

# Final Community Relations Plan Military Munitions Response Program Ridgway Training Range, Pennsylvania

Munitions Response Site PAE40-001-R-01  
Pennsylvania Army National Guard

Army National Guard



Contract No. W9133L-14-D-0001  
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Prepared for:  
Army National Guard  
NGB-AQ-W9133L  
111 South George Mason Drive  
Building 2, 4th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22204-1373

Prepared by:  
AECOM  
12420 Milestone Center Drive  
Suite 150  
Germantown  
MD, 20876  
USA

T: +1 (301) 820 3000  
F: +1 (301) 820 3009  
aecom.com

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AEEDB-R	Army Environmental Database Restoration
ARNG	Army National Guard
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CRP	Community Relations Plan
DoD	Department of Defense
MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
MRS	Munitions Response Site
NDNODS	Non-Department of Defense, Non-Operational Defense Sites
PAARNG	Pennsylvania Army National Guard
PADEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PADMVA	Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
US	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WETS	Weekend Training Site

# 1. Overview of Community Relations Plan

## 1.1. Background and Objectives

This Community Relations Plan (CRP; the Plan) was prepared to support the long-term management of the Non-Department of Defense, Non-Operational Defense Sites (NDNODS) Ridgway Training Range Munitions Response Site (MRS) (Army Environmental Database Restoration [AEDB-R] No. PAE40-001-R-01) located off of Grant Road in Elk County, Pennsylvania, approximately 2 miles northwest of Ridgway Township. Environmental work is being conducted at the MRS by the Army National Guard (ARNG) Directorate and the Pennsylvania ARNG (PAARNG). The intention of this CRP is to anticipate possible concerns and information needs of employees and community members who may be interested in the management of this MRS. This Plan addresses community relations activities, from Remedial Investigation through Record of Decision, per the guidance established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. While environmental work at the MRS is conducted under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), this program follows the general guidance established under CERCLA.

The objectives of the PAARNG in community relations are to:

- Encourage open communication between the PAARNG and the community surrounding the Ridgway Training Range MRS.
- Inform the community of technical progress at the Ridgway Training Range MRS under the MMRP.

The activities described herein provide a broad range of possible opportunities for the surrounding community to be informed and involved. The approach and activities may change to reflect the evolving status of investigations and information needs of the community. AECOM, with the assistance from the PAARNG/ARNG will oversee the implementation of the community relations activities outlined in this Plan. This Plan follows the guidance in the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) *Superfund Community Involvement Handbook* (USEPA] 540-K-05-003, April 2005) and guidance specific to MRSs outlined in Engineering Pamphlet 200-3-1, *Public Participation Requirements for Defense Environmental Restoration Program* (United States Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], 2011).

This project is being executed under Delivery Order 0006 under Contract Number W9133L-14-D-0001 issued by ARNG to AECOM, dated 20 September 2016.

## 1.2. Organization of the Community Relations Plan

This CRP contains the following sections:

- To improve readability and understanding, this CRP has attempted to limit the use of acronyms. However, several lengthy names and terms appear so often that these acronyms are used and defined on page ii.
- *Section 1.0 Overview of Community Relations Plan* states the purpose for developing this Plan, its key features, and sources.

- *Section 2.0 Site Description and History* presents historical, geographical, and technical details that help readers understand why this project is being executed at the Ridgway Training Range MRS under the MMRP.
- *Section 3.0 Community Information* presents information on the communities and businesses surrounding the Ridgway Training Range MRS and discusses the communities' concerns and informational needs.
- *Section 4.0 Community Relations Program* identifies key community resources and discusses how community relations activities will be implemented.
- References
- Appendices
  - Appendix A: Potential Administrative Record Locations
  - Appendix B: Example Questionnaire
  - Appendix C: List of Key Officials and Other Contacts
  - Appendix D: List of Newspapers and Radio/Television Stations
  - Appendix E: Suggested Public Meeting Locations

## 2. Site Description and History

Background information on the operational history of the Ridgway Training Range MRS is summarized in this section.

### 2.1. Site Description

The Ridgway Training Range MRS, surrounded by the former Ridgway Weekend Training Site (WETS), is located within Ridgway Township on the west side of Grant Road approximately 2 miles northwest of Ridgway Borough in Elk County, Pennsylvania (Figure 2-1). The MRS is identified as 0.22-acres located within the 8-acre former WETS. The western boundary of the MRS is about 45 feet from the western boundary of the WETS. The area surrounding the Ridgway WETS is predominantly rural; the properties surrounding the MRS include agricultural, mining, residential, and recreational land (Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group [Parsons], 2012). Allegheny National forest borders the western edge of the MRS and a community baseball/athletic field abuts the northern edge. The MRS is currently located on privately owned property.

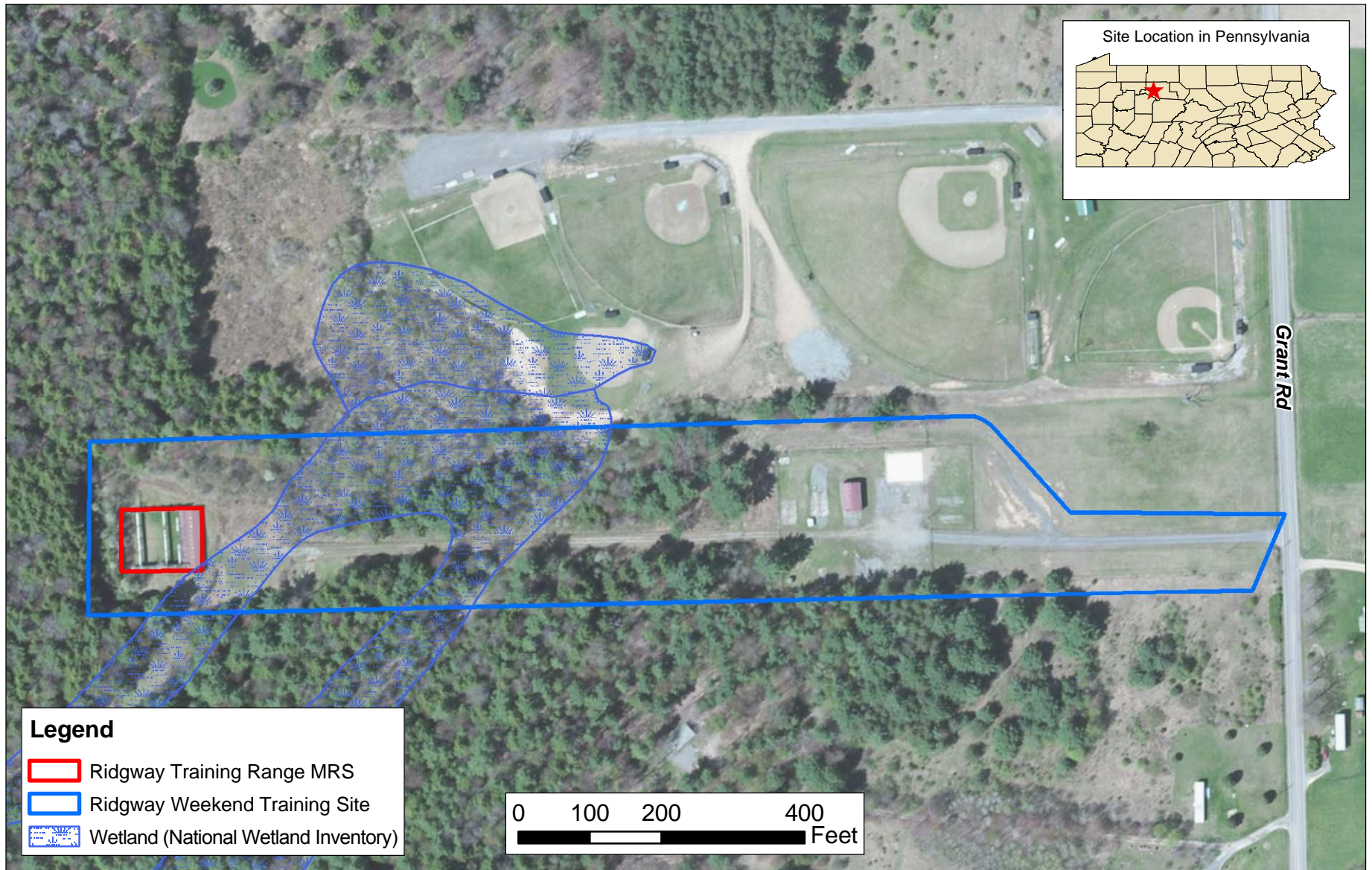
According to the 2012 Site Inspection report (Parsons, 2012), PAARNG documentation indicates that the range was constructed in 1987 as a small arms range with sheltered firing points and a baffle system to retain firing activities. Observations made during the 2012 Site Inspection confirmed that the range is a baffled outdoor range that is surrounded by 15-foot concrete walls on the northern and southern edges of the range. The eastern portion of the MRS contains 12 sheltered firing positions covered by a metal roof; an 8-foot earthen berm is located on the western edge of the MRS. Within the range, two wooden baffle walls are suspended from the top of the concrete side walls and hang down into the range floor area to prevent stray bullets from leaving the range (Figure 2-1).

### 2.2. History

Ridgway Training Range was used from 1987 through 2005 for inactive duty weekend training by several units of the PAARNG. According to the 2012 Site Inspection Report, the range was used approximately four to five times a year from 1987 to 1990, and range use from 1990 to 2001 is unknown. From 2001 to 2005, the range was used approximately two to three times a year. During that time period, it is estimated that approximately 64,000 small caliber rounds were expended at the range. A temporary waiver was granted in 1989 for the one-time use of firing 7.62mm machine gun rounds; exact usage is unknown but suspected to be minimal. The range was last used in November 2005 and was unofficially closed March 2006 due to personnel safety concerns regarding damaged baffles (Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs [PADMVA], 2011).

The property was originally conveyed to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from private owners on 26 September 1969 (PADMVA, 2011). A formal request for closure of the range was requested on 9 September 2011. The property was approved for conveyance from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (with approval from the PADMVA) through Act 56 of 2013 (House Bill 1112). Transfer of the WETS property to a private owner was completed in 2015.





**Legend**

- Ridgway Training Range MRS
- Ridgway Weekend Training Site
- Wetland (National Wetland Inventory)



CLIENT	Army National Guard			
PROJECT	Remedial Investigation through Decision Document for Ridgway Training Range			
REVISION NO	0	GIS BY	MS	4/25/2017
SCALE	1:2,400	CHK BY	JL	4/25/2017
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community	PM	RG	4/25/2017	



TITLE	Ridgway Training Range Site Layout	
<b>AECOM</b>	12420 Milestone Center Drive Germantown, MD 20876	<b>Figure 2-1</b>



## 2.3. Regulatory Requirements and Responsibilities

The recommendations made in this plan are designed to meet the regulatory requirements for community relations as determined by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 300, of CERCLA Section 113(k)(2), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, and the US Army MMRP. Guidance offered by the USEPA's *Community Involvement Handbook* (April 2005) and the USACE's Engineering Pamphlet 200-3-1, *Public Participation Requirements for Defense Environmental Restoration Program* (2011) has been followed in preparing this CRP.

The ARNG has overall responsibility for conducting the environmental investigation and restoration at the Ridgway Training Range MRS in coordination with the PAARNG. This MRS is classified as a NDNODS under the congressionally established ARNG MMRP as it constitutes a defense site used exclusively by the ARNG that was never owned, leased, or otherwise possessed by any other Department of Defense (DoD) component. In 2009, the ARNG completed its NDNODS inventory, resulting in the identification of more than 500 sites where Guardsmen trained and discharged munitions. Ridgway Training Range was considered operational until its closure in 2011 and was therefore not eligible during the 2009 inventory.

Between 2011 and 2012, Historical Record Reviews and Site Inspections were completed at the NDNODS; those MRSs with munitions and explosives of concern or munitions constituents were then recommended for a Remedial Investigation given the potential for safety hazards and environmental/human health risks. An Environmental Baseline Survey was conducted in 2011; subsequently, an addendum was issued to include the Ridgway Training Range MRS in the 2012 Pennsylvania Site Inspections. The 2012 Site Inspection found that Ridgway Training Range had a potential for munitions constituents risk and as such was recommended for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. In accordance with CERCLA requirements, this CRP has been drafted in advance of the subject MRS' Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to outline potential community involvement protocols. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) is the lead regulatory agency, and provides regulatory oversight and significant input to proposed actions.

The following are ARNG, PAARNG, and PADEP contacts responsible for supporting public participation in the Ridgway Training Range MRS environmental projects:

MAJ Julie Hatcher, Project Manager  
ARNG-IED, Cleanup Branch  
111 S. George Mason Drive  
Arlington VA 22204-1382

Rob Halla, PA Project Manager  
ARNG-IED, Cleanup Branch  
111 S. George Mason Drive  
Arlington VA 22204-1382

Dreama O'Neal, Environmental Manager  
PAARNG  
Fort Indiantown Gap, Bldg. 0-11  
Annville, PA 17003

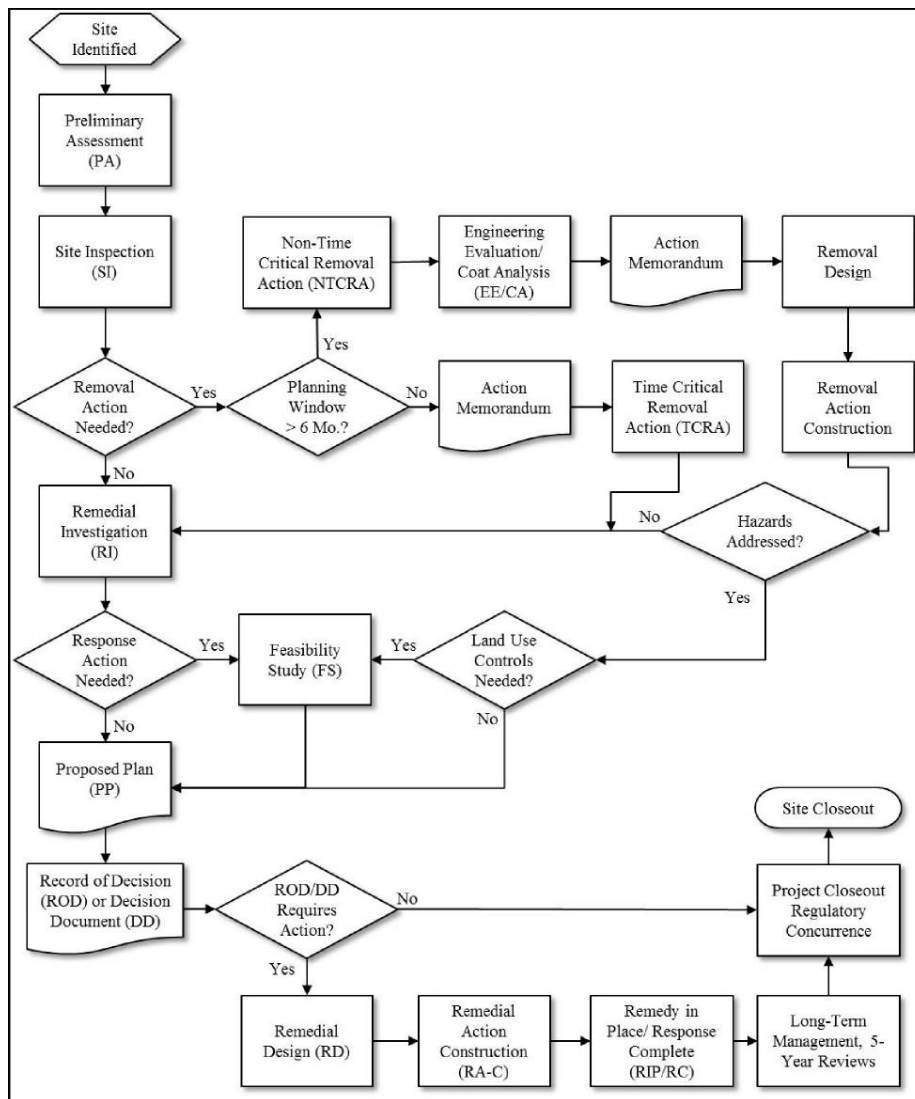
Major Angela King-Sweigart  
Acting State Public Affairs Officer  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment,  
Commander (Mday)  
Pennsylvania National Guard  
Bldg. 8-41, Fort Indiantown Gap, PA  
17003

Charles Tordella  
Environmental Group Manager  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Northwest Regional Office  
230 Chestnut Street  
Meadville, PA 16335

### 2.3.1. CERCLA Process Overview

As mentioned above, the MMRP follows CERCLA guidance in conducting environmental work at MRSs. CERCLA is a federal law designed to clean up sites contaminated with hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants (including munitions). The ARNG is responsible for environmental restoration activities at the Ridgway Training Range MRS in accordance with CERCLA and other applicable Federal, State, and local requirements. The objectives of CERCLA are to: identify, investigate and clean up hazardous wastes sites that may pose a threat to human health or the environment; include the public in the decision-making process; and attain environmental restoration objectives. The CERCLA process is summarized below and graphically depicted in Figure 2-2.

**Figure 2-2. Overview of CERCLA Process**



### ***Investigation***

The first phase of the CERCLA process consists of a Preliminary Assessment, which consists of document reviews, visual site inspections, and interviews to determine whether or not a chemical release has occurred at a site and if further investigation is warranted. If the Preliminary Assessment suggests that contamination may be present, a Site Inspection is conducted to collect and analyze environmental samples to determine if additional study is required and if response actions may be needed. At this point, it may be determined that the site poses no risk and requires no further action.

If the Site Investigation indicates the site requires additional investigation, a Remedial Investigation will be conducted. The Remedial Investigation involves collection of more comprehensive data at the site to assess the nature and extent of contamination and the potential risks posed by the contamination. The results of the Remedial Investigation are used in developing remediation goals and remedial alternatives for cleanup in a Feasibility Study. The remedial alternatives and the preferred or selected alternative are presented in the Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan is reviewed by the public and the final selection of the remedial alternative is documented in a Record of Decision or equivalent Decision Document. Sites determined to require no further action at any phase of the investigation process are considered to have reached Response Complete.

If during the inspection process it is determined that a removal action is warranted, either a Non-Time Critical Removal Action or Time Critical Removal Action may be conducted. A Time Critical Removal Action typically occurs in 6 months or fewer and public involvement begins with making an Administrative Record available to the public within 60 days of the start of removal. Because of the increased time available to conduct a Non-Time Critical Removal Action, this type of removal action is preceded by an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis wherein a streamlined evaluation of options occurs. The results of the analysis are announced via a public notice. A Community Relations Plan, complete with Administrative Record and outreach, is appropriate for Non-Time Critical Removal Actions. Both types of removal actions would be conducted under an approved Action Memorandum.

### ***Cleanup***

The cleanup phase begins with the selected Remedial Design. Remedial Action Construction is the implementation of the cleanup, and may include Remedial Action Operation or operation of the remedy until the cleanup objectives required by the Record of Decision for that site have been met. Some sites may require a review of the Remedial Action at least every 5 years after it is initiated. These reviews are performed to ensure that the remedy is functioning as designed and that any necessary operation and maintenance activities are taking place. Additionally, any remedy that leaves contamination on site at levels above those acceptable for unrestricted use/unlimited exposure must undergo a 5-year review to assure site use remains restricted, as appropriate to the selected remedy.

## **2.4. History of Investigation Activities**

Prior to official site closure in 2011, a Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report was completed as draft final under the Operational Range Assessment Program in 2007 for the Ridgway WETS. Based on a review of available documents and observations made during a site visit, the Phase I Assessment recommended that the Ridgway Training Range be carried forward to a Phase II Qualitative Assessment. However, Ridgway WETS was officially closed in 2011 and became eligible under the NDNODS MMRP program.

Two environmental investigations have been conducted since official closure of Ridgway Training Range in 2011. Those investigations are:

- Ridgway WETS & Range, Environmental Baseline Survey Report (PADMVA, 2011)
- Final Pennsylvania Site Investigation Report, ARNG MMRP (Parsons, 2012)

The 2012 Site Investigation resulted in revisions to the size and shape of the MRS. Two MRSs are now associated with Ridgway Training Range/WETS as summarized in Table 2-1. Based on visual observations made during a site visit conducted in 2011, it was determined that the Ridgway Training Range MRS boundary was incorrect. It was revised during the 2012 Site Investigation to include only the firing range and re-positioned to include the target berm (0.22 acres). The remaining 7.78 acres were reassigned, for tracking purposes, as NDNODS Ridgway Training Range-PA (AEDB-R No. PAE40-001-R-02). No further action is required at the Ridgway Training Range-PA since no munitions were historically fired in that area.

**Table 2-1. Summary of MRSs**

Munitions Response Site (MRS)	AEDB-R No.	Description
Ridgway Training Range MRS	PAE40-001-R-01	Outdoor enclosed firing range; includes firing points and earthen target berm/backstop; addressed in this CRP
Ridgway Training Range – PA MRS	PAE40-001-R-02	This acreage has been eliminated from the MRS and was assigned an AEDB-R number for ARNG directorate tracking purposes

## 2.5. Current and Projected Land Use

The MRS is currently privately owned following its conveyance in 2015 from the PADMVA. The WETS, excluding the MRS area, is used as a staging area for the landowner’s landscape business. It is within an area of mixed hardwood forest that abuts the Allegheny National Forest to the west. Access to the range is restricted from public access by a locked gate. It is anticipated that future land use patterns will remain largely consistent with current land use.

### 3. Community Information

This section includes background information on the local community and known concerns related to the Ridgway Training Range MRS.

Community data were obtained from federal and local online records, such as the US Census Bureau website ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)), the Ridgway Township website ([www.ridgwaytownship.com](http://www.ridgwaytownship.com)), and the Elk County website (<http://www.co.elk.pa.us/>).

#### 3.1. Community Background

The Ridgway Training Range MRS is located within the Township of Ridgway of Elk County, Pennsylvania. The state capital of Harrisburg is approximately 125 miles to the southeast of the MRS. Ridgway is the county seat of Elk County.

##### *Population*

According to the US Census Bureau's 2016 total population estimate, Ridgway Township had a 2015 population of 2,523. The 2010 population estimate for Elk County was 31,946, while nearby St. Marys city (approximately 15 miles from the MRS) had an estimated population of 13,070.

##### *Government*

Ridgway's government consists of an elected board of three supervisors (Supervisor, Chairman, and Vice Chairman) (Ridgway Township, 2017). The board is supported by multiple staff members, boards, and commissions. Ridgway is located in Pennsylvania's 5<sup>th</sup> congressional district whose current Representative is Glenn 'GT' Thompson.

##### *Education*

According to the US Census Bureau's 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 9.4 percent of Ridgway Township's population has a Bachelor's degree or higher, while 93.0 percent has at least graduated high school.

##### *Industry*

Manufacturing comprises Ridgway Township's largest economic center, representing 33.3 percent of civilian employees. This is followed, collectively, by educational services, and health care and social assistance at 18.0 percent, and construction at 11.4 percent.

##### *Income*

The overall median household income for Ridgway Township in 2015 was \$58,462. It is estimated that 7.1 percent of all families are below the poverty line while 9.0 percent of the general population are below the poverty line.

#### 3.2. Community Concerns

No community concerns are known at this time.

***Attempts to create community committees:***

To date, no effort has yet been put forth to form a community group or committee (i.e., Technical Review Committee or Restoration Advisory Board) for involvement with the environmental work at Ridgway Training Range MRS. A solicitation of interest will be made every 2 years if a community group or committee is not formed.

***Establishing repositories for information:***

To date, an Administrative Record has not yet been established. The Administrative Record is a mechanism to share information with the public and should be maintained or updated as new information is obtained. An information repository may be established at the Ridgway Public Library located at 329 Center Street, Ridgway, Pennsylvania, 15853.



## 4. Community Relations Program

### 4.1. Objectives

This community relations program has several objectives:

- Increase the knowledge level of the community about the Ridgway Training Range MRS under MMRP –

The primary goal of the program is to provide the community with opportunities to be informed and become involved in the decision making process in a meaningful way.

- Provide a variety of ways for the community to participate –

Public participation relies heavily on access to relevant information; thus, the second objective flows directly from the first. After people have become more knowledgeable, they will be better equipped to participate. As stakeholders, the community has a right and desire to participate in decisions that will affect the area where they work or live.

The range of interests, knowledge levels, and information needs among the various stakeholders is likely to be broad. AECOM, with the assistance from the PAARNG/ARNG, may conduct different types of activities to enable effective participation to reach all stakeholders.

- Provide various types of information –

Various types of information that are appropriate to the diverse needs of the community may be provided. Some individuals may want nontechnical summaries of reports, while others may want more technical summaries combined with the full technical report. The public information program attempts to address this wide range of community needs and interests.

An information repository, a requirement under CERCLA for informing and involving the public in environmental work at the site, may be established. Potential locations for a repository are listed in Appendix A.

- Conduct community relations activities per regulatory guidance –

The MMRP follows environmental cleanup guidance given under CERCLA. All community relations activities follow the general guidelines of the CERCLA process. Lawmakers understood the importance of ensuring the public was involved in the investigation and cleanup process. The law requires specific actions to be taken to ensure all stakeholders are adequately informed and have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

A survey of interest will be initiated to determine if there is sufficient public participation to form a Restoration Advisory Board.

The achievement of these objectives will result in a productive community relations program with affected stakeholders adequately informed and involved in key decisions.

### 4.2. Key Community Resources

There are several important resources that could be used in conducting community relations activities. PAARNG's relationship with the surrounding communities can serve as a facilitating

factor in obtaining help from a number of prominent organizations that can greatly assist in meeting the objectives of the program. Examples of such organizations and benefits are explained below.

If solicitation indicates community interest, homeowners and community organizations can be helpful in distributing information to their members, organizing meetings, and allowing ARNG and PAARNG to distribute information at their community events. Once PAARNG has established relationships in the communities, it can address concerns and questions of their neighbors, provided the stakeholders receive sufficient information about the Ridgway Training Range MMRP.

Elected officials may be willing to help in relaying accurate information to their constituents.

Officials and employees of surrounding boroughs and townships may allow use of facilities for public meetings, advertise events in newsletters, and distribute meeting fliers and other information. They also may help coordinate the information repositories and other information at Elk County libraries and permit the setup of displays at these locations.

### 4.3. Community Relations Activities

The following is a list of community relations activities designed to assist AECOM and the PAARNG/ARNG in meeting the objectives identified in the previous section. Some activities occur at specified project phases by CERCLA. Some activities may also provide additional opportunities for interested stakeholders to gain information and participate in program decisions. Table 4-1 presents the activities that may be undertaken relative to each phase of work at the Ridgway Training Range MRS.

These activities provide a framework for conducting an effective public relations and information program. However, the framework is flexible and can accommodate suggestions from stakeholders on activities that would be more suitable for the community. A typical time frame for implementing these activities is summarized in Section 4.4.

The following activities are identified in the CERCLA guidance:

#### ***Update this Community Relations Plan***

This Plan is a living document to guide PAARNG/ARNG with providing the community with relevant project information as it becomes available. Additional activities will be added as needed, and suggestions from stakeholders are welcome. The Plan will be revised to reflect significant changes in the level and nature of community concerns and to update the schedule of community relations activities as necessary. The Plan will be reviewed every 2 years.

#### ***Establish and Maintain an Administrative Record and Information Repositories***

An information repository is to be established in the community to ensure site-specific information is available to stakeholders. Information at the repository will include technical reports, factsheets, general information, the Administrative Record, and other relevant documents. The Administrative Record is a file maintained by PAARNG/ARNG, which contains all the information that will be relied upon to make decisions. AECOM, with the assistance from the PAARNG/ARNG, will update the contents of the repository as new information becomes available. Potential locations for the information repository are provided in Appendix A.

#### ***Establish a Spokesperson***

A local representative from the PAARNG has been selected to voice the news of the MMRP and to answer questions and collect comments from the community. The spokesperson's name and contact

information will be included in outreach products. The PAARNG Public Affairs Office has identified the following individual for these project activities:

**Table 4-1. Community Relations Activities for Upcoming Technical Milestones**

Community Relations Activity Goals	Technical Milestone			
	Conduct Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study for MRSs	Prepare Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Report for MRSs	Identify Preferred Alternative and Proposed Plan	Prepare and Issue Record of Decision
Prepare and update Community Relations Plan	Ongoing: update information as it becomes available			
Maintain Administrative Record	Establish and update information as it becomes available			
Establish Spokesperson	Major Angela King-Sweigart, Acting State Public Affairs Officer			
Conduct Community Interviews	As determined by PAARNG based on anticipated level of public interest			
Prepare Factsheets			Required	
Conduct Information Sessions	TPP meetings with regulatory stakeholders			
Update Information Repository	Ongoing: update information as requested by public			
Compile a Mailing List	Create and update information as requested by public			
Public Comment Periods			Required	
Hold Public Meetings			Required if public requests	
Publish Public Notices		Required	Required	Required
Prepare Responsiveness Summary				Required; integral part of Record of Decision
Form a Technical Review Committee or Restoration Advisory Board	If requested by PAARNG based on public request			

Major Angela King-Sweigart  
Acting State Public Affairs Officer  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Commander (Mday)  
Pennsylvania National Guard  
Bldg. 8-41, Fort Indiantown Gap, PA 17003  
717-861-8829  
angela.s.kingsweigart.mil@mail.mil

### ***Conduct Community Interviews***

AECOM, with the assistance from the PAARNG/ARNG, will conduct a survey or perform in-person interviews to ensure that community information needs are met (see Appendix B for example questions). Questions may include: awareness of the MMRP; opinion on the types of public relations activities that would work best in the community; and level of interest in participation. This could be initiated during a Restoration Advisory Board solicitation period. This interview activity can assist PAARNG in assuring that its community relations and information activities are appropriate and responsive to changes in the level and nature of community concerns. Interviews may be solicited from key members of the community or solicited in a public notice.

### ***Publish Public Notices***

CERCLA calls for public notices to inform the community of the release of relevant documents and the timing of the public comment period. For the current program, this includes the following stages: as the Remedial Investigations and the Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol are announced, when a Proposed Plan for the MRS is released for review, and when the Record of Decision for the MRS is finalized. The PAARNG identified Major Angela King-Sweigart, Acting State Public Affairs Officer (angela.s.kingsweigart.mil@mail.mil) as the point of contact. Public notices ensure that the community has a chance to voice its opinions and concerns. Public notices also announce Restoration Advisory Board meetings, should there be public interest expressed in interviews.

### ***Hold a public comment period and meeting on the proposed action***

The public comment period will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to express opinions on alternatives identified for remedial actions at the Ridgway Training Range MRS. Community input is encouraged, and stakeholders will be made aware that PAARNG and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will seriously consider their opinions in the final decision on an action plan. The comment period lasts for a minimum of 30 days and can be extended by stakeholder request. During the public comment period, PAARNG may provide an opportunity for stakeholders to meet with PAARNG and PADEP representatives to discuss the alternatives.

### ***Prepare a responsiveness summary of the proposed action***

If the public requests a meeting, AECOM, with the assistance from the PAARNG/ARNG will provide a transcript of the meeting for public review. Additionally, written responses to any comments received during the comment period will be prepared. The meeting transcript and responses to comments will be included in the responsiveness summary in the Record of Decision in which the selected remedy for the sites is legally agreed upon between the PAARNG and PADEP.

The following activities are optional activities under CERCLA:

### ***Form a Restoration Advisory Board***

Given enough community interest, a Restoration Advisory Board will be established for Ridgway Training Range MRS stakeholders. Board members will provide input on the frequency and preferred location of their meetings. Interested stakeholders who are not on the Restoration Advisory Board will be invited to attend meetings and observe the Board at work. The Restoration Advisory Board provides expanded opportunities for stakeholder relations and two-way communication between PAARNG and the community.

### ***Compile a Contact and Interested Party Mailing List***

A list of stakeholders who express interest in the Ridgway Training Range MMRP may be maintained for future use in mailing fact sheets, newsletters, meeting notices, or other communications. This list ensures that stakeholders who have expressed an interest will be kept informed of site activities. Appendix C contains a list of elected officials and other contacts. PAARNG will add stakeholders to the mailing list at their request through the information sessions, mail, or meetings.

### ***Conduct Informational Meetings***

Informational meetings monitor and assess stakeholders' concerns, answer questions, and explain plans and activities under consideration. These may be via a Restoration Advisory Board meeting, or may be more informal if interest in a Board does not persist. These meetings give the community a chance to express questions and concerns in a more relaxed setting. PAARNG may consider holding a number of informational meetings if a Restoration Advisory Board is not established, soliciting feedback from stakeholders through evaluation forms.

At such information sessions, staff from PAARNG would be available for any interested stakeholders to stop by at their convenience and talk one-on-one with staff. These sessions are particularly useful for answering questions or explaining activities that may affect stakeholders differently.

### ***Prepare News Releases and Use Other Media Outlets***

Periodic news releases help to ensure that accurate and consistent information is available to the media and the public. The Public Affairs Office for PAARNG may elect to prepare news releases on events such as significant findings at a site, the time and place of public meetings, the availability of proposed plans, the dates of public comment periods, and upcoming MMRP work.

The publication of information in local newspapers, radio, and television is an effective way to distribute information to a larger number of people in a shorter period of time. However, it is up to each newspaper, television station, and radio station whether they use the information in the news release. Therefore, news releases can only supplement, not replace, other forms of communication. **Appendix D** contains a list of local newspapers and radio/television stations.

### ***Conduct Formal Public Meetings***

Formal public meetings can communicate information at one time to a larger number of people. Attending a formal public meeting requires the commitment of a stakeholder's time. Many stakeholders have indicated dislike of the emotional or political atmospheres that may exist at formal public meetings. **Appendix E** contains a list of locations that may be used for public meetings.

### ***Prepare Factsheets or Newsletters***

If the community suggests that factsheets are useful, then such items may be prepared and distributed through the US Postal Service or email, and/or as hard copy to public libraries. Through



the development of a comprehensive mailing list, PAARNG can provide timely and accurate information to stakeholders that can be read at their convenience. The factsheets and newsletters can provide two different levels of information as discussed below.

The newsletter would provide a summary of the actions underway at the Ridgway Training Range MRS. PAARNG would issue the newsletter as appropriate. The newsletter would be sent to all citizens, media, and elected officials on the mailing list and distributed through the US Postal Service or email. Stakeholders could also obtain copies at county libraries.

Factsheets would provide more details on a particular study or an upcoming cleanup action. PAARNG would prepare an initial factsheet if there is an indication of release of constituents at levels of concern from the MRS. If response plans are proposed, PAARNG would provide a fact sheet on the plans. Factsheets can also provide updated information as studies progress.

#### ***Maintain Contact with Elected and Local Officials***

PAARNG also may provide elected officials with pertinent project information to help them answer questions from the public. The PAARNG will consider the implementation of environmental briefings for elected officials or members of their staff to be conducted by the Commanding Officer as appropriate. Elected officials would be encouraged to call the PAARNG Acting State Public Affairs Officer (Major Angela King-Sweigart) to get answers to their questions. PAARNG may opt to keep elected officials informed through briefings, mailings, or telephone contact.

County administration health departments, environmental offices, and emergency preparedness offices may be interested in the Ridgway Training Range MMRP. ARNG and PAARNG will coordinate appropriate activities with these offices and keep them informed as appropriate. These contacts are also listed in **Appendix C**.

## **4.4. Schedule of Community Relations Activities**

As noted in the prior section, a notice regarding the Proposed Plan for the MRS is anticipated. At this phase, the notice will be placed in *The Ridgway Record* newspaper (**Appendix D**). Community interest in a Ridgway Training Range Restoration Advisory Board is to be solicited during the program, and one may be established to engage and obtain feedback from the public.

The following community relations requirements have been adopted under CERCLA and National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan legislation for various stages of remedial action (USEPA 2005).

Community interviews will be conducted as described in this CRP. An information repository is to be established (potentially at the Ridgway Public Library) to promote public access to appropriate project documents. Once the Remedial Investigation is underway, an administrative record would be made available to the public and a notice of its availability published in a local newspaper such as *The Ridgway Record*.

Once the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is complete, the public would be notified of the Remedial Investigation and Proposed Plan's availability, including a brief analysis of the Proposed Plan, via publication in a local newspaper; a public comment period of at least 30 days will be allotted and can be extended upon public request. During the public comment period, a public meeting, regarding the Proposed Plan, may be convened at or near the site (if requested by the public), a transcript of which would be prepared and made publically available.

A response to significant comments and new data on the Proposed Plan/Remedial Investigation would be prepared and accompany the Record of Decision. Any significant changes to the remedy would be accompanied by a discussion of the reasons for these changes and included in the Record of Decision. If these changes could not be reasonably anticipated by the public, a revised Proposed Plan that details these changes would be issued for public comment.

Once the Record of Decision is signed, it is to be made available for public inspection, and a notice that states the nature of the remedy circulated in a local newspaper. Before implementing the remedial design, the CRP should be revised to reflect public concerns pertaining to the design and construction phase. If the Record of Decision must be amended due to changes in scope, a notice of the proposed amendment would be circulated in a local newspaper; the same notification and public comment procedures aforementioned would be followed, and the amended Record of Decision made publically available with a notice of its availability published in a local newspaper (**Appendix D**).

## 4.5. Interviews

Interviews will be conducted as described in this Plan. The following individuals have or may have site-specific information and possible insight into public concerns for the site:

- Dreauna O'Neal, PAARNG Environmental Manager
- Charles Tordella, PADEP Environmental Group Manager
- Stephen and Sandra Lawrie (property owners)
- Local Elected Officials (**Appendix C**)

Complete interview records would be compiled and appended to the Final Community Relations Plan.

## 5. References

Elk County, 2017. <http://www.co.elk.pa.us/>. Accessed March 6, 2017.

PADMVA, 2011. Ridgway Weekend Training Site (WETS) & Range, Environmental Baseline Survey Report (EBS). August.

Parsons Infrastructure and Technology (Parsons), 2012. *Final Pennsylvania Site Inspection Report, Army National Guard Military Munitions Response Program*, September.

Ridgway Township, 2017. <http://www.ridgwaytownship.com/>. Accessed March 6, 2017.

US Census, 2016. American Fact Finder,  
<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>, accessed March 6, 2017.

USACE, 2011. *Public Participation Requirements for Defense Environmental Restoration Program* (Engineering Pamphlet 200-3-1, September 2011).

USEPA, 2005. *Superfund Community Involvement Handbook* (EPA 540-K-05-003, April 2005).

**APPENDIX A**  
**INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS**

## **Ridgway Training Range Information Repository Locations**

### **Ridgway Public Library**

329 Center Street  
Ridgway, PA 15853  
Phone: 814-773-7573

#### ***Hours***

Monday	11:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday	11:00am – 8:00pm
Wednesday	11:00am – 8:00pm
Thursday	11:00pm – 8:00pm
Friday	11:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday	9:00am – 2:00pm
Sunday	Closed

### **Johnsonburg Public Library**

520 Market St # 1  
Johnsonburg, PA 15845  
Phone: 814-965-4110

Monday	11:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday	11:00am – 7:00pm
Wednesday	11:00am – 7:00pm
Thursday	11:00pm – 7:00pm
Friday	11:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am – 2:00pm
Sunday	Closed

### **Pennsylvania Army National Guard**

Joint Forces Headquarters - PAARNG  
Bldg. 0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003

**APPENDIX B**

**EXAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE**



## APPENDIX B EXAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you familiar with the history of small arms training at Ridgway Training Range? Please circle one (Not Familiar / Moderately Familiar / Very Familiar).
2. Are you familiar with the environmental studies and cleanup activities being conducted at Ridgway Training Range site? Please circle one (Yes / No). If so, when was the last time you were provided an update and do you have any concerns?
3. Have you had any contact with local, state, or federal agencies concerning questions or a request for information about the environmental studies and cleanup activities being conducted at the Ridgway Training Range site? If yes, please circle one (local official / state official / federal official). Was the information provided useful and presented in a way that was easy to follow? Please circle one (Yes / No).
4. Have you ever used or do you use the athletic fields located just north of Ridgway Training Range off of Grant Road? Please circle one (Yes / No). Generally, when and how frequently?
5. What kind of information would you like to receive about the Military Munitions Response Program environmental activities being conducted at the Ridgway Training Range site?
6. Do you think it is necessary to provide information about the activities being conducted at the Ridgway Training Range site in a language other than English? Please circle one (Yes / No). If yes, which language?
7. What media are good for providing general information? Please circle one (The Ridgway Record newspaper / Internet site). What radio/TV stations do you regularly listen to and/or watch? Please circle all that apply (WJAC, Channel 6 / WWCP, Channel 8 / WATM, Channel 9 / WTAJ, Channel 10 / WPSX, 90.1 FM / WCED, 1420 AM / NPR / other). If other, please provide station name below. Do your friends/family also listen to these stations? Please circle one (Yes / No).
8. Would you like to be informed of, or involved in, future activities associated with the environmental studies and cleanup activities at the Ridgway Training Range site? Please circle one (Yes / No).
9. Do you have any other environmental concerns or issues not covered by the questions listed above? Please circle one (Yes / No). If yes, can you please provide these below?
10. Could you recommend anyone else we should get in contact with? Please circle one (Yes / No). If yes, please provide Name, Address, and any affiliation with the Ridgway Training Range site.

**APPENDIX C**

**LIST OF KEY OFFICIALS AND OTHER CONTACTS**

## Project Key Points of Contact

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MAJ Julie Hatcher, Project Manager  
ARNG-IED, Cleanup Branch  
111 S. George Mason Drive  
Arlington VA 22204-1382  
(703) 607-9166  
julie.a.hatcher4.mil@mail.mil

Rob Halla, PA Project Manager  
ARNG-IED, Cleanup Branch  
111 S. George Mason Drive  
Arlington VA 22204-1382  
(703) 607-7995  
walter.r.halla2.civ@mail.mil

Dreama O'Neal, Environmental Manager  
PAARNG  
Fort Indiantown Gap, Bldg. 0-11  
Annville, PA 17003  
(717) 861-2339  
droneal@pa.gov

Charles L. Tordella,  
Environmental Group Manager  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Northwest Regional Office  
230 Chestnut Street  
Meadville, PA 16335  
(814) 332-6071

Major Angela King-Sweigart,  
Acting State Public Affairs Officer  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment,  
Commander (Mday)  
Pennsylvania National Guard  
Bldg. 8-41, Fort Indiantown Gap, PA 17003  
(717) 861-8829  
angela.s.kingsweigart.mil@mail.mil

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## Federal Elected Officials

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### **U.S. Representative**

#### **Glenn 'GT' Thompson**

124 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5121  
Fax: (202) 225-5796

### **U.S. Senator Robert Casey**

393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-6324  
Toll Free: (866) 802-2833  
Fax: (202) 228-0604  
<https://www.casey.senate.gov/>

### **U.S. Senator Patrick Toomey**

248 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4254  
Fax: (202) 228-0284  
<http://www.toomey.senate.gov/>

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## State Elected Officials

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### **Governor Tom Wolf**

Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: 717-787-2500  
Fax: 717-772-8284

### **State Senator 25<sup>th</sup> District Joseph B. Scarnati III**

Senate Box 203025  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3025  
Room: 292 Main Capitol  
Phone: (717) 787-7084  
Fax: (717) 772-2755

### **State Representative 75<sup>th</sup> District**

#### **Matt Gabler**

DuBois Area Plaza, Suite 10  
1221 East DuBois Avenue  
DuBois, PA 15801  
Phone: (814) 375-4688  
Fax: (814) 375-5955

### **Secretary of the Commonwealth Pedro A. Cortés**

Office of the Secretary  
302 North Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: (717) 787-6458  
Fax: (717) 787-1734

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## Elk County Elected Officials

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### **Elk County Board of Commissioners**

**Janis E Kemmer, Chairperson**

**Matthew G. Quesenberry, Sr.,  
Commissioner**

**Daniel R. Freeburg, Commissioner**

Elk County Courthouse Annex  
300 Center Street, P.O. Box 448  
Ridgway, PA 15853  
Phone: (814) 776-1161  
Fax: (814) 776-5379

### **Elk County Sheriff W. Todd Caltagarone**

Elk County Courthouse  
250 Main Street - P.O. Box 336  
Ridgway, PA 15853  
Phone: (814) 776-5353  
Fax: (814) 776-5396

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## **Ridgway Township Elected Officials**

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### **Board of Supervisors**

**Rick Glover, Vice-Chairman**

**Chris Klase, Chairman**

**Mildred Bowers, Supervisor**

Ridgway Township Board of Supervisors

1537A Montmorenci Rd.

Ridgway, Pa 15853

Phone: 814.773-5625

Fax: 814.772.2589

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## **Local Community Organizations**

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### **American Legion**

Robert C. Sullivan – Post 208 Commander  
330 Main Street  
Ridgway, PA 15853  
Phone: 814-772-7425



**APPENDIX D**

**LIST OF NEWSPAPERS AND  
RADIO/TELEVISION STATIONS**

## **List of Newspapers and Radio/Television Stations**

### **Newspapers**

*The Ridgway Record*  
325 Main Street, Suite A  
Ridgway, PA. 15853  
Phone: (814) 773-3161  
Fax: (814) 776-1086

*The Daily Press*  
245 Bruxelles Street  
St. Marys, PA 15857  
Phone: (814) 781-1596  
Fax: (814) 834-7473

### **Radio**

WPSU (90.1 FM)  
174 Outreach Building  
100 Innovation Boulevard  
University Park, PA 16802  
Telephone: 814-865-1877  
Fax: (814)-865-4043

WCED (1420 AM)  
12 West Long Avenue  
DuBois, PA 15801  
Phone: (814) 375-5260

### **Television**

WJAC (Channel 6)  
49 Old Hickory Lane  
Johnstown, PA 15905  
Phone: (814) 255-7600  
<http://wjactv.com/>

**APPENDIX E**  
**PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS**

## **Suggested Public Meeting Locations**

### **Ridgway Public Library**

329 Center Street  
Ridgway, PA 15853  
Phone: (814)773-7573

### **St. Marys Public Library**

127 Center Street  
Saint Marys, PA 15857  
Phone: (814) 834-6141  
Fax: (814) 834-9814

### **Ridgway Township Municipal Building**

1537-A Montmorenci Road  
Ridgway, PA 15853  
Phone: (814) 773-5625  
Fax: (814) 772-4016

### **American Legion, Ledden-Young, PA Post 208**

330 Main Street  
Ridgway, PA 15853  
Phone: (814)772-7425