



# FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

## Proposed Plan

Terrestrial Soil  
Former Skeet and Trap Range (UXO 08)

Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Annex, Virginia Beach

The Department of the Navy (Navy), in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) has issued a Proposed Plan for soil at Dam Neck Annex in Virginia Beach. Soil in the terrestrial portion of the site was affected by previous activities conducted at the adjacent Former Skeet and Trap Range (UXO 08). Dam Neck Annex is under the command of Naval Air Station Oceana. Both agencies agree on the proposed treatment alternative for soil presented in the Proposed Plan.

**Environmental History:** The Skeet and Trap Range at Dam Neck Annex was used in the 1940s and 1950s and consisted of four adjacent skeet and four adjacent trap firing ranges. The firing direction for both ranges was toward the northwest, over Lake Tecumseh. A 900-foot radius from the firing line represents the extreme maximum range of fire, with the majority of shot-fall assumed to be within a 600-foot radius of the firing line.

The current Proposed Plan focuses on the soil on the land (terrestrial) portion of the site. The soil under Lake Tecumseh (sediment) portion of the Skeet and Trap Range is being investigated separately. The terrestrial portion of the site is a mixed forested wetland which was classified as a jurisdictional wetland by the United States Army Corp of Engineers in 2016.

Site investigations of the terrestrial portion of the range identified elevated lead contamination in soils, particularly in the areas of presumed maximum shot-fall. Lead contamination from pellets used at the Skeet and Trap Range is present in the top 0-1 foot of surface soil and 1-2 feet of subsurface soil in a range area of approximately 11.1 acres. The lead poses a potentially unacceptable human health risk for people who encounter the soil and for ecological receptors (e.g., birds and mammals) that encounter the soil or eat other animals that do. An additional Net Environmental Benefit Analysis was conducted to compare the human and ecological risks associated with surface soil lead contamination to the potential ecological impacts of disturbing the 11.1 acres of the established jurisdictional wetland area, such as would occur with intrusive remedial actions like excavation. This study resulted in a smaller treatment range area of 1.3 acres spread over three separate locations with the highest lead concentrations.

**Preferred Alternative for Remediation:** Based on the results of the investigations, the Navy analyzed several options to mitigate potential human and ecological health risk from exposure to lead contamination in the terrestrial area soils and to mitigate future sources of lead in soils. The Proposed Plan describes four alternatives (including the required baseline no-action alternative), which were evaluated against seven established criteria.

The Navy proposes Alternative 4: Soil Removal, Backfill to Grade, Offsite Disposal, and Land Use Controls. This alternative was selected because it would achieve the cleanup goals and provided the best balance of meeting the seven evaluation criteria.

**Public Comment:** Public participation is an important part of the remedy selection process, and the Navy's preferred alternative may be modified based on new information and/or public comments. The Navy will finalize its plan, with VDEQ concurrence, after considering all comments received during the public comment period (March 8 to April 7, 2023).

The Proposed Plan and related site documents are available on the Navy's environmental website at <https://go.usa.gov/xSvtW>. An online presentation about the site and the proposed alternative is also available for viewing at your convenience during the public comment period.

A hard copy of the Proposed Plan is also available for review at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library at 4100 Virginia Beach Boulevard, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**Website for documents and presentation:** <https://go.usa.gov/xSvtW>

**To submit comments:** Comments can be submitted from **March 8 to April 7, 2023** by email or mail to one of the following:

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