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FACT SHEET 4 FOR 1995 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY/ RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT CNC CHARLESTON SC  
5/1/1995  
CNC CHARLESTON

## 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.*

### National Environmental Policy Act/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) are both major environmental laws that play an important role in the cleanup and transfer of property at Naval Base, Charleston. This fact sheet highlights and compares the principal points of each of these laws. The other side provides distinguishing factors about two major environmental reports that are essential elements in the environmental cleanup and economic reuse of the base.

#### ◆ Environmental Laws ◆

##### NEPA

*The National Environmental Policy Act was created to ensure that future environmental impacts are addressed for any major federal action that may significantly impact the environment.*

- ◆ Invites the public to provide input to the process.
- ◆ Looks to the future. Evaluates potential environmental issues.
- ◆ Assesses impact of proposed actions on human health and the environment. (An Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment is used to make this assessment.)
- ◆ Proposes options to minimize negative impacts.
- ◆ Considers limits to future uses.

##### RCRA

*The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act was enacted to manage hazardous waste including generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of these wastes (past and present).*

- ◆ Invites the public to provide input to the process.
- ◆ Looks at the past and present. Addresses current operations and contamination from past practices.
- ◆ Assesses impact of past and present actions on human health and the environment. (\*The RCRA Corrective Action Process is used to make this assessment.)
- ◆ Cleans up past and present contamination.
- ◆ Imposes land-use restrictions on specific areas such as landfills, if necessary.

\* The RCRA Corrective Action Process is described in Fact Sheet #3, April 1995 - *Typical Site Cleanup*. To obtain a copy of this fact sheet, contact the Public Affairs Office at the number/address found on the back.

## ■ Reuse Reports ■

The following reports play an important role in the environmental cleanup process and reuse of property at Naval Base, Charleston. Both of these reports included a public-comment period during which the general public had the opportunity to review and provide their input.

### Environmental Impact Statement

- The Navy is responsible for preparing this document.
- Required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Analyzes environmental effects of reasonable, foreseeable reuse. Includes community's reuse plan but is not limited to it.
- Public has the opportunity to review and provide comments.

### Reuse Plan

- The community is responsible for preparing this document. Researched and developed by the Building Economic Solutions Together (BEST) committee, a community-based group.
- Required under accelerated transfer/reuse policy established by the Department of Defense.
- Reviewed options for future reuse of property and established a preferred reuse.
- Public had the opportunity to review and provide comments.

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If you have any questions about this fact sheet or would like more information on the environmental program at Naval Base, Charleston, please call or write the Public Affairs Office.

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