

Former Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant Fridley, Minnesota Environmental Investigation and Cleanup Fact Sheet

June 2024

The Navy has prepared this fact sheet to inform the community about the environmental cleanup history and accomplishments at Former Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant Fridley, Minnesota (Former NIROP Fridley) and about the Navy's perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) investigation at Former NIROP Fridley.

Environmental Cleanup History, 1980 to present

Former NIROP Fridley is located along East River Road in an industrial area within the limits of Fridley, Minnesota (Figure 1). Former NIROP Fridley and adjacent properties are now the Northern Stacks Industrial Park. In 2022, Former NIROP Fridley received the Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for successful site redevelopment.

The Navy owned Former NIROP Fridley from 1940 until 2004 and is responsible for environmental cleanup at the site. Northern Pump Company produced weapons for naval vessels until the end of World War II. After World War II, other private contractors (FMC Corporation, United Defense Limited Partnership, and British Aerospace Engineering) continued to manufacture weapons systems at the plant. Historical operations and disposal practices from the 1940s to the early 1970s at Former NIROP Fridley resulted in the release of chemicals to the soil and groundwater. The chemicals of concern in groundwater beneath Former NIROP Fridley are a group of chemicals commonly referred to as chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs).

EPA added Former NIROP Fridley to the National Priorities List under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, also known as Superfund) in 1989. The property was divided into three Operable Units (OUs) to address releases to the environment. OU1 is groundwater within the Former NIROP Fridley site boundary, which contains CVOCs from historical operations. OU2 includes soils across most of the site except for soils in a focused area designated as OU3. OU3 includes soils underlying the former Plating Shop (Figure 1).

The CERCLA investigation and response actions have been completed for OU2 and OU3, and therefore, EPA removed these OUs from the National Priorities List (OU2 on August 29, 2014, and OU3 on September 17, 2018).



Extraction well sampling ports inside the treatment plant.

In 1981, the facility was connected to municipal water. The use of groundwater is prohibited at Former NIROP Fridley. The OU1 groundwater cleanup system was installed in 1992. Since 2011, nine extraction wells pump contaminated groundwater from the area shown on Figure 1. The groundwater extraction and treatment system has been effective in reducing CVOCs in groundwater and preventing CVOCs from moving off the property. In 2021, the Navy rebuilt the aging groundwater treatment facility and four of the extraction wells. As of December 2022, the groundwater extraction and treatment system has treated 7 billion gallons of groundwater and removed 45,300 pounds of CVOCs.

2022 Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse Award from EPA

EPA Press Release (May 24, 2022): The Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant is an 80-acre NPL site where industrial activities, including the production of naval guns during World War II, contaminated soil and groundwater. After cleanup, part of the site was deleted from the NPL. A developer purchased the site and surrounding property and redesigned it into an industrial park called The Northern Stacks Industrial Park. The industrial park is home to multiple businesses, including a brewery. These businesses employ over 1,100 people and generate an estimated \$600 million in annual revenue. The redevelopment represents reuse of a vacant urban property, reducing blight, improving the community, and generating tax revenue.

PFAS Investigations, 2020 to present

PFAS are a family of thousands of manufactured chemicals that have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been produced and used. The science on PFAS is evolving, and regulation of PFAS is rapidly developing under many laws, including under CERCLA and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Following the CERCLA process, a Preliminary Assessment (PA) and Site Inspection (SI) for PFAS were conducted at Former NIROP Fridley in accordance with the Navy's policy to identify and address past releases of PFAS. The PA identified the former Plating Shop as an area where PFAS may have been released. Groundwater was investigated as part of the SI; three PFAS (perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, and perfluorohexanesulfonic acid) were detected in groundwater. A Remedial Investigation is being planned to further investigate PFAS in soil and groundwater at Former NIROP Fridley.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Environmental data and reports for Former NIROP Fridley are available online on the [Administrative Record website](#).

Additional information on Former NIROP Fridley is available online at <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/Divisions/Environmental/Products-and-Services/Environmental-Restoration/Mid-Atlantic/Fridley-NIROP/> or by contacting the NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs Office by email at NAVFAC_ML_PAO@navy.mil or mail at **9324 Virginia Ave, Norfolk, VA, 23511-3095**.

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Figure 1 – Former Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant (NIROP) Fridley, Minnesota