



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

June 21, 2016

## Metal Cylinders Safely Contained at Malta Rocket Fuel Area Superfund Site

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### **UPDATE:**

On Saturday, June 18, the metal cylinders previously uncovered at the site were safely placed in a containment locker. This action was taken after consulting with the New York State Police to further evaluate the cylinders. The containment locker, which is being used for temporary on-site storage, will minimize the impact of any accidental explosion while EPA continues to consult with experts to determine the safest method to address the intact cylinders in the long term.

### **How were the cylinders discovered?**

Because of concerns about the potential for buried munitions and other military items, an electromagnetic survey was conducted by the developer as part of a redevelopment effort at the site. The survey found some anomalies and an investigation of the area began in May 2016. During the week of June 6, contractors working for the developer uncovered 34 stainless steel cylinders of varying sizes up to 12 inches in length. Twenty of the cylinders had holes in them.

### **Where were the cylinders found?**

The cylinders were found about 1 or 2 feet below the ground surface in a secure area in the northeast corner of the Test Station property, about 500 feet from the parking lot for GLOBALFOUNDRIES. The nearest residences to any part of the site are about a mile away. Out of an abundance of caution, the guard gate, access road and portion of the GLOBALFOUNDRIES parking lot closest to where the cylinders are located were temporarily closed last week, but are expected to reopen today. Construction activities nearby will also resume after being temporarily suspended.

[www.epa.gov/superfund/malta-rocket](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/malta-rocket)



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## About the Malta Rocket Fuel Area Superfund Site

The Malta Rocket Fuel Area site is located in the towns of Malta and Stillwater in Saratoga County, New York. It includes a square parcel of approximately 165 acres of developed land that was used by the U.S. Government as a research and development facility for rocket and weapons testing for more than 50 years, beginning in 1945. Operations at the Malta Test Station involved the use of hazardous substances. The Environmental Protection Agency added the site to the Superfund National Priorities List in 1987 because hazardous chemicals were found in the ground water, surface water, and soil in the vicinity of the Test Station.

The cleanup at the site has been completed and included excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil and debris and treatment of the water supply. The long-term cleanup remedy also includes ongoing surface water monitoring and periodic monitoring of groundwater. GE performed the original cleanup of the site under the federal Superfund program.

The site is privately-owned and a portion was sold for redevelopment. In 2009, construction began for the first phase of the Luther Forest Technology Campus. GLOBALFOUNDRIES, the first tenant at the Luther Forest Technology Campus, has redeveloped and is operating at a portion of the site. Redevelopment efforts continue and eventually, the entire site may be encompassed by the technology campus.

## What actions did EPA take when the cylinders were found?

It is not known what the cylinders contain, but based on the size of the cylinders, it is believed that these vessels may have been used to collect quality assurance samples during the time the Test Station was in operation. The EPA hired experts to examine the cylinders and has decided to be very cautious and treat them as though they are explosive. The EPA has been communicating with local officials, GLOBALFOUNDRIES and other involved parties and will continue to provide updates as the investigation continues.

## What did the experts say?

The experts do not think that the cylinders pose an imminent risk if not disturbed, but they recommended that they be placed in a specialized containment locker for temporary storage, which will minimize the impact of any accidental explosion while the EPA determines how to best address the cylinders in the long term.

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