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NCBC GULFPORT
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LETTER REGARDING PUBLIC MEETING FOR SITE 5 13 MAY 2008 AND TRANSMITTAL OF
PROPOSED PLAN NCBC GULFPORT MS
5/15/2008
NCBC GULFPORT



May 15, 2008

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for attending the NCBC Gulfport Public Meeting for Site 5 on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. We encourage you to share any concerns or comments that you may have about the Navy's proposed landfill cover for Site 5.

Enclosed in a revised page for the Proposed Plan that you received at the meeting. There was an error on the bottom of the left column on page 3 concerning the presence of dioxins in the groundwater at the site. Please replace the page 3 in your document with the revised page enclosed here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Crane'.

Gordon Crane

NCBC Gulfport Installation Restoration Program Manager

*NCBC Gulfport Restoration Advisory Board
2401 Upper Nixon Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501*

Presumptive Remedy for Military Landfills

In the early 1990s, the USEPA began looking at various ways to streamline environmental restoration. One approach was to use standardized, proven technologies to clean up similar sites, such as municipal landfills. These standardized technologies for specific categories of sites are called "presumptive remedies." These presumptive remedies have been shown to ensure consistency in remedy selection and reduce the cost and time required for investigations and remediation of similar types of sites.

The USEPA has published guidance documents that specifically encourage source containment for military landfills with characteristics similar to municipal landfills. The application of containment as the presumptive remedy most often requires the design and installation of some form of landfill surface cover designed to meet the following three goals:

- Minimize infiltration of water that could dissolve contaminants in the landfill.
- Prevent direct contact with the landfill wastes and prevent movement of the waste by wind or water.
- Prevent exposure to landfill gas.

Site 5 has the characteristics and the low levels of contaminants mentioned in the USEPA guidance. According to this guidance and based on the characteristics of the site, containment using a final cover that minimizes the passage of water was considered to be the best alternative.

Subsurface Soil

- Some arsenic concentrations in the subsurface soil were greater than the MDEQ regulatory level for unrestricted use, but all were less than the MDEQ regulatory level for restricted use.
- **Dioxins** were detected site-wide in subsurface soil, but concentrations greater than the MDEQ regulatory level for unrestricted use were limited to three locations, and all were less than the MDEQ regulatory level for restricted use.

Groundwater

- Benzo(a)anthracene (BaA) was detected at a concentration greater than its MDEQ regulatory level in one on-site monitoring well.
- The total concentration of **dioxins** and **furans** was above the MDEQ regulatory level.
- No groundwater contamination extending from the site was identified. Information gathered during the sampling events suggests that all contaminants on site are beneath the footprint of the disposal area.

Surface Water and Sediment

- No contaminants were detected in the surface water at concentrations greater than the MDEQ regulatory levels.
- Arsenic was detected in all **sediment** samples at concentrations greater than the MDEQ regulatory level for unrestricted use but greater than the MDEQ regulatory level for restricted use only in the most upstream sample.
- **Dioxins** were detected in all **sediment** samples, but the concentration was greater than the MDEQ regulatory level for unrestricted use in only one sample, but was less than the MDEQ regulatory level for restricted use.

Other Findings

- A geophysical survey and surface soil, subsurface soil, groundwater, **surface water**, and **sediment** sampling were conducted to address concerns about potential burial of drums containing **Herbicide Orange (HO)** at the site. Neither the results of the sampling nor the geophysical survey found evidence of buried drums.
- The **dioxins** and **furans** found at the site are not related to **Herbicide Orange** found at Site 8. **Octachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (OCDD)** and **heptachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (HpCDD)** were the particular **dioxins** that were found most often. (Refer to the "Contaminants of Concern at Site 5" highlight box on page 8 for more information). These **dioxins** are typically found as a result of common industrial activities such as vehicle exhausts, combustion, and incineration, rather than the disposal of **Herbicide Orange**.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF THE ACTION

The environmental concerns at NCBC Gulfport are complex. As part of the Navy's Installation Restoration program, an Initial Assessment Study of the base was performed in the 1980s, and nine sites were identified for further investigation. None of the sites nor the base have been placed on the CERCLA National Priorities List. Investigations and cleanup activities are being performed following CERCLA regulations. A Decision Document has been completed for one site, and cleanup is being performed or has been completed at four sites. Four other sites are in the RI/FS stage.