

Historical Facts

of the Former Nebraska Ordnance Plant

For more information or any questions concerning the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant project, please contact:

Kristine Stein
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
Phone: (816) 389-3172
email: kristine.m.stein@usace.army.mil

Information repository documents are available for review at:

Mead Public Library
316 South Vine Street
Mead, Nebraska 68041
(402) 624-6605



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Kansas City District

In 1941, Mead, Nebraska was chosen for the site of the Nebraska Ordnance Plant (NOP). The proximity to Omaha and Lincoln, the railway system servicing the area, the highway systems to Sioux City and Denver, and the open expanses of land just south of Mead made an excellent location for such an important facility to support World War II.

By mid-November 1941, the acquisition of property for the Ordnance Plant was well underway.

Construction of the NOP began in early 1942. Construction of the facility took approximately 9 months and at the peak of construction in July/August 1942, there were nearly 9,000 construction workers employed. The construction of the NOP was estimated to cost \$25 million.

Pictures are from the Former Nebraska Ordnance Plant while in full operation



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The former NOP was owned by the Department of Defense and was operated by the National Defense Corporation from 1942 to 1945 in support of World War II.

The NOP occupied approximately 17,250 acres and was a load, assembly and pack facility for explosives weapons. Bomb shells and rockets were assembled at four individual bomb load lines. Other facilities on-site included a proving range, a landfill, ammonium nitrate production plant, bomb booster assembly plant, burning grounds, a sewage treatment plant, analytical laboratories, storage igloos, and administration area.

Bombs (from 90 pounds to 12,000 pounds), projectiles, shells and mines

were produced from 1942 to 1945. With the exception of ammonium nitrate, the materials used to manufacture the weapons were made elsewhere and shipped in trucks and via the extensive railway system to the NOP for assembly.

In 1945, World War II operations were terminated and the NOP was placed on inactive status. During this period (from 1945 through 1949), the NOP was decontaminated and used primarily for storage and disposal of bulk explosives and munitions. Ammonium nitrate was also produced for use as fertilizer. Full-scale production was reactivated during the Korean Conflict in 1950 to produce bombs, projectiles, Nike missile warheads and rocket motors.

During the 1950's and early 1960's, the US Air Force operated an Atlas Missile Launch facility. The Atlas Missile Area was abandoned in 1964.

The NOP was placed on standby status in 1956 and then finally in 1959, was declared as excess and transferred to the General Services Administration.

In 1962, the University of Nebraska purchased approximately 9,500 acres of the former NOP site for their agricultural research and development site. The remaining land from the former NOP was transferred to the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve and some was purchased by private individuals and light industry.

