

# **Munitions Response Historical Records Review**

**November 2003**

**Prepared by  
The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council  
Unexploded Ordnance Team**

**Copyright 2003 Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This document is intended to serve as a guide for regulators, stakeholders, and others involved in oversight or review of munitions response historical records review (MR HRR) projects on munitions response sites. Given that historical research can be the basis for subsequent site investigation and remediation decisions, the completeness of the historical records review is a critical component of the munitions response process.

The goals of this document are as follows:

- educate state regulators and other stakeholders on the purpose, content, and terminology of MR HRRs;
- provide a uniform technical approach and useful tools that are compatible with any regulatory framework or authority for reviewing MR HRRs; and
- communicate state regulator expectations to those planning, initiating, and executing MR HRRs.

In most instances, an initial historical records review is conducted early in the munitions response process. The historical records review helps ensure the proper collection, analysis, and documentation of historical information pertaining to property potentially impacted by munitions-related activities. Historical research may indicate that a munitions response may be required to address potential hazards on these sites. Alternatively, historical research may establish that military munitions-related activities were never conducted on the property and, therefore, that no further action is warranted.

Although the military services and the Department of Defense's programs vary somewhat in the approach and timing for historical records review, regulators need to be able to evaluate the adequacy of historical research. An understanding of the various processes involved in the historical records review process, including the variability in historical evaluations from site to site, will enable regulators and others to effectively evaluate these historical reviews.