

FACT SHEET

Environmental Restoration Program: Site 7 – South Helix House

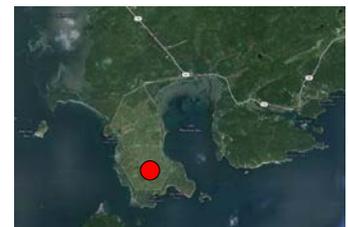


Naval Support Activity (NSA) Cutler
Cutler, Maine



Where is Installation Restoration (IR) Site 7?

The South Helix House (Site 7) is located at the center of the southern Very Low Frequency (VLF) antenna array on the VLF Peninsula. Site 7 is located adjacent to a transmission tower and consists of several support buildings including a Hoist Transformer Room (HTR). Specifically, a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) dielectric oil spill originated from within this HTR. Gravel-filled areas and a paved perimeter access road surround the South Helix House (SHH) building complex.



What is the history of the site?

According to historical records, a spill occurred from an electrical transformer switch located inside the HTR in the early to mid-1980s. An estimated volume of 40 to 50 gallons of PCB-laden dielectric oil spilled onto the floor and walls of the HTR. The spill traveled through the doorway of the HTR and along the southwest wall of the HTR. Historical data indicates that the oil migrated downward through the soil to varying depth and was also tracked horizontally across the ground surface to the east and south away from the spill area.

What work has been done at the site to date?

In 1999 and 2000, the Navy conducted an investigation of the spill and completed interim soil removal actions at Site 7. At first, approximately 19.9 tons of PCB-contaminated soil was removed to a depth of approximately 2 feet below grade. A second removal action excavated approximately 81.12 tons of contaminated soil to a depth of up to 5 feet throughout the spill area. In 2010, additional sampling was performed; however, due to the presence of facility structures, not all of the PCB-contaminated soils could be removed and will remain in place until such a time when access to these soils is provided. Based on soil data collected, it appears that physical migration of the PCB-laden oil occurred from the spill area to the perimeter gravel access road as a result of pedestrian traffic and activities such as snow management. The Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Proposed Plan were finalized in November 2016, April 2017, 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 January and August 2019, respectively. The remedial action was performed in Oct and Nov 2019 and removed approximately 276 and 468.5 cubic yards of PCB soil and gravel, respectively.

What work is planned for Site 7 in the future?

A Construction Completion Report is being prepared and will summarize the remedial action.

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 PAO at (757) 341-1410.