

September 23, 1994

Ms. Kymberlee Keckler
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region I
Waste Management Division - HAN-CAN1
J.F.K. Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

RE: Fact Sheet
Naval Submarine Base - New London
Groton, Connecticut
Atlantic Project No.: 1256-26-02

Dear Ms. Keckler:

On behalf of the United States Navy, Northern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command we are sending you for your review and comment herewith three copies of the fact sheet regarding the time-critical removal actions at the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office and the Spent Acid Storage and Disposal Area.

As stated in our previous correspondence, with your concurrence, the Navy would like to distribute the fact sheet as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the enclosed documents, feel free to contact Mark Evans or me.

Sincerely,

ATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES, INC.


Barry L. Giroux, P.E.
Project Manager

BLG:js
Enclosures

cc: Richard Conant (NSB-NLON)
Mark Evans (NOR-DIV)
Mark Lewis (CTDEP)
Leo Kay (U.S. EPA)

INFORMATION UPDATE

INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

DRAFT

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

October 1994

Proposed Removal Action at Defense Reutilization Marketing Office (DRMO) and Spent Acid Storage and Disposal Area (Spent Acid Area)

Introduction

The Navy is proposing removal actions for two sites at the Naval Submarine Base New London: the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office (DRMO) and the Spent Acid Storage and Disposal Area (Spent Acid Area). During its investigations, the Navy discovered that underground storage tanks and "hot spots" in the soil at both sites are contaminated with lead. Some of the "hot spots" at the DRMO also contain other contaminants, including PCBs. Under the Navy's Installation Restoration Program (IRP), the underground tanks and contaminated soil will be excavated and transported to off-site facilities for treatment and disposal. This information update is being distributed to inform citizens of this proposed action and to solicit input from the public.

What is the DRMO?

The DRMO is a four acre site next to the Thames River in the northwestern section of the Subase. The site was used as a base landfill and burning ground from 1950 to 1969. The DRMO also has a spent battery acid handling facility with an in-ground tank and associated pumping facilities for spent acid storage. The landfill and spent acid handling facility are now closed, but portions of the area are used for the temporary storage of various items such as scrap metal, submarine batteries and empty drums.

What is the Spent Acid Area?

The Spent Acid Area is located in the southeastern section of the Subase. The site consists of a flat area completely covered with concrete and pavement currently used for vehicle parking. The site was used before and after World War II for the temporary storage of waste battery acid in an underground tank and batteries on an adjacent concrete pad.

Why are Removal Actions Being Proposed?

Removal Actions are being proposed at the DRMO and the Spent Acid Area to minimize or eliminate human health or ecological risks from potential exposure to contaminants identified at the sites. When these Removals are completed, both sites will be restored for continued operation and use without threat to humans or the environment. The removal at the DRMO is aimed at removing five "hot spots." These "hot spots" contain one or more of three contaminants at levels exceeding federal or state standards. The contaminants of concern are lead, PCBs and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (CPAH). DRMO "hot spots" are areas where (1) levels of lead exceed 500 parts per million (ppm); or (2) levels of PCBs exceed 10 ppm; or (3) levels of CPAH exceed 100 ppm. The spent acid tank and associated concrete pad are also contaminated.

At the Spent Acid Area, the action will remove the underground tank and "hot spots" of soil contaminated with lead above the 500 ppm standard.

**What Would These
Removal Actions
Consist of?**

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The proposed action at the DRMO includes:

1) Excavation and removal of approximately 3400 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the "hot spots" described above. This soil will be transported to a licensed off-site facility for disposal. 2) Excavation, decontamination and removal of the underground tank and associated concrete pad. The tank and concrete will be transported to a licensed off-site facility for proper disposal. 3) Installation of an impermeable cap, made of both natural and synthetic materials, over about 61,000 square feet of the site. Soil with low levels of contaminants would be covered and contained on-site by the cap preventing any human exposure.

The proposed action at the Spent Acid Area includes:

1) Excavation and removal of approximately 200 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil from the "hot spots" described above. This soil will be transported to a licensed off-site facility for disposal. 2) Excavation, decontamination and removal of the underground tank. The tank will be transported to a licensed off-site facility for proper disposal. 3) Site restoration with clean backfill and pavement.

**What Other
Alternatives Were
Considered?**

Three other removal action alternatives were considered and rejected for the DRMO:

1) Impermeable Cap with No Soil Removal. This alternative would place an impermeable cap over the site without removing any contaminated soil. 2) Impermeable Cap with On-Site Soil Treatment. This alternative would treat and stabilize contaminated soil at the site. The treated soil would be re-deposited at the site and covered by the impermeable cap. 3) Off-site Soil Disposal with Asphalt Pavement. This option consists of removal and off-site disposal of contaminated soil and paving the site with asphalt.

Two other removal action alternatives were considered and rejected for the Spent Acid Area: 1) Impermeable Cap with No Soils Removal. This alternative would place an impermeable cap over the site without removing any contaminated soil. 2) On-Site Soils Treatment. This alternative would treat contaminated soil at the site through a "soil washing" process. The treated soil would be re-deposited at the site and covered by asphalt paving.

**How Can The
Public Become
Involved?**

An *Action Memorandum* will soon be available for public review at the information repositories at the Groton Public Library; the Ledyard Public Library; the Naval Submarine Base New London Library; and the EPA Records Center in Boston, MA. The *Action Memorandum* describes for each site the conditions and background, the potential threats to human health and the environment, and the removal alternatives considered for the project. A 30 day public comment period will follow the publication of the *Action Memorandum*. Comments received during this period will be summarized and addressed in writing by the Navy and considered in its selection of the final remedial action. Written comments should be addressed to Mr. Mark Evans • Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (Code 1823) • 10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82 • Lester, PA 19113-2090

For More Information

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