

# Naval Weapons station cleanup moves forward

■ **Officials at the Naval Weapons Station Earle said they are in the action phase of resolving a variety of environmental problems.**

By **JEFFREY S. RUBIN**  
MIDDLETOWN BUREAU

THE LAST quarter of this year will be a busy one for officials working to clean up Naval Weapons Station Earle, now that they're wrapping up a detailed review of environmental problems at 31 sites throughout the base.

At a public meeting last night at the base's Colts Neck facility, Navy officials said they're now moving into the action phase of a long-term effort to resolve a variety of environmental problems at Earle's Colts Neck and Middletown township sites. Through the next few months, while they do some supplemental studies to better define the situation at a few sites, they also will be moving ahead with cleanup of some others, they told members of the Restoration Advisory Board.

The board is a 23-member group of environmental officials, Navy representatives and citizens, that offers input on the remediation plans. Last night, members discussed cleanup plans, and an investigation of Earle's sites by Brown & Root Environmental, a Pennsylvania firm that spent a year examining the nature and scope of the contaminations.

Most involve solvents, paints and metals from spent shells disposed of

years ago under once-accepted practices that would not meet current environmental standards.

There has been no evidence found that any of the sites poses a hazard to health or the environment, or that contaminants have gone off-base, Navy officials indicated.

Also, Lester Jargowsky, Monmouth County health coordinator, said samplings this summer outside the base, in the vicinities of Hockhockson and Pine Brooks, found good water qual-

ity.

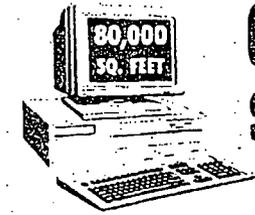
The investigative report was finalized last month, although some supplemental data will be gathered on a few sites. One is a site where shells were washed out for reuse. Sampling from one well revealed traces of trichloroethylene, a solvent. More testing will be done this year to better define the scope, said John P. Kolicius, remedial project manager for the Navy.

Also, more tests will be done around a site where a diesel fuel pipe

leaked years ago. The spill is being cleaned as part of a pilot program involving a pumping process called bioslurping. Later this year, officials will decide if this is effective and should be expanded. Bioslurping is process in which contaminants are pumped out and separated from groundwater.

In addition, two ranges will undergo soil washing and filtering to remove spent lead slugs next month. And three paint chip sites will be excavated in October.

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