



Subase RAB News

Spring/ Summer 2010

News Flash!

As of June 17, the Remedial Action Completion Report for the Base-wide Groundwater investigation was completed and signed by the Subase Command Suite. In a nutshell, the report addresses groundwater at all Subase ERP sites, aside from the capped landfills and Lower Base, and recommends Land Use Controls and continued groundwater monitoring at the Area A Downstream and the Ballfields.

Did You Know?

With the approach of another hurricane season, Subase is going through its annual HURREX exercise to prepare for the potential of a tropical storm striking the region.

In the event of a storm, disaster prep actions would include sandbagging all the buildings on Lower Base, moving hazardous material and waste from the Lower Base to higher ground, and organizing disaster response and recovery teams.

For those who say a destructive tropical storm won't happen here, the Subase Emergency Response Team reminds all concerned

Pier 1 (Former Marine Railway) Removal Action - Close to Completion but Not Quite There

The removal of contaminated Thames River sediment at the former Pier 1 Marine Railway site has hit a bit of a snag, literally! Although the dredging work in the outer portion of Pier 1 area was successfully completed and has met cleanup goals, the final removal of contaminated sediment down to bedrock in the inner portion has been more problematic. A recent diver survey in the inner area indicated, that due to underwater obstructions and an irregular bedrock surface, as much as 4-18 inches of contaminated sediment still remains in some places (totaling approximately 250 to 500 cubic yards of contaminated sediment). The Navy has determined that removal of the remaining sediment is beyond the capability of the dredging equipment used to date at the site.

So what's the next step? The Navy is developing a Phase II removal plan for the Inner Area in conjunction with USEPA and the CTDEP. Over the next few months, the Navy intends to do a more thorough survey of the remaining sediment in the inner area and develop a work plan to go after the remaining sediment (e.g., use a suction dredge to remove the remaining sediment for upland disposal). The Phase II removal fieldwork is expected to take place in the spring/summer of 2011.

Lower Base Update

Slow but steady progress is being made on the Lower Base site. The Navy expects to finalize the Feasibility Study for the site this year and is undertaking two data gap investigations to better understand the nature and extent of groundwater and soil contamination throughout Lower Base. The first of two planned groundwater sampling events has been completed with little initial indication of serious groundwater contamination. The soil sampling investigation is scheduled for this summer with the second round of groundwater sampling planned for the fall.

Next steps for Lower Base? The Navy hopes to present a Proposed Remedial Action Plan for all Lower Base soils, groundwater and sediment by spring of 2011, with a remedy selected by fall 2011. Remedial action work could commence as early as 2012.

that the storm surge from the 1938 hurricane overtopped all the Lower Base piers with 4 feet of water, flooded every building on Lower Base and sunk numerous barges and Navy support craft on the waterfront.

The Team

The team is available to answer questions and provide information. Contact us with any concerns or check out the US EPA website listed below.

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Area A Wetlands Invasive Species Control Project

The CTDEP WHAMM (Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management) team showed up in April with their specially designed low-impact tracked equipment to mow of the 26 acres of Phragmites in the Area A wetland. Aside from encountering numerous tree stumps throughout the wetlands, the mowing went as planned. The next step is to schedule the WHAMM team back to treat the Phragmites with herbicide in August 2010 when the regrowth is vigorous and most susceptible to the herbicide mixture. Our ultimate goal is to have the Phragmites under control in the Area A wetlands by 2011 in order to establish native wetland vegetation, and prepare the area for the upcoming Area A Wetland, Site 2B, remedial action to remove contaminated wetland sediment, currently planned for 2012.



Area A Wetlands looking from Perimeter Road northeast towards the Area A landfill cap. Mowed Phragmites in the foreground with a fringe of un-mowed reed in the background surrounding Area A pond (Photo credit: Richard Conant)

EPA Subase IR Website:

www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/newlondon

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