



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J.F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-2211

Mr. Mark Evans
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Northern Division
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August 24, 1994

Mark,

Overall, I think the fact sheet is informative, easy to follow and provides a good overview of the submarine base's installation restoration program. However, there are a few improvements that could be made that would allow for a better understanding of the program by those members of the community unfamiliar with the base's environmental cleanup program. (In addition to this letter, please see the comments on the attached fact sheet itself.) In general, I recommend cutting down on the acronyms, unnecessary capitalization and technical terms.

In the first section titled "Subbase Technical Review Committee Changes to Restoration Advisory Board with Co-Chair from the Community," three acronyms are introduced. I think it's important to keep in mind that this is one of the first fact sheets sent out on the subbase's environmental cleanup program. Terms such as "restoration advisory board," "technical review committee" and "installation restoration program" are foreign to most members on your mailing list. Thus, the acronyms of these terms are certainly bound to confuse.

Why not use this section to make a call for new RAB participation? The original letter the subbase sent out soliciting membership on the RAB was a little unclear, so why not make the offer once again in the fact sheet?

Will the meetings be held at night now? I think that's what you're inferring by stating the meetings will be "conveniently scheduled for maximum community participation."

Under "Removal Actions Planned for Two Subbase Sites," try to avoid unnecessary capitalization and reliance on program terms. For example, just write "removals" instead of "Removal Actions." Unless part of a specific title, (such as "Phase II Remedial Action Work Plan,") terms like "removal action" and "action memorandum" should not be capitalized. (I've attached a sheet that will help explain the copyediting marks I've made on the fact sheet.) Also, you should either direct the reader to see the map on page 2, or mention where on the base the DRMO and the Spent Acid Storage and Disposal Area are located.



On pages 2 and 3, you've provided a very nice overview of the program. You also did a nice job of letting people know where to go to find more information.

In the "For More Information" section, I realize that it's customary to list the public affairs officer as a contact, however, in my conversations with Lt. Brooks, he expressed some reservations over being listed as one of the primary spokesmen for the base's installation restoration program. Is he familiar enough with the program to list as the primary contact?

Finally, I've also enclosed a style guide our office put together to try to address a lot of the language used in the Superfund program. One of the recurring complaints we hear of from the general public revolves around our insistence on relying on overly technical and bureaucratic jargon in explaining Superfund cleanups. I hope you find it useful.

In the future, please ensure that I get a chance to review all outreach materials the subbase plans to send out. Thanks for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,



Lee Kay
Community Relations

cc: Christine Williams
Remedial Project manager

INFORMATION UPDATE

U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Submarine Base
New London
Office of Public Affairs

INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

Naval Submarine Base New London
Groton, Connecticut

DRAFT

August 1994

This Information Update provides the public with a brief summary of actions taken by the Navy and its contractors as part of the hazardous waste cleanup under the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) for the Naval Submarine Base New London (Subase). Additional, more detailed information on the cleanup actions summarized here is available from the sources listed at the end of the Update.

SUBASE TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC) CHANGES TO REMEDIAL ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) WITH CO-CHAIR FROM COMMUNITY

Reflecting the need for expanded community involvement as cleanup activities increase at the Subase, the Navy is converting the Technical Review Committee (TRC) to the Remedial Advisory Board (RAB). The change involves the following actions:

- expanding the number of community representatives;
- establishing co-chairs, one from the community, and one from the Navy;
- ensuring that meetings are open to the public and conveniently scheduled for maximum community participation.

The RAB will be the focal point for the exchange of information between the community and the Navy during the IRP. The RAB will provide an ongoing opportunity for individuals to review technical work and to provide information and advice to be used by the Navy in making cleanup decisions for the Subase.

The first RAB meeting is scheduled for the fall of 1994. (How will people know of the exact date?)

For more information about the Subase IRP
call

203-449-5191

REMOVAL ACTIONS PLANNED FOR TWO SUBASE SITES

This fall, the Navy plans to conduct Removal Actions for two Subase sites: Spent Acid Storage and Disposal Area and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO). These Removal Actions would minimize or eliminate potential threats to human health or the environment at the sites.

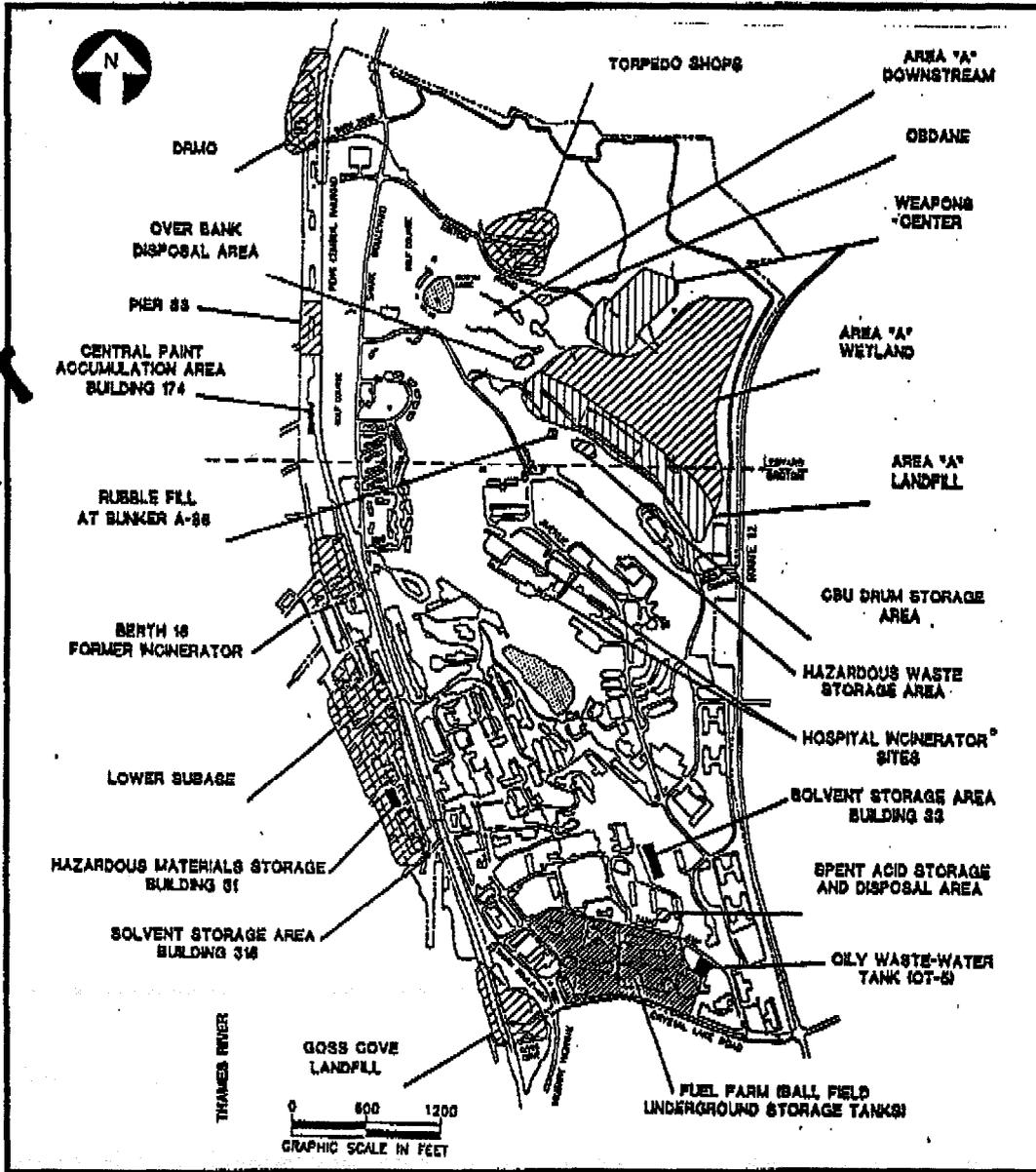
Proposed actions at the Spent Acid site include the excavation of an abandoned battery acid storage tank and lead-contaminated soil for disposal at off-site licensed facilities. At DRMO, the Navy proposes to excavate and dispose of soil with elevated levels of contaminants at an off-site hazardous waste landfill. Inaccessible soil and soil with low levels of contaminants would be contained on-site through the construction of a "cap" or surface barrier to prevent runoff from reaching the soil.

Two Action Memoranda will be available for public review at the end of August. The Action Memoranda describe site conditions and background, the potential threats to human health and the environment, and the removal alternatives considered for the projects. A 30-day public comment period will follow the publication of the Action Memorandum. (Encourage public comment)

In early August, the Navy will distribute a fact sheet describing the Removal Actions in more detail and providing information on public involvement.

IRP Study Sites

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The Subase Installation Restoration Program (IRP): A Comprehensive Approach

The Subase IRP includes 23 study sites which are shown on the above map. These sites vary considerably in size and complexity, as well as in their impact on the environment. At meetings and in interviews, community residents and officials have expressed concern about the effect of these sites on public health, the Thames River, groundwater in the area, and North Lake.

The field investigations, sampling programs and other technical work conducted at the Subase so far has enabled the Navy to assess the relative significance of these sites. Using the results of this work, as well as the input from the public, the Navy has developed a

comprehensive approach to an effective cleanup program. This approach is described in the Phase II Remedial Investigation Work Plan. The Phase II Work Plan is available for review at the Information Repositories listed at the end of this Update. The Work Plan and other documents at the repositories contain detailed information about the entire cleanup program, including the actions summarized here.

The table on the top of the next page shows the status of work at each of the Subase sites, as well as a projection of future work under the Phase II Work Plan. A few of the more significant actions are highlighted below.

Thames River Sampling and Analysis Program

The Navy is completing a sampling and analysis program to help assess whether Subase sites have had an impact on the Thames

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Subbase IRP Project Status - August 1994

These terms

Naval Submarine Base New London Installation Restoration Program - Project Status July 1994							
Project	Site Inspection (Step I)	Remedial Investigation (Step II)	Removal Action	Feasibility Study Draft Proposed Plan	Proposed Plan Final	Record of Decision	Remedial Design/ Remedial Action
CBU Drum Area	X*						
Rubble Fill at Bunder A-86	X*						
Torpedo Shops	X	O					
Goss Coys Landfill	X	O					
Overbank Disposal Area NE (OBIDANE)	X*						
Spent Acid Stor. & Dispos. Area	X	O	P				
Area A Landfill	X	X*		P	P	P	P
Area A Wetland	X	X*					
Area A Downstr. Watercourses	X	X*					
Over Bank Disposal Area (OBDA)	X	X*					
Def. Reutil. & Mark. Office (DRMO)	X	X*	P				
Lower Subbase	X	X*					
Haz. Waste Storage Facility	P						
Oil Waste Water Tank OT#5	X	O	P				
Hospital Incinerator	P						
Haz. Mats. Storage Building #31	X	P	P				
Solvent Stor. Area Building 33	P						
Solvent Stor. Area Building 316	P						
Weapons Center	X	O					
Berth 16/Former Incinerator	X						
Pier 33	X						
Fuel Farm (Ball Field USTs)	X	P					
Cent. Paint Accum. Area Bldg. 174	P						

P = Proposed for completion in 1994 O = Ongoing X = Complete X* = Supplemental (Phase II) investigations ongoing. Phase I complete.

River. A total of 16 sediment and 14 surface water samples were collected in November 1993. The water samples were taken from various locations at the surface and at about one foot from the river bottom. Biological samples were also taken from the river, including tissue samples from mussels. All samples are now being analyzed for a range of contaminants.

3 Arent some of these results in 2

Private Well Sampling Program

In addition to groundwater monitoring on the Subbase, the Navy has conducted a sampling program of private residential wells in the vicinity. The objective of this sampling program was to assess the impacts on nearby groundwater quality relating to past waste management and disposal practices at the Subbase.

The Navy conducted a total of seven rounds of sampling and analysis in two phases. The first phase was in late 1990 to mid-1991. The second phase began in the spring of 1993 and concluded last December. The results of the second phase of the monitoring program are still being analyzed, but the Navy has been able to make a preliminary determination that the Subbase does not appear to be affecting residential well water quality. For information about the private well sampling program, contact the Navy officials listed on the next page.

North Lake Update

The Navy has recently conducted supplemental sampling and testing of sediment and surface water from North Lake. Ground-

water samples have also been collected in the area near the lake. These actions were taken to confirm earlier test results which indicated that there is no risk to users of North Lake. Those earlier test results included several samples of sediment, groundwater and surface water. The recent surface water testing included weekly testing of the lake over a thirteen¹³ week period. The Navy has also blocked off an overflow pipe in the storm sewer that carries run-off from the Overbank Disposal Area (OBDA). Under high water conditions, this overflow pipe could have discharged to North Lake.

Removal Action at Building 31

A Removal Action is nearly complete to cleanup and stabilize a contaminated area at a Subbase site.

2 words

Building 31 was used in the 1970s to store hazardous and flammable materials. During site investigations, high levels of lead were discovered in the soils around the building. In actions nearly completed, the lead-contaminated soils were either sent to licensed facilities or stabilized on-site. Contaminated materials were also removed from the building and transported to off-site treatment and disposal facilities.

Do people know what this means?

This removal action addressed the worst areas of contamination at the site. The Navy is continuing to evaluate conditions at the sites to determine if further action is necessary.

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Groundwater Monitoring and Sampling Increases

In response to public concerns about the possible effect of Subbase sites on groundwater quality, the Navy is substantially increasing the number of groundwater monitoring wells at the Subbase.

The Phase II Remedial Investigation Work Plan provides for an increase in the total number of wells from the current 74 to over 140. The new wells are being placed in locations that will improve the Navy's ability to assess the overall impact of Subbase sites on groundwater quality. The new wells were installed between November 1993 and March 1994.

The adjacent table provides a breakdown of the current monitoring wells.

Subbase IRP Groundwater Monitoring Well Summary - July 1994			
Site	Previous	Phase 2	Total
CRU Drum Area	0	1	1
Rubble Fill at Bunder A-86	0	5	5
Torpedo Shops	3	10	13
Goss Cove Landfill	4	7	11
Overbank Disp. Area NE (OBDANE)	0	1	1
Spent Acid Stor. & Disposa. Area	0	4	4
Area A*	26	28	54
Over Bank Disposal Area (OBDA)	2	0	2
Def. Rentil. & Mark. Office (DRMO)	6	5	11
Lower Subbase	24	5	29
Oil Waste Water Tank OT#5	4	N/A	4
Berth 16/Former Incinerator	6	N/A	6
Pier 33	3	N/A	3
Fuel Farm (Ball Field USTs)	24	N/A	24

*Area A wells include wells in these contiguous areas: landfill; downstream; wetland; Weapons Center; and North Lake

FOR MORE INFORMATION describing the Subbase IRP and the specific technical work completed or underway at the Subbase contact the following Navy officials or visit one of the "Information Repositories" listed below:

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(203) 449-5191

Groton Public Library
52 Route 117
Groton, CT 06340 203-441-6750

Bill Library
718 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339 203-464-9912

Naval Submarine Base New London
Library
Naval Submarine Base New London
Groton, CT 06349
Contact: Betty Monahan 203-449-3723

EPA Records Center
90 Canal Street
Boston, MA 02114
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