

# RECORD OF DECISION FOR NO FURTHER ACTION FOR SELECT MEDIA AT AREA OF CONCERN 6 Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Cheatham Annex

February 2019

Mission Cleanup is an ongoing federal-state partnership that capitalizes on sound science to Clean, Protect, & Restore. In support of Mission Cleanup, Cheatham Annex (CAX), the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ), and the Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), invite the public to view the Record of Decision for No Further Action for select media at CAX Area of Concern (AOC) 6, Williamsburg, Virginia. Your involvement in this process will help to ensure that federal lands are cleaned and restored for future use.

## Background

CAX is a 2,300-acre federal facility located on the York-James Peninsula. The facility is adjacent to the York River approximately 15 miles upstream of the Chesapeake Bay. Because of past industrial operations on the property, environmental studies have been conducted to determine the location of historic disposal areas and potential sources of contamination. One potential source of contamination investigated is AOC 6. Five non-contiguous subareas comprise AOC 6, each less than 1 acre in size (Figure 1), and all related to the former Penniman Shell Loading Plant (PSLP). The PSLP operated as a trinitrotoluene (TNT) manufacturing plant beginning in approximately 1916, and subsequently added the loading of artillery shells for the war effort in 1918.

## 1918 Drum Storage Area

The 1918 Drum Storage Area subarea was once used for the storage of wooden barrels and/or drums of unknown content when the shell loading facility was active. The 1918 Drum Storage Area subarea is currently a developed area, located south of Antrim Road, consisting mostly of open and maintained grassy areas and a parking lot.

## Waste Slag Material

The Waste Slag Material subarea consisted of a pile of metallic slag material of unknown origin. It has been speculated that the waste slag may have been broken out of steam locomotive boilers and dumped along the tracks during the PSLP era. The waste slag pile and surrounding soil and debris were removed and properly disposed of offsite as part of a solid waste removal action in October 2015. The former pile location was regraded and seeded, and is currently a grassy area.

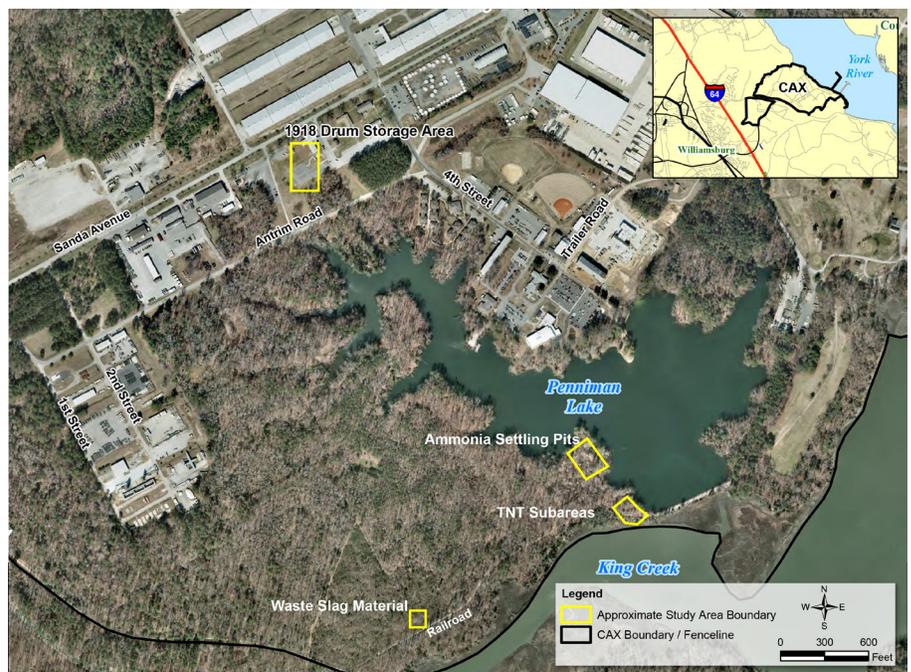
## Ammonia Settling Pits

While the specific history of the AOC 6 Ammonia Settling Pits subarea is unknown, it is assumed that wastewater from an

ammonia finishing building was discharged through three Ammonia Settling Pits into the tidal tributary of King Creek that existed before Penniman Lake was created. Currently, this subarea is wooded and situated near the banks of Penniman Lake and consists of what may be remnants of earthen Ammonia Settling Pits that were part of the PSLP.

## TNT Graining House Sump and Catch Box Ruins

The specific history of the AOC 6 Graining House Sump and Catch Box Ruins subareas is unknown. The TNT Graining House Sump subarea includes the concrete footprint of the former TNT Graining House, as well as the concrete-lined, open top pit believed to be the sump pit for the former TNT Graining House. The TNT Catch Box Ruins subarea consists of an earthen, brick-lined depression located immediately east and adjacent to the TNT Graining House. It is assumed that the TNT catch box was used to separate TNT particles from wastewater. Currently, the TNT Graining House Sump and Catch Box Ruins subareas are wooded and situated near the banks of Penniman Lake.



*Figure 1. CAX Site Map*

Additional information on each of the five subareas of AOC 6 can be found in the following reports:

- 1918 Drum Storage Area Technical Memorandum (CH2M, 2013b)
- Waste Slag Material Subarea Technical Memorandum (CH2M, 2013a)
- Ammonia Settling Pits Remedial Investigation (CH2M, 2016b)
- TNT Subareas Remedial Investigation (CH2M, 2015)

## Record of Decision

The Record of Decision documents the Navy's cleanup plan for AOC 6, which consists of no further action for the following sub-areas of AOC 6:

- **1918 Drum Storage Area** subarea (soil and groundwater)
- **Waste Slag Material** subarea (soil, groundwater, and debris)
- **Ammonia Settling Pits** subarea (groundwater)
- **TNT Graining House Sump** subarea (groundwater)
- **TNT Catch Box Ruins** subarea (groundwater)

NFA was selected based on a review of site data that demonstrates there are no potential unacceptable risks to human health or the environment from unlimited use of the select media at these subareas. The AOC 6 ROD was issued jointly between the Department of the Navy (the Navy) and the USEPA and was reviewed and agreed to by the VDEQ.

A public comment period on the proposed remedial action plan was held between June 2 and July 19, 2018. Final signature for the AOC 6 ROD was completed on September 27, 2018. The ROD for AOC 6 describes the basis for the decision, including a transcript of the public meeting held on June 7, 2018, to take public comments prior to making the decision. All public comments were considered in a Responsiveness Summary incorporated into the ROD. No questions or comments were received from the public and the action selected for AOC 6 was No Further Action.

Mission Cleanup's success relies on ongoing public awareness and engagement in cleanup milestones such as this No Further Action ROD, as public participation is critical to our ability to *Clean, Protect, & Restore*. The ROD will be available for public viewing online at <http://go.usa.gov/DynP> or at the following location during normal business hours:

York County Public Library – Yorktown  
8500 George Washington Memorial Hwy.  
Yorktown, VA 23692  
(757) 890-3377

## For More Information, contact:

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