilities, the Air Force conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) for PFAS at NBSFS in summer 2016. The Air Force sampled four of their on-site water supply wells for PFAS; concentrations that exceeded NH's Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard for PFOS/PFOA were detected in one sample from an infrequently used building/supply well. As a result, NHDES conducted outreach to private off-site water supply well owners in fall 2016 and collected water samples from a number of wells located within 0.5 miles of the former base fire station at the Chestnut Hill Road base entrance. No exceedances of drinking water quality standards were detected in the private well samples collected down inferred gradient of NBSFS. One impact was detected in a sample collected from a well located upgradient of the site; as a result, NHDES provided a treatment system to that property.

Since 2017 the Air Force has conducted additional on-base PFAS investigations including a PA and Site Inspection. The next phase of the CERCLA process is conducting a Remedial Investigation (RI) which began in spring 2023 to delineate the nature and extent of PFAS across the base, evaluate remedial options and conducted human health and ecological risk assessments. If remediation is warranted based on the results of the RI, a Feasibility Study will be conducted to conduct a thorough evaluation of applicable options.

Due to the nature of the facility's mission and the probable presence of MEC in certain areas, access to NBSFS remains restricted.