

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Five-Year Review of Remedial Actions**  
**Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina**

The Navy and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, have completed a 5-year review of three ongoing remedial (environmental cleanup) actions at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Cherry Point, near the town of Havelock in Craven County, NC.

The purpose of the 5-year review was to ensure that these remedial actions, which have been operating for several years, are providing adequate protection of human health and the environment. The final report is available for inspection by community members in the public information repositories listed below.

The Navy and EPA Region 4 will conduct the next 5-year review of these ongoing remedial actions at MCAS Cherry Point in January 2008.

**The following remedial actions were reviewed:**

Operable Unit 1- NADEP Central Hotspot: The Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (IWTP) Pump and Treat system removes chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs - chemicals with properties that readily allow them to vaporize) from groundwater at the NADEP central hot spot area through an air-stripping process.

This remedy is generally functioning as designed, is achieving remedial action objectives, and was found to be protective of human health and the environment. Recommendations and follow-up actions to ensure long-term protectiveness include evaluating influent water quality to the air-stripping tower to prevent biofouling and monitoring VOC mass removal rates versus groundwater pumping volumes to measure remedial system efficiency.

Operable Unit 1- Site 16: The Air Sparge/Soil Vapor Extraction (AS/SVE) system removes chlorinated VOCs from groundwater by the AS system pumping air into water-soaked soils below the water table to flush VOCs up to where they are removed by vacuum pressure via the SVE system.

The AS/SVE system has been operating as designed, and continues to effectively remove significant VOC mass from groundwater. It was therefore found to be protective of human health and the environment. Recommendations and follow-up actions to ensure long-term protectiveness include investigating the accumulation of rust and sediment or excessive condensate to increase system-operating time and performance.

Operable Unit 2 - Sites 10, 46, and 76: Four areas of soil contamination (identified as "hot spots" 1, 2, 3, and 4) with VOCs are being treated by soil vapor extraction (SVE) and monitored natural attenuation (MNA). The SVE system removes VOCs from the soil through a series of vapor extraction wells designed to remove VOCs by vacuum pressure. Institutional controls (i.e. land use controls) are implemented in conjunction with the other remedies to limit exposure to contaminants and to protect human health and the environment.

The operation of the SVE system appears to be most effective at soil "hot spots" 1 and 3, where VOCs continue to be removed at significant rates but the system does not appear to be as effective at soil "hot spots" 2 and 4. However, the overall remedy at Operable Unit 2 was found to be protective of human health and the environment based on the information evaluated. The MNA remedy for groundwater is expected to be protective given current information and conditions and will be verified through long-term monitoring. Land use controls (e.g. limiting land use to industrial use only, prohibiting intrusive activities, and prohibiting aquifer use) associated with the remedy have been effective in protecting human health and the environment.

Recommendations and follow-up actions to ensure protectiveness include investigating the existence of a suspected unidentified soil "hot spot" area, determining the need to modify the current remedy or implement alternative technologies to improve the cost-effectiveness of the remedy, evaluating alternative technologies or modifications to the SVE system to improve VOC mass removal from hot

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spots 2 and 4, investigating methods to minimize system shutdowns and increase system-operating time, and initiating long-term monitoring associated with the MNA remedy for groundwater.

Operable Unit 3 – Sites 6 and 7: The area of soil contamination is being treated by an air sparge (AS) system and monitored natural attenuation (MNA). The AS system removes VOCs from groundwater by pumping air into water-soaked soils below the water table flushing the VOC to the surface. Institutional controls (i.e. land use controls) are implemented in conjunction with the other remedies to limit exposure to contaminants and to protect human health and the environment.

The operation of the AS system was found to be protective of human health and the environment in the short term because it has been effective in reducing benzene concentrations within the "hot spot" area. The MNA remedy for groundwater is expected to be protective given current information and conditions and will be verified through long-term monitoring. Land use controls (e.g. limiting land use to industrial use only, limiting land use to vacant land [Site 7], prohibiting intrusive activities, and prohibiting aquifer use) associated with the remedy have been effective in protecting human health and the environment.

Recommendations and follow-up actions to ensure protectiveness include completing the planned expansion of the AS system to address areas of benzene contamination in soil identified outside of the AS system area of influence. In addition, long-term monitoring associated with the MNA remedy for groundwater will be initiated. Both efforts will ensure that the remedial action objectives for Site 7 are achieved.

**Where to find more information:**

Public Information Repositories: The final report of this 5-year review, along with other technical reports and information about the environmental cleanup program, are available to the public at Havelock Public Library, 300 Miller Boulevard in Havelock (phone 252-447-7509); and at MCAS Cherry Point Library, Building 298 on "E" Street at Cherry Point (phone 252-466-3552).

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB): The RAB is a community group that meets to discuss environmental cleanup activities at MCAS Cherry Point. Members of the public are always welcome at RAB meetings. The 5-year review was discussed at the 21 August 2002 and 18 February 2003 RAB meetings. For information on future RAB meetings, please contact the MCAS Cherry Point Joint Public Affairs Office.

Website: [http://www.lantops-ir.org/cherrypoint/site\\_info/Cherrypoint.htm](http://www.lantops-ir.org/cherrypoint/site_info/Cherrypoint.htm)

**Questions may be addressed to:**

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