

# Clean up begins at old dry cleaning facility

By NAVFAC MIDWEST PUBLIC  
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Due to suspected soil contamination from former dry cleaning facility operations, the area beneath and around the former building 105 was placed in the Great Lakes clean up program and clean up is set to begin April 17. The work is scheduled to end in August.

Caution signs will be posted around the remediation area. Anyone who will be near the area should proceed with caution and be aware of the actions being performed. Every effort is being made to minimize disruptions to normal activities at Great Lakes.

The work area will be fenced, posted and secured and will be restricted from general access and use. A privacy fence will be

installed and several noise reducing plans will be in place.

From 1939 to about 1994, building 105 operated as a dry cleaning facility to support Navy personnel at Naval Station Great Lakes. In 1994, building 105 was used as a vending machine storage and repair facility until the building was demolished in 2001.

Several soil-sampling events have confirmed the presence of contamination below the ground surface. The primary contamination is from chlorinated volatile organic compounds. These chemicals are used at dry cleaning facilities around the world.

Working closely with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and supported by Tetra Tech NUS, Inc., the Navy will begin performing a study to evaluate

the effectiveness of electric resistance heating as a method to clean up the VOCs in the soil. The Navy, IEPA and Tetra Tech aim to show ERH is an effective tool to clean up VOC wastes from soil and remove most of the contamination from the soil in the study area.

Currently, the area where building 105 was is now a parking lot across the street from the building 106, the fire station and building 178. The area to be cleaned up is at the corner of Sampson Street and Porter Avenue. The southern half, or more, of the parking lot will be closed in order to accommodate the clean up activities and

equipment.

ERH operates by installing electrodes into the contaminated soils, which in turn heat the subsurface soil close to the boiling point of water, vaporizing the VOCs. The VOCs are then collected through small wells installed in the clean up area. The collected waste will be properly disposed of and the contractor will ensure any water, steam and air are cleaned before being released.

For more information, contact Howard Hickey, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Midwest Environmental, at (847) 688-5999 Ext. 148.