



# Naval Air Station Brunswick

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## Installation Restoration Program (IRP)

### RAB Update: January 21, 1999

The Restoration Advisory Board met on January 21, 1999, at the Fleet Bank on Main Street in Brunswick, Maine, to review the status of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) at Naval Air Station Brunswick. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Air Station, Northern Division of the Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment (BACSE). A reporter from the Brunswick Times Record also attended a portion of the meeting.

#### Fiscal Year 1999 Budget

The Navy reported that its budget for environmental restoration at NAS Brunswick has not been affected by recent Department of Defense expenditures related to activities in the Middle East. Remedial action operations such as those underway at NAS Brunswick generally get high priority in the funding allocation process, so the Navy is hopeful that the Brunswick budget will be unaffected.

#### Site 7: Former Acid/ Caustic Disposal Area

The Navy has previously proposed no further action for this site, since the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study did not identify any unacceptable risks at this location. RAB members have raised questions about previous detections of cadmium in groundwater at levels above state and federal drinking water criteria. Also, since the wells at Site 7 have not been sampled since about 1989, The Maine DEP would like the monitoring wells re-sampled. The Maine DEP also indicated that an additional well should be installed at a location more directly downgradient of the soil area that was investigated in 1989. The Navy disagreed on the need for an additional well, since the data gathered in the soil investigation did not find contamination at levels exceeding the State's soil screening guidelines. Tom Fusco from BACSE suggested that the Navy and the Maine DEP needed to sit down together in a separate meeting to resolve the question of an additional monitoring well. He also commented that it is interesting that vegetation in the Site 7 area is generally sparse. Steve Mierzykowski of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that a simple site walkover in the spring may be adequate to evaluate the vegetation in the area.

#### Building 95 Site

In previous meetings, the Maine DEP has raised questions about the presence of pesticides in subsurface soils at levels that could pose a risk to ecological receptors. The Navy pointed out that soil which is more than two feet below the ground surface is generally not considered to be accessible to ecological receptors. The concern that Maine DEP and BACSE have is that there is no way to guarantee that those soils will remain undisturbed, unless institutional controls are established at the site. The Navy does not agree that institutional controls are justified at this site. Further discussion will be needed to resolve this issue.

#### Site 2 Long-term Monitoring Plan

The Navy indicated that work would begin shortly on the long-term monitoring plan for Site 2, which is the older, smaller landfill south of Mere Brook. The Navy hopes to have a draft plan available for RAB review by early spring.

#### Site 9 Proposed Plan

The Navy is developing its proposed plan for a final remedy at Site 9, and has received substantial input from RAB members. The Navy is preparing responses to these comments, and has scheduled a separate technical meeting on February 1, 1999 to discuss the proposed plan with Maine DEP, USEPA, and BACSE.

## Naval Air Station Brunswick

### Operation, Monitoring and Maintenance

Basewide long term monitoring is being implemented to assess the effectiveness of the remedial actions taken to date at NAS Brunswick. Monitoring event 13 was completed during November 1998. The long term monitoring program for the Eastern Plume area continues to evolve, and the Navy would like to set up a future meeting with the RAB to discuss these changes and a process for future revisions to the plan.

One of the six operating extraction wells, EW-3, has been shut down due to an apparent failure of the well's sandpack. Historically, this well has not been capturing much contamination. Rather than repairing the well in its current location, the Navy intends to evaluate the entire extraction system, and will then make a recommendation for changes to the system on the basis of that evaluation.

In addition to evaluating the extraction well network, the Navy would also like to conduct an optimization study on the treatment plant and the effluent discharge. There is a high cost associated with discharge of the treated groundwater to the local wastewater treatment plant. If a more effective treatment system could be designed to accomplish more complete destruction of the contaminants, then other discharge options may become feasible at a lower total cost.

Finally, the Navy indicated it intends to move ahead with a technology demonstration project involving the slurry wall at Sites 1 and 3. The demonstration, which is designed to assess a non-destructive method being developed by the Department of Energy for testing the permeability of an in-place slurry wall, will be completed this winter. The Navy has been assured that the testing will have no adverse impacts on the performance of the cap and slurry wall at Sites 1 and 3.

### Questions?

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined.

If you would like more information, please contact the following people:

**John James**  
Public Affairs Office  
Naval Air Station  
Brunswick, Maine 04011  
(207) 921-2527/2327

**Michael Barry**  
USEPA  
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100 (HBT)  
Boston, MA 02114-2023  
(617) 918-1344

**Claudia Sait**  
Maine DEP  
Federal Facilities Section  
Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 287-7713

#### Community Representatives:

**Brunswick**  
**Susan Weddle**  
11 Beech Drive  
Brunswick, ME 04011  
(207) 729-6122

**Topsham**  
**Rene Bernier**  
690 River Road  
Topsham, ME 04086  
(207) 729-4362