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FACT SHEET

SOIL CLEANUP AT THE OLD FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING AREA

NAVAL STATION NEWPORT Installation Restoration Program Newport, Rhode Island

57104

The Cleanup Proposal...

After careful study of the Old Fire Fighting Training Area, the Navy proposes to remove contaminated soil and fill (Figure 1 on Page 2) from the property. The Navy proposes to:

- **Excavate** contaminated soil and debris.
- **Dispose** of contaminated soil and rubble in an approved off-site facility.
- **R store** the excavated areas for unrestricted use of the property.
- **Construct** a protective stone revetment and a fence to restrict access to the shoreline in this area.

How would the cleanup affect the local area?

The Navy invites you to attend the open house and meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board on July 16, 2003 to learn more about the proposed cleanup plan. The Navy will respond to your questions and concerns about the proposed cleanup and how it may affect you. For further information on the Restoration Advisory Board meeting, call Kathleen Marley at 401-841-2857.

What do you think?

The Navy is accepting public comment on this removal action from July 16 to August 15, 2003. You don't have to be a technical expert to comment -- if you have a concern or preference, the Navy wants to hear it before making a final decision.

To comment formally:

Offer oral comments during the Restoration Advisory Board Meeting on July 16, 2003.

Provide written comments by fax, or by mail postmarked no later than August 15, 2003 to:

Kathleen Marley
Naval Station Newport,
Environmental Department
1 Simonpietri Drive
Newport, RI 02841
Fax: (401) 841-2857

E-mail comments by August 15, 2003 to: marleyk@nsnpt.navy.mil

**Restoration Advisory
Board Meeting
to Present Cleanup Plan**

July 16, 2003

**Open House: 5:30-7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:00-9:00 PM**

**Oliphant School
Administration Building
Front Entrance
26 Oliphant Lane
Middletown, Rhode Island**

In accordance with the law that established the Superfund program (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act - CERCLA), this document summarizes the Navy's cleanup proposal. For detailed information on the options evaluated for use at the site, see the Old Fire Fighting Training Area Draft Final Feasibility Study (September 2002) available for review at the information repositories at the Portsmouth, Middletown, and Newport Public Libraries.

A Closer Look at the Navy's Proposal...

Excavate contaminated soil and debris.

Soil and fill at the site contains remnant contaminants from use of fuel and from fire training operations. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), common in oil and produced by burning, exist in the soil along with residual oil and fill consisting of brick, concrete and rubble. Some metals that exceed state criteria for residential property are also present in soils.

The areas where soil and fill excavation would occur are shown on Figure 1. Approximately 58,000 cubic yards of material (5 acres) will have to be excavated. The basic steps for this action are described below:

- Perform a pre-design investigation to confirm the extent of contaminated soil and debris.
- Remove the clean topsoil from the target areas.
- Excavate the contaminated soil and debris using conventional earth-moving equipment.
- Transport the contaminated soil/debris off-site in trucks.
- Dispose of this material at an approved off-site facility.
- Backfill the excavated areas with clean soil.
- Stabilize the shoreline and protect from erosion with a new stone revetment wall.
- Install a fence to restrict access to the shoreline in this area

What impacts would the cleanup have on the local community and the environment?

The construction effort is anticipated to require one six-month construction season, and residents may notice:

- Noise from construction activities.
- Increased truck traffic on the access road to Gate 1 and on local primary routes leading east or north.

Why Does the Navy Recommend this Plan?

The Navy recommends a removal action that uses excavation to address contaminated soil at the site. These approaches:

- Quickly meet risk reduction goals.
- Address the highest risk by removing contaminated soil from the environment and disposing of it properly, thereby ensuring long-term protection of human health and the environment.
- Allows unrestricted use of the property

Why is Cleanup Needed?

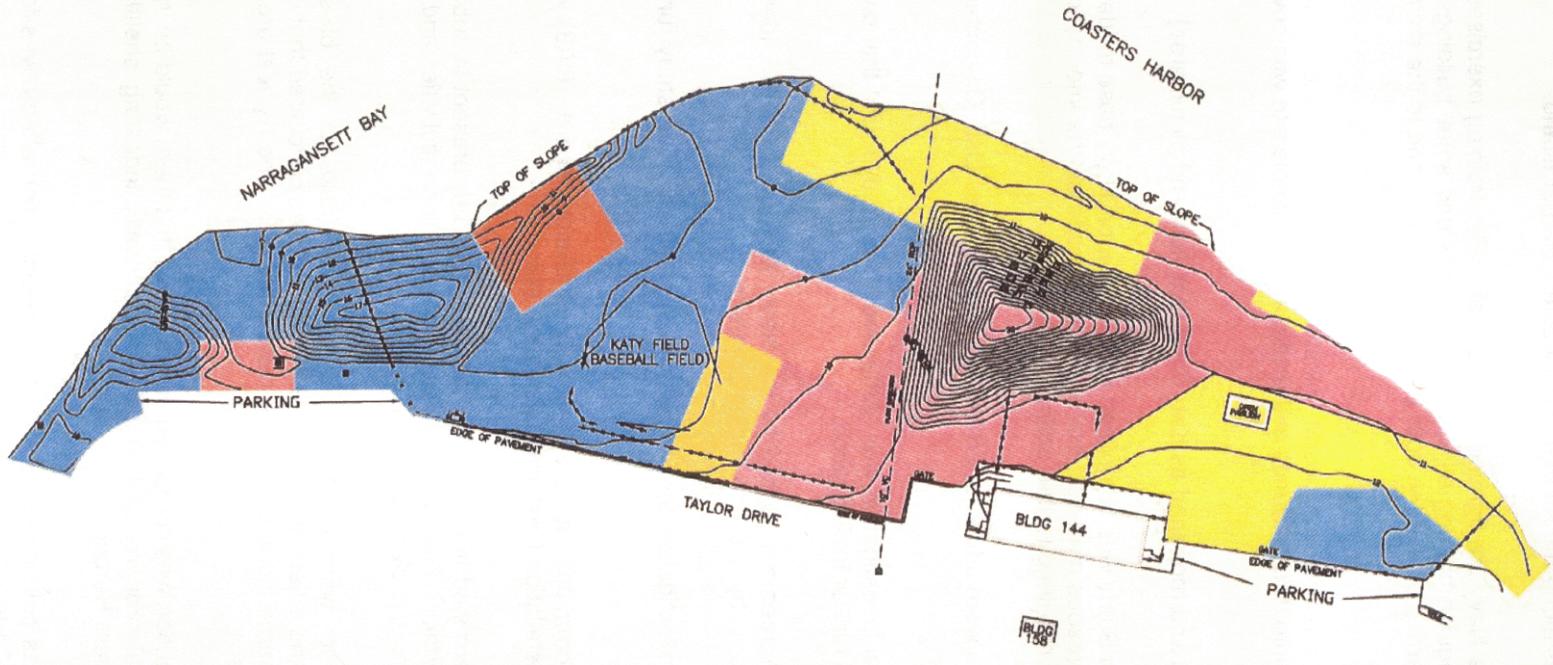
A human health risk assessment was conducted to evaluate possible risks from exposure to the contaminated soil.

Although there was measurable risk for health effects under certain conditions, the studies concluded that the most significant potential for risk was from exposure to subsurface soils during residential use of the site. In addition, State of Rhode Island policy is to assume exposure at recreational property is the same as at residential property.

The Navy would like to have unrestricted use of the property. Therefore, it has been determined that a removal action should be conducted to remove the soil that poses unacceptable risk for any potential future use.

LEGEND

-  EXCAVATE TO 10 FT. BELOW GROUND SURFACE
-  EXCAVATE TO 9 FT. BELOW GROUND SURFACE
-  EXCAVATE TO 8 FT. BELOW GROUND SURFACE
-  EXCAVATE TO 6 FT. BELOW GROUND SURFACE
-  EXCAVATE TO 4 FT. BELOW GROUND SURFACE
-  EXCAVATE TO 2 FT. BELOW GROUND SURFACE



APPROXIMATE SCALE
0' 150'
1 INCH = 150 FEET

FIGURE 1
CONCEPTUAL SOIL EXCAVATION
PLAN

Site History

The Old Fire Fighting Training Area, used as a fire training school by the Navy from the 1940s to the early 1970's, is located on 5.5 acres along the north end of Coasters Harbor Island.

1940s: The site opened as a Navy fire fighting training area. Fire training exercises were conducted, which involved using water to extinguish burning oil in a series of pits and small buildings, meant to simulate ship compartments. This water carried oil into the soils of the training area and to the shoreline of Coasters Harbor Island.

1972 to 1974: The fire training facility was closed. Most of the structures at the site were demolished, debris and some soils were pushed into three mounds at the site, and the whole site was covered with topsoil and seeded.

1976: The site was dedicated and reopened as Katy Field (ball field and picnic area).

1983: The Initial Assessment Study was completed for the Newport Navy base to identify, assess, and control contaminants from past hazardous materials management. Based on the information available, the site was not initially identified as a site requiring further action.

1989: NAVSTA Newport sites were added to EPA's National Priorities List. Oil-contaminated soils were found in a construction excavation.

1991: The Phase 1 Remedial Investigation was completed. This study found that contamination was present at OFFTA and recommended further investigation.

1992: A Federal Facilities Agreement, signed by the Navy, EPA, and RIDEM, identified responsibilities for cleanup activities and a schedule by which to implement them.

1992: Phase 2 Remedial Investigation for the site was completed. The study further delineates extent of contamination.

1996: A citizen's advisory committee called a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was established to assist the Navy in addressing the Installation Restoration program sites.

1997 and 1998: Studies determined that oil-related contaminants are present in subsurface soil between two and ten feet below ground surface. The Site was closed to recreational activities and fenced to restrict access during remaining investigations and cleanup.

1998-2000: Risk assessments were conducted to determine risks to the off-shore environment from contaminants in the site soil and adjacent offshore sediment. Studies concluded that contaminants are present at concentrations that pose some increased risk to marine animals. The highest area of risk was found near one of the storm drain outfalls.

2001: The Remedial Investigation was completed documenting that there would be increased risks to persons using the area for residential property and to persons habitually ingesting shellfish (47 meals per year) collected from adjacent Coasters Harbor.

2002: A Feasibility Study was developed to evaluate remedial action alternatives for the soils, groundwater and the marine sediments of Coasters Harbor.

What are the Cleanup Objectives?

Investigations concluded that there are contaminants in the soil at the site that pose unacceptable risk to persons using the site for uncontrolled residential and or recreational purposes.

The Navy identified three initial cleanup objectives to address the identified risks:

- Prevent people from contacting soil containing contaminants that exceed the acceptable levels for unrestricted use of the site.
- Address the soil in a manner that will prevent any degradation of groundwater at the site, and that will result in a decrease in groundwater contamination.
- Allow reuse of the site as an unrestricted area as soon as reasonably practicable.

Current state restrictions preventing shellfish collection, and Navy restrictions on use of the shoreline are the current measures in effect until a permanent solution can be reached to address contaminants in sediment. Additionally, groundwater shall not be used for water supply until a permanent solution can be reached to address contaminants in groundwater.

What are the Next Steps?

The Navy expects to have reviewed all comments and signed an "Action Memorandum" describing the chosen removal action in the Fall of 2003. The Action Memorandum and a summary of responses to public comments will then be made available at the information repositories at the Portsmouth, Middletown, and Newport public libraries. The Navy will announce the decision through the local news media, the RAB, and a community mailing list.

Is this the Final Action?

The proposed effort is an interim removal action that will contribute to the efficient performance of the long-term remedial action at the site as required by Section 104(a)(2) of CERCLA. Risks from contaminated groundwater and sediments still need to be addressed.

A final remedy for the entire site will be proposed to the public, as required by Superfund, before being selected. That final remedy will be proposed to the public through the RAB and other outreach efforts.

Different Kinds of Cleanup

The Navy looks at numerous technical approaches to determine the best way to reduce the risks presented by a site. We then narrow the possibilities to approaches that would protect human health and the environment. Although reducing risks often involves combinations of highly technical processes, there are limited basic options for the soil.

1. Take no action:

Leave the site as it is.

2. Isolate the contaminants:

Provide a barrier between contaminants and receptors (people and wildlife). Barriers can be as simple as fences (to keep people away) or as complex as multi-layer cover systems.

3. Remove contaminants:

Remove contaminated soil and fill, and dispose of it or treat it elsewhere.

4. Treat contamination on site:

Use a chemical or physical process on the site to destroy or remove the contaminants. Treated material can be left on site. Contaminants captured by the treatment process are disposed of at an approved disposal facility.

5. Monitor the contaminants:

Many remedies are combined with monitoring after completing the remedial action to assure that the action achieved the cleanup objectives. If contaminant levels increase again after the action, it is likely that another solution will need to be identified.

6. Interim actions:

An interim action may be selected for one part of the site until another part of the site is restored. For instance, if the removal of soils is likely to result in a reduction in groundwater contamination, the interim action for groundwater may be to monitor the groundwater until that reduction is confirmed.

The proposal for this site is to conduct an interim action (#6) to remove the contaminants (#3).

Soil Cleanup Alternatives for the Old Fire Fighting Training Area

The Navy developed three alternatives to address soil contamination. The Old Fire Fighting Training Area Feasibility Study report (draft final dated September 2002) was prepared to evaluate the options the Navy considered for cleanup. The options, referred to as "cleanup alternatives," are different combinations of ways to restrict access to, contain, remove, or treat contamination to protect public health and the environment.

During the upcoming comment period, the Navy welcomes your comments on the soil cleanup plan as well as the other approaches we evaluated. These alternatives are summarized below. A summary of the alternative evaluation is presented on Table 1 (attached). Please consult the Old Fire Fighting Training Area Draft Final Feasibility Study (September 2002) available at the Newport, Portsmouth, and Middletown public libraries for more detailed information.

Alternative 1: No Action

- Leave the site as it is.
- Conduct 5-year reviews of the site contamination and risks.

Alternative 2: Removal, Treatment, Backfill

- Remove soils exceeding cleanup levels from the site in sections.
- Segregate soil from debris, stones, and fill materials.
- Treat soils with a low temperature thermal system to remove PAHs.
- Treat soils using a soil washing processes to remove metals.
- Backfill excavated areas with cleaned soil.
- Dispose of debris and rubble off-site.
- Construct new stone revetment on shoreline.

Alternative 3: Removal and Disposal

- Remove soils exceeding cleanup levels from the site in sections.
- Segregate soil from debris, and fill materials.
- Dispose of debris, fill and soil at appropriate landfills.
- Backfill excavated areas with clean fill.
- Construct new stone revetment on shoreline.

The need to address soil at the site is based on the objective to reduce the contaminants present, and to have an unrestricted use of the property. Therefore, Alternative 3 is the Navy's preferred alternative for soil.

The Criteria For Choosing a Cleanup

The Navy uses three criteria to balance the pros and cons of removal action alternatives. Evaluation of these alternatives against these criteria is required for what are known in regulatory terms as "Non Time Critical Removal Actions" by CERCLA, the law that established the Superfund program. The Navy evaluated how well each of the cleanup alternatives developed for Old Fire Fighting Training Area meets these criteria (See Table 1 attached) in the Draft Final Feasibility Study Report (September 2002).

1. **Effectiveness:** Will it protect human health and the environment? Does the action comply with laws and regulations that guide cleanup? Will it be effective in the long term (will any permanent solution selected in the future likely have to undo any parts of this action)? The Navy will not choose a plan that does not meet this basic criterion.
2. **Implementability:** Is the alternative technically feasible? Are the right goods and services and space at an approved disposal facility available?
3. **Cost:** What is the total cost of an alternative over time? The Navy must find a plan that gives necessary protection for a reasonable cost.

Once comments from the EPA, the state, the Restoration Advisory Board, and the community are received, the Navy will answer those comments and modify/finalize plans, if necessary, before proceeding with the removal action.

For More Detailed Information

This publication summarizes a number of reports and studies to help the public understand and comment on the proposal for the site. The Draft Final Feasibility Study (September 2002) and supporting documents prepared for the site have been provided to the following information repositories for Naval Station Newport:

Middletown Public Library
W. Main Road
Middletown, RI
401-846-1573
Hrs. M-F 10 – 8;
F-S 10 - 5

Newport Public Library
300 Spring Street
Newport, RI
401-847-8720
Hrs. M 12:30 – 9
T-Th 9:30 – 9
F-Sa 9:30 – 6
S 1 – 5

Portsmouth Public Library
2658 E. Main Road
Portsmouth, RI
401-683-9457
Hrs. M-Th 9 – 8
F-S 9 – 5

Additionally, information can be obtained by contacting the Navy, EPA, or RIDEM at:

Franco LaGreca
Head, New England Restoration Management Branch
Engineering Field Activity Northeast,
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82
Lester, PA 19113
(610) 595-0567 ext. 166

Kymerlee Keckler
Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities, Superfund Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (HBT)
One Congress Street – Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023
(617) 918-1385 or (888) 372-7341

Paul Kulpa
Remedial Project Manager
Office of Waste Management
R.I. Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908-5767
(401) 222-2297 ext. 7111

The public is invited to attend the Open House from 5:30-7:00 on July 16, 2003 at the Oliphant School Administration Building, and attend the regularly scheduled Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For information on RAB meetings, Contact Kathleen Marley, 401-841-2857.

TABLE 1
COMPARISON OF SOIL ALTERNATIVES

Criteria for Selecting a Removal Action	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2 Removal, Treatment, Backfill	Alternative 3** Removal and Disposal
1 – Effectiveness (does it protect human health and the environment)	NO	YES	YES
2 – Implementability (can it be done)	YES	YES	YES
3 – Cost (what is the estimated cost for the project)*	\$70,000	\$14 ,000,000	\$9,000,000
Time to complete	(Not Applicable)	Approximately 2 years	Approximately 6 months

YES = Meets criterion

NO = Does not meet criterion

* Cost is estimated based on current data and conceptual design presented in the Draft Final Feasibility Study report (September, 2002). Actual costs will vary from those projected.

**This is the Navy's preferred remedy for the soil.

Use This Space to Write Your Comments Or to be added to the mailing list

The Navy wants your written comments on the options under consideration for reducing risk at Coasters Harbor Island from soil that has been contaminated by chemicals from the Old Fire Fighting Training Area. You can use the form below to send or fax written comments. If you have questions about how to comment, please call Kathleen Marley at 401-841-2857. This form is provided for your convenience. Please mail this form or additional sheets of written comments, postmarked no later than August 15, 2003 to:

Kathleen Marley
Naval Station Newport
Environmental Department
1 Simonpietri Drive
Newport, RI 02841
Fax: (401) 841-7071

Or E-mail to
Kathleen Marley at: marleyk@nsnpt.navy.mil

(Use reverse side and attach sheets as needed)

Comments Submitted by:

MAILING LIST ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CHANGES

If you did not receive this through the mail and would like to

be added to the site mailing list
 note a change of address
 be deleted from the mailing list

Name: _____
Address: _____

Please check the appropriate box and fill in the correct address information above.



TETRA TECH NUS, INC.
55 Jonspin Road • Wilmington, MA 01887-1020
Tel 978.658.7899 • Fax 978.658.7870 • www.tetrattech.com

C-NAVY-07-03-1634W

July 8, 2003

Project Number N4152

COPY

Mr. Franco LaGreca
Head, New England Restoration Management Branch
EFA Northeast, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62467-94-D-0888
Contract Task Order No. 0833

Subject: Final Fact Sheet, Soil Removal Actions
Old Fire Fighting Training Area
Naval Station Newport, Newport Rhode Island

Dear Mr. LaGreca:

Enclosed you will find two copies of the Final Fact Sheet for Soil Removal Action at the site referenced above. This fact sheet has been prepared from the draft delivered in May 2003, amended by comments from Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This fact sheet will be available to the public at the Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth public libraries starting July 9, 2003.

If you have any questions regarding this material, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Stephen S. Parker, LSP
Project Manager

SSP/rp

Attachment

- c: C. Mueller, NSN (w/encl. - 2)
- K. Marley, NSN (w/encl.)
- K. Keckler, USEPA (w/encl. - 2)
- P. Kulpa, RIDEM (w/encl. - 2)
- S. McFadden, TAG (w/encl. - 1)
- J. Stump, Gannet Flemming (w/encl. - 2)
- J. Trepanowski/G. Glenn, TINUS (w/encl. - 1)
- File N4152-3.2 (w/o encl.), N4152-8.0 (w/encl. - 1)

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