

NTC Meeting Discloses Contaminant Survey

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The Beacon

The Naval Training Center's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met Tuesday, Sept. 24 to hear updates from representatives that included information on a steam tunnel survey recently conducted on base.

According to the site assessment of the tunnels, the NTC steam distribution system was identified as a Point of Interest (POI) because of the potential for metals contamination in sediment that has accumulated at the bottom of steam tunnels and vaults.

The steam distribution system at NTC, which is approximately 50 years old and provides heat to several buildings on the facility, was investigated to see if there was potential for the metals to leak through cracks in the tunnels into ground water and, ultimately, into the San Diego Bay.

The assessment, conducted in two phases between March and August of 1996, sampled sediment for six metals — cadmium, copper, lead, selenium, thallium and zinc.

Phase one found that there were elevated levels of copper and/or lead in four of the five sampled areas where tunnels in four of these areas had the potential to impact surrounding ground water based on the presence of wall and floor cracks.

According to the assessment, Phase two was conducted to see if these elevated metals may

have impacted the surrounding environment and found that elevated levels of copper were evident in all samples collected, including those samples collected from non-tunnel/vault locations.

The results of the sediment re-analysis identified this waste as hazardous in accordance with the regulatory standards of California.

The conclusions and recommendations of the assessment are that the elevated levels of copper and/or lead currently existing in ground water at various locations across NTC cannot

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be attributed to the steam distribution system and no further action will be taken with respect to the steam tunnels and their impact on the environment.

However, the sediment that has accumulated in specific areas of the steam tunnels and vaults is hazardous, and removal of the sediment is being recommended, according to the Site Assessment.

According to Navy environ-

mental engineer M'balia Tagoe, the assessment was unable to identify one source for the accumulation of the hazardous metals.

"This still needs to be answered," Tagoe said.

In addition, updates were given for 17 other POI's where there is potential for an environmental concern.

These areas were evaluated by document review, geophysical survey, and soil, ground water, and/or soil gas sampling, according to Remedial Project Manager Content P. Arnold. Field work for these areas is scheduled to start on Dec. 9, 1996.

In all, there have been 92 POIs identified.

Updates were also given for an inactive landfill area named Site 1 and for the Public Works Center gas station.

Cracks were found in the inactive landfill area located on the

eastern boundary of NTC between Lindbergh Field and the Boat Channel that were emitting landfill gasses consisting of methane.

The work plan for that area includes trenching down 5 to 7 feet in a V formation to test the area further and then covering the cracks with leftover dirt from a construction site at the airport, according to Navy Cochair Keith Forman.

Early findings at the PWC gas station are that the ground water there meets regulatory standards, but slight traces of hydrocarbon have been detected, Forman said.

The next RAB meeting is scheduled Dec. 3. For more information call Forman at 524-1022.