

**INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM****FACT SHEET****NAVAL WEAPONS  
INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT**

Bethpage, New York



July 1995

This fact sheet provides information about the cleanup of contaminated soils at the NWIRP Bethpage. The Navy is currently in the remedial design stage, with soil cleanup anticipated to start this fall and be completed within one year. This fact sheet summarizes these actions as well as provides an update of other environmental activities at the site.

**BACKGROUND**

NWIRP Bethpage is a Government-Owned and Contractor Operated (GOCO) facility which is situated on 108 acres in Nassau County in the Hamlet of Bethpage, Town of Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York. The Navy's land is bounded on the east by a residential neighborhood and on the remaining sides by Northrup Grumman Corporation (the operator of the facility).

NWIRP Bethpage was established in 1943 with the primary mission of assembling military aircraft. These activities involve the use of a number of industrial chemicals, many of which included heavy metals and solvents. Environmental restoration efforts at the NWIRP Bethpage site are coordinated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) with input from the county and state Department of Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

**INSTALLATION RESTORATION (IR)  
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

The IR Program consists of four distinct stages: Preliminary Assessment, Site Inspection, Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study, and the

Remedial Design/ Remedial Action. The Preliminary Assessment (known as the Initial Assessment Study at the time) was completed in the 1986. To expedite the IR Program, the Site Investigation was not conducted. The Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study was initiated in 1991 and completed in March 1994.

Because of concurrent activities being conducted at the adjacent Grumman Facility and the Hooker/RUCO Superfund Site and the complex interaction between the groundwater from the three sites and the need for further study of the groundwater, the remediation of the groundwater was split from the soil to allow the soil cleanup (an ongoing source of groundwater contamination) to proceed. The status of the soil and groundwater activities are discussed below.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

In November 1994, a public meeting was held to solicit comments on the joint Navy - NYSDEC proposed plan for addressing soil contamination. The proposed plan called for:

- Excavation of soils contaminated with PCBs at a concentration greater than 10 mg/kg, followed by off site treatment and/or land filling;
- Excavation of soils which can be classifiable as a hazardous waste because of arsenic, followed by off site treatment and disposal;
- In place stripping of solvents from soils using vapor extraction, and injection of air into the

most contaminated groundwater underlying these soils (air sparging);

- An interim remedial action of wellhead treatment at Bethpage Water Districts Plant #5; and
- Permeable cover and deed restrictions in areas of residual metal and organic contamination.

Many valuable comments were received during the public meeting and the public comment period following the meeting. Detailed responses to these comments were prepared and will be provided in the responsiveness summary of the Record of Decision for the soils.

#### **OFFSITE SOIL SAMPLING**

During the public meeting, it was announced that the Navy would conduct soil sampling in the residential neighborhood adjacent to the Navy's property to determine if contaminants found in the site soils have migrated to this area. This sampling was conducted in November 1994 and analytical results became available in early 1995. Based on these results, there is no evidence that soil contamination from the Navy property has affected the residential neighborhood.

#### **SOIL REMEDIATION**

The cleanup of contaminated soils at the NWIRP Bethpage is ongoing. The Remedial Design for the arsenic- and PCB-contaminated soils is complete. Remedial Action, consisting of excavation and off site treatment and/or disposal of these soils is expected to be completed this fall. At this time, the final areas and depths for excavation are being determined through chemical testing and treatment/disposal firms are being selected.

Remedial Design of the air sparging and vapor extraction of solvent-contaminated soils is proceeding. In support of the Remedial Design, a pilot-scale test is planned to start this summer and be completed this fall. The Remedial Design

would then be completed in early 1996. The full scale Remedial Action for these soils is expected to start in mid-1996 and be completed within two years of operation.

The final action under the soil cleanup would be Deed Restrictions and the permeable cover, which would be implemented after the soil remediation is completed.

#### **STATUS OF GROUNDWATER ACTIVITIES**

The groundwater investigation and remediation is proceeding, with the Navy and Grumman having completed their investigations. Investigation is continuing at the Hooker/RUCO Superfund site to determine the potential for groundwater contamination extending to the south and west of the three sites.