

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**

September 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.

NAVY SETS UP NEW RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD WITH COMMUNITY CO-CHAIR

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 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

The change involves the following actions:

- increasing community membership;
- establishing co-chairs, one from the community, and one from the Navy;
- ensuring that meetings are open to the public and scheduled for evenings

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 November 9, 1994. Time and place will be announced in a future mailing. Persons interested in serving on the RAB should attend the meeting or call the number below.

**For more information about the Subase IRP
call**

203-449-5191

**For a description of the IRP process and
definitions of technical terms ask for the
Subase Community Relations Plan**

REMOVAL ACTIONS PLANNED FOR TWO SUBBASE SITES

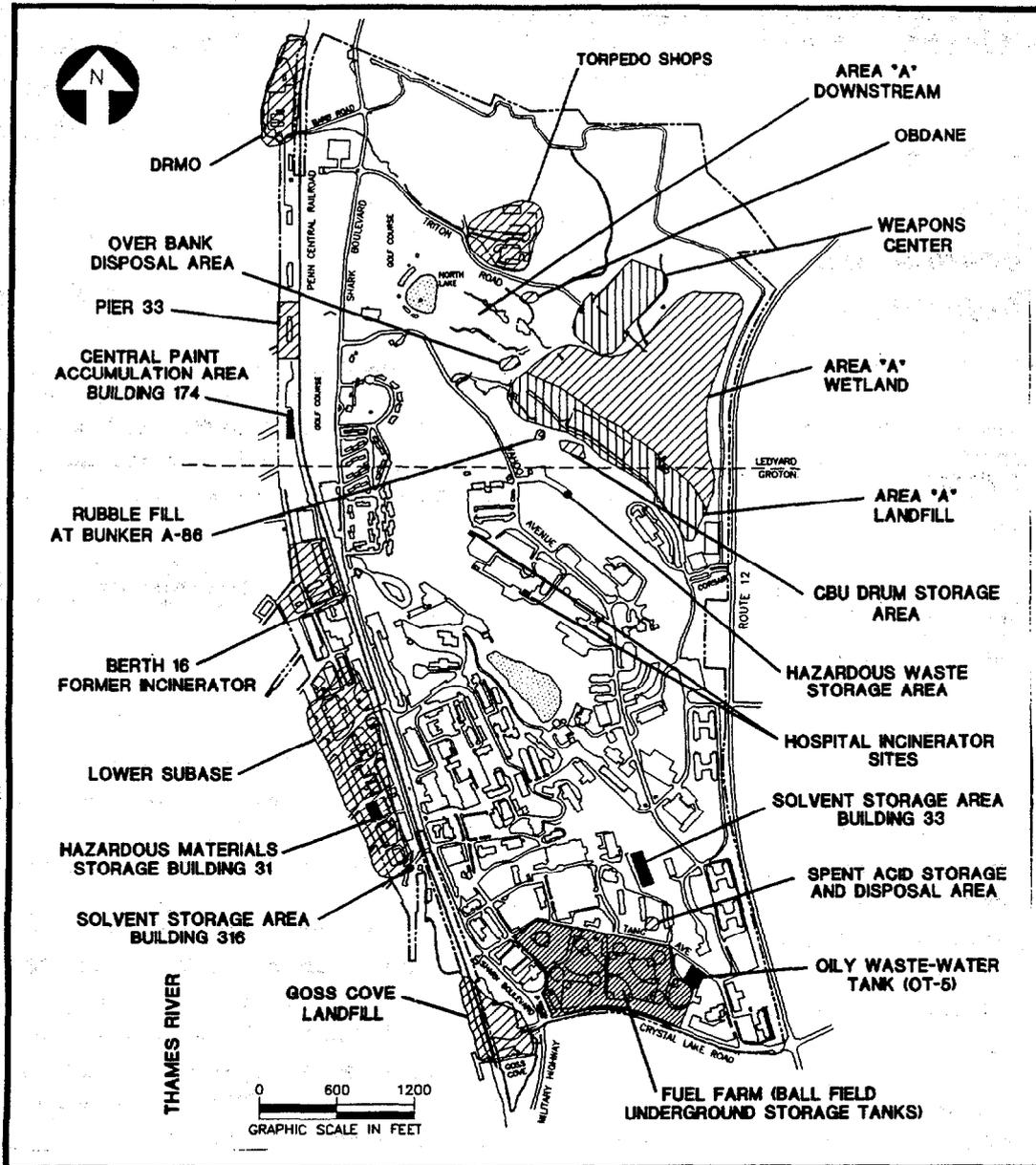
This fall, the Navy plans to conduct removals for two Subase sites: **Spent Acid Storage and Disposal Area** and the **Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO)** (see map on page 2). The removals would minimize or eliminate potential threats to human health or the environment at the sites.

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 the DRMO, the Navy proposes to excavate an underground tank and soil with elevated levels of lead, PCBs and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (CPAH) for treatment and disposal at an off-site hazardous waste facility. Soil with low levels of contaminants would be contained on-site through the construction of a "cap" or surface barrier to prevent exposure to humans.

An *action memorandum* will be available for public review in October. This document describes site conditions and background, the potential threats to human health and the environment, and the removal alternatives considered for the projects. The public is encouraged to provide information and opinions during a 30-day public comment period following publication of the *action memorandum*.

In the near future, the Navy will distribute a fact sheet describing the removals in more detail and providing information on public involvement.

IRP Study Sites



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 and 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

Subase IRP Project Status - August 1994

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 Cove Landfill	X	O					
Overbank Disp. Area NE (OBDANE)	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 Subase	X	X*					
Haz. Waste Storage Facility	P						
Oily 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.

Private Well Sampling Program

In addition to groundwater monitoring on the Subase, 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 Subase.

The Navy conducted 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 Subase 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 13 week period. The Navy has also blocked off an overflow pipe in the storm sewer that carries run-off from the Overbank Disposal Area. 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 clean up and stabilize a contaminated area at a Subase site.

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.

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

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.

Site	Previous	Phase 2	Total
CBU 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. & Dispos. Area	0	4	4
Area A*	26	28	54
Over Bank Disposal Area (OBDA)	2	0	2
Def. Reutil. & Mark. Office (DRMO)	6	5	11
Lower Subbase	24	5	29
Oily Waste Water Tank OT#5	4	N/A	4
Berth16/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:

Jim Brooks
Public Affairs Officer
Submarine Group TWO
Naval Submarine Base New London
Groton, Connecticut 06349-5100
(203) 449-3148

Richard Conant/Andrew Stackpole
Installation Restoration Program Managers
Naval Submarine Base New London
Groton, Connecticut 06349-5100
(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
Contact: Jim Kyed 617-573-5729

U. S. Department of the Navy
Environmental Department
Naval Submarine Base New London
Box 39
Groton, Connecticut 06349-5039

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