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## INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM:

# FACT SHEET

NAVAL WEAPONS  
INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT

Bethpage, New York



February 1996

*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 spring 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 Northrop 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.

### STATUS OF SITE CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

After an initial study in 1986 indicated the potential presence of contamination at NWIRP Bethpage, the Navy conducted a comprehensive field investigation to identify the types of

contamination at the site and their location. The investigation revealed that soil in various locations was primarily contaminated with PCBs and solvents and that groundwater beneath the site was also contaminated.

Because of the complexity of the groundwater remediation the Navy decided that soil cleanup would proceed while additional information was gathered on the groundwater. In 1996, the Navy anticipates having sufficient information on groundwater characteristics to identify cleanup strategies.

### PUBLIC MEETING ON SOIL CLEANUP PROPOSAL

In November 1994, the Navy and NYSDEC hosted a public meeting to discuss cleanup alternatives and to hear the public's response to the soil cleanup strategies that the government proposed to adopt. This proposed cleanup plan included:

- 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, 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 (ongoing); 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 are provided in the responsiveness summary of the Record of Decision for the soils and in the information repository in the Bethpage Public Library at the Information Desk.

### **OFFSITE SOIL SAMPLING**

Because of overwhelming concern from the public, the Navy conducted 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 the results, it was concluded that there was no evidence that soil contamination from the Navy's property affected the residential neighborhood.

### **SOIL REMEDIATION**

The cleanup of contaminated soils at the NWIRP Bethpage will begin in the spring of 1996. 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 spring and be completed this fall. The Remedial Design

would then be completed in late 1996. The full scale Remedial Action for these soils is expected to start in 1997 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 field investigations.

Following this investigation, an engineering report will be developed to identify area-wide groundwater remediation alternatives.