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FACT SHEET 3 FOR 1995 TYPICAL SITE CLEANUP CNC CHARLESTON SC
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NAVAL BASE, CHARLESTON Environmental Cleanup Program



This fact sheet is one of a series to inform interested citizens about the environmental investigations and cleanup actions at Naval Base, Charleston. Other fact sheets will be written at appropriate points in the program and in response to public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the Public Affairs Office at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southern Division (803) 820-5771.

TYPICAL SITE CLEANUP

Naval Base, Charleston is conducting environmental cleanup activities with the Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Because the base is closing, environmental cleanup must occur before property can be transferred to the community. In special cases, however, the Navy and the new tenant may reach an agreement to accommodate an earlier transfer of property. These early transfers have certain restrictions and will not be granted if a health risk is present.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), a facility must receive a permit and demonstrate that it can operate in an environmentally sound manner as well as show corrective action measures on sites that were not handled this way in the past. Naval Base, Charleston holds such a permit and is following the corrective action measures determined by that permit.

This fact sheet was developed to describe the major steps that are taken to clean up a typical site. A "site" can be defined as an area (which can vary in size from a few square feet to many acres) where hazardous material is stored, used, or disposed of. At Naval Base, Charleston, approximately four hundred (400) sites have been initially identified. Of these, 165 require no further action, however, the remaining sites must undergo at least part of the process described on the following pages.

CORRECTIVE ACTION CLEANUP STEPS

- ① Preliminary Assessment of Site
[RCRA Facility Assessment - RFA]
- ② Detailed Investigation of Site
[RCRA Facility Investigation - RFI]
- ③ Evaluation of Best Cleanup Options
[Corrective Measures Study - CMS]
- ④ Site Cleanup, or "Remediation"
[Corrective Measures Implementation - CMI]

We hope this information helps you understand the level of detail required for environmental cleanup. While there are many reports and reviews involved, they are all necessary to ensure that the final cleanup solution is the best one for each site. Our goal is to protect human health and the environment, and the Navy is committed to meeting that goal.

☎ If you have any questions about the environmental cleanup activities at Naval Base, Charleston, please call Mr. Jim Beltz at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southern Division Public Affairs Office at (803) 820-5771.

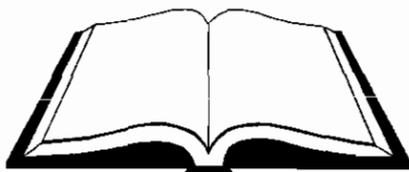
Site Discovery



- A site is identified through a preliminary study as potentially hazardous to human health or the environment. "Hazardous materials" may include chemicals, petroleum products or pesticides.
- The preliminary study consists of a complete visual and historical review of the base.
- Sites may be identified for many reasons including past use, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials.

[① PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (RFA)]

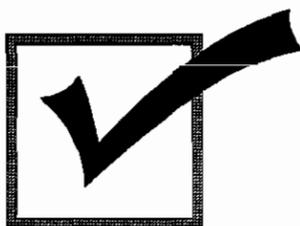
Report



- Once a site is identified, a report describing the site's status must be written.
- The report includes background information on the site and any preliminary analysis of contamination that might be documented.
- The Navy must send the report to environmental agencies for review and comment.

[① PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (RFA)]

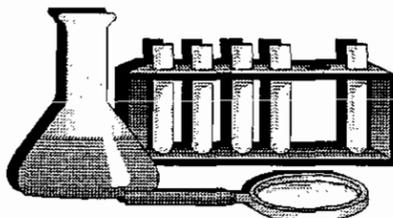
Workplan & Approval



- A workplan on how to technically evaluate the site must be written.
- The Navy must send the workplan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for approval. These agencies maintain oversight of the cleanup.
- Workplans are written at several stages in any environmental cleanup, and all must be approved by the environmental agencies.

[② DETAILED INVESTIGATION (RFI)]

Sampling



- Sampling can begin which may include water, air, soil, and sediment.
- The appropriate tests will be done to determine type of contamination.
- As a safety precaution, workers are required to wear protective clothing.

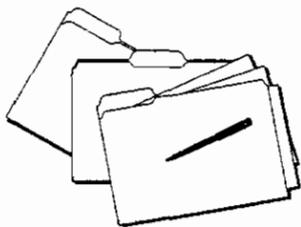
[② DETAILED INVESTIGATION (RFI)]

Analysis/Data Evaluation



- Water, air, soil, and sediment samples from the site will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. The lab will analyze the samples to see what contaminants are at the site, and at what levels.
- This information will be used to determine if the materials found were at safe levels, or if cleanup action is required.
- Other scientists review associated human and ecological risk factors.
- The Navy will prepare a report to summarize these findings.

[② DETAILED INVESTIGATION (RFI)]

Cleanup Choice Development

- Results from the analysis/data evaluation step provides the information needed to evaluate the options for cleaning up the site.
- Based on this information, the Navy will write a report recommending the best options for cleanup. This report is called the corrective measures study and is a general outline of the remedies that can be used effectively at the site.
- This report is sent to the environmental agencies for their approval.

[④ EVALUATION OF CLEANUP OPTIONS (CMS)]

Remedy Selection

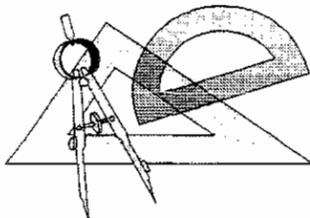
- Both environmental agencies review the corrective measures plan independently. Together, the Navy and the environmental agencies decide on the best option for cleaning up the site.
- Selection of the remedy is based on many criteria, including overall effectiveness, feasibility, public input, and cost.
- After public comment, the final decision will be made by the environmental agencies.

[④ EVALUATION OF CLEANUP OPTIONS (CMS)]

Public Comment

- **Wide public participation at this stage is strongly encouraged.**
- The cleanup options and the preferred option are announced to the public as well as the Restoration Advisory Board.
- A public meeting will be held to discuss the alternatives.
- Changes may be made to the proposed plan after the public's written and oral comments have been carefully considered. (*See the next page for more information on public involvement/participation.)

[④ EVALUATION OF CLEANUP OPTIONS (CMS)]

Design of Remedy

- Once the cleanup option is approved, the Navy will design the cleanup.
- The design stage requires writing a workplan. The workplan will include how the chosen remedy will work at the site, how to construct and operate the remedy, and a health and safety plan for site workers.

[④ SITE CLEANUP OR "REMEDATION" (CMI)]

Cleanup

- Once the workplan is approved, the selected remedy will begin.
- This is called "remediation," and may involve removal, treatment, or containment.
- The remedy will be monitored until cleanup is complete.

[④ SITE CLEANUP OR "REMEDATION" (CMI)]

Public Involvement: Keeping the public informed of the environmental progress at the Base is an important aspect of the cleanup process, and the Navy encourages public participation throughout the decision making process. One way this is being done is through the Restoration Advisory Board, or RAB. The RAB is a group of citizens, Navy, city, state, and Environmental Protection Agency personnel that meet monthly to discuss progress on the environmental cleanup of the Base. These meetings are open to the public and attendance is strongly encouraged.

Another way to keep the public informed is by providing access to pertinent information regarding cleanup decisions. This has been done at Charleston through the establishment of an *Information Repository*, which is a collection of documents that include work plans, reports, and the Community Relations Plan for Naval Base, Charleston. The Repository is located at the Dorchester Road Regional Branch of the Charleston County Library at 6325 Dorchester Rd. These documents have been made public as part of the Navy's program to involve and inform the Trident community.

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Naval Base, Charleston also maintains a mailing list of individuals and organizations that receive updates on the cleanup. If you would like to be on the mailing list, would like more information about the Restoration Advisory Board, or if you have any questions about the cleanup, please contact the Public Affairs Office.

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