

FACT SHEET

Environmental Restoration Program: Site 1 – Fire Training Area/Drum Disposal Area

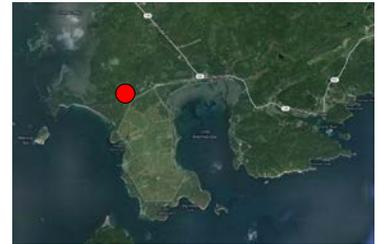


Naval Support Activity (NSA) Cutler
Cutler, Maine



Where is Installation Restoration (IR) Site 1?

The former Fire Training Area/Drum Disposal Area (Site 1) is located at the Very Low Frequency (VLF) Area. The VLF Area is situated on a 2,860-acre peninsula located on the coast of Maine near the town of Cutler. Site 1 is an open field and wetlands area approximately 10.3 acres in size and surrounded on all sides by undeveloped forested land with several freshwater wetlands (known locally as heaths) located nearby.



What is the history of the site?



Site 1 is located within a former borrow pit that was used by the Navy for firefighting training exercises from the early 1960s into the 1980s. These training exercises used two 4,200-gallon capacity tanks that were partially filled with water, topped with oil, and then ignited. During the course of these fire training exercises, the tanks would overflow releasing oil into the environment. In addition, when the power plant switched from No.6 to No.2 fuel oil in about 1980, the remaining No.6 fuel oil was reportedly spread on the ground. Buried drums were also discovered at the site.

What work has been done at the site to date?

Environmental investigations and removal actions were conducted at Site 1. A large portion of the contaminants have been removed. The largest removal action, performed between 2006 and 2009, excavated and disposed of approximately 31,200 tons of petroleum-contaminated soil. The soil removal area was backfilled and in 2009, a beneficial wetland was created. Approximately 76 buried drums and metal debris were excavated from the site. The Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Proposed Plan were finalized in August 2017, April 2018, and August 2018 respectively. A public meeting was held in Sept 2018 to present the selected remedy (soil excavation). The Remedial Design and Record of Decision were completed in Sept and Nov 2019, respectively.

What work is planned for Site 1 in the future?

The Record of Decision documents the selected remedy: soil excavation and off-site disposal, groundwater monitoring, and land use controls. The final soil remedial action is planned for 2020-2021.

Where can I go for more information?

- Compliance with Environmental Laws and Regulations: Contact the Maine Department of Environmental Protection at (207) 287-7688.
- NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia General Questions: Contact the Public Affairs Officer at (757) 341-1410.