THURSDAY, JUNE 24.

YORK DAILY REC



Munitions at Harley prompt concern

■ A public meeting about cleanup efforts at the plant drew few people Wednesday night.

By MICHELLE STARR Daily Record/Sunday News

Harley-Davidson is cleaning the plant's property, and Beatrice Weitkamp is concerned not only about the details, but that few people shared her interest.

Weitkamp grilled company and gov-ernment officials during a public meeting Wednesday about the pollutants and projectiles found at the Springettsbury Township plant, the former York Naval Ordnance Plant,

"We feel like we're sitting on a ton of dynamite waiting to explode up there,"

she said.

Only about six people signed in at the meeting, and Pat Sweeney, communications manager at the Springettsbury Township plant, had hoped for more. Representatives from Harley, the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ex-plained the site's history, pollutants and plan. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection did not attend.

Action in August

The most immediate action will occur in mid-August, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gathers and destroys munitions left in underground firing-range and misfire pits.

They don't expect to find live rounds, but the destruction could sound like gunshots and be heard beginning at 3:30 p.m. or 4 p.m. until dusk, said George Follett, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps anticipates being in the field for about two months, he said.

The biggest hazard with that stuff is 'don't drop it on your toe,' " said Follett, a ordnance and explosive safety expert.

The company previously reported the

See HARLEY, page 11A

Harley

Continued from 10A

closest property from the detonation site was 450 feet, but it actually is closer to 700 feet.

Nicki Fatherly, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers design team leader, said the timing was chance.

Harley-Davidson found the items while searching for additional parking sites. The Corps is responsible for cleaning these munitions sites, and about \$400,000 earmarked for another project became available at the end of last year, Fatherly said.

Based on priorities and a lack of funding, a full site investigation by the Corps is not expected until 2012 or 2015.

The company has previously worked toward soil and ground water remediation.

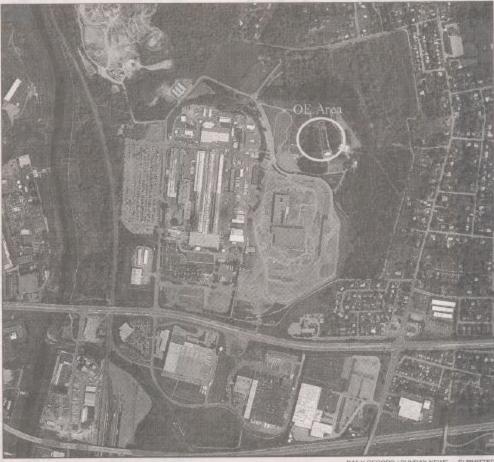
The site contains chromium, lead, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene 1.1.1-trichloroethane.

James Schlosser, who has lived on Sherman Street for 19 years, is concerned with the overall environmental impact of the plant and wanted to learn more at the meeting.

His neighbor Fred Reideo was specifically concerned about the munitions, but was reassured by the Corps' process of sandbagging the munitions before detonation and their years of experience in similar instances.

"I'm glad they're doing it," he said.

Michelle Reach Starr 771-2045 or mstarr@ydr.com.



DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS

Above: A circled portion of the Harley-Davidson property, photographed in 2002, shows where the munitions are in comparison to the rest of the plant and the surrounding neighborhoods in Springettsbury Township. Route 30 runs along the bottom; the Codorus Creek is to the left. Right: Photograph shows a sampling of the munitions found at Harley-Davidson's Springettsbury Township plant during a previous removal in 1993. A person's foot was used to provide perspective of their size.



News at your fingertips

www.ydr.com

The first Sunday of every month in Viewpoints

LET'S READ Karen Muller's column encourages children of all ages to read.