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FACT SHEET
REMOVAL ACTION
FOR CONTAMINATED SOILS AT
NAVAL BASE NORFOLK

As part of an ongoing program to assess sites where hazardous materials were stored, used, or disposed of, the Navy has confirmed soil contamination at a former drum storage yard in the Q-area on the Naval Base, Norfolk. This fact sheet describes interim measures to remove soil contaminated with oil and grease and other petroleum products. The removal action will prevent contaminant dispersal and allow construction of fleet parking facilities on the site. Further investigation of potential contamination, primarily through groundwater sampling, will continue after the interim cleanup of this site.

SITE HISTORY. The former drum storage area is located in the northeast corner of the Naval Base, near the intersection of Hughes Drive and North Rogers Street. The land was created by a fill operation in the early 1950's; the site has been used since then by Naval Supply Center Norfolk to store drums of new materials, mostly petroleum products, organic solvents, and paint thinners. Damaged and leaking containers were stored in the northern portion of the yard; oil-stained soils confirm past spillage in this area.

In early 1987, the drums were relocated to the east side of this area to make room for parking at Pier 10, a general berthing pier under renovation. These lots, currently under construction by Asphalt Roads and Materials Company, Inc. of Virginia Beach, will provide over 5,000 spaces for short-term fleet parking and will help to alleviate a severe shortage of parking facilities on the Naval Base.

CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATION. The drum storage area was originally identified in a 1982 survey of sites where hazardous materials were used, stored, or disposed of in the past. In 1983, four groundwater monitoring wells were installed around the site and soil and groundwater samples were collected to verify the presence of contamination. The results indicated groundwater contamination by organic solvents in one well; oil and grease and trace quantities of organic and inorganic constituents were detected in all the wells. The soil results indicated spotty contamination; no constituents were consistently detected in the soil samples.

Additional sampling events were conducted in 1984 and 1986 to confirm the initial results and determine the extent of contamination. High oil and grease concentrations appeared to be limited to surface soils in the northwest corner of the site. When tested for hazardous waste characteristics, however, the soil samples did not meet the definition of a hazardous waste. This means the soil would be classified as an industrial waste under state laws.

REMOVAL ACTION. The grading necessary for the parking lot project would expose the oil-contaminated soils, allowing contaminant transport through erosion, and would disperse the identified contaminated area, rendering subsequent cleanup efforts difficult if not impossible. For these reasons, the top six inches in an area of 4,240 square yards will be removed by the construction contractor and transported to a sanitary landfill for disposal as an industrial waste.

Excavation of the estimated 750 cubic yards will commence in ~~mid-September~~ ^{early November}. The soil will be disposed of at the Southeastern Public Service Authority's landfill in Suffolk. It will be transported in covered trucks by the construction contractor. Since access to the parking lot site will be restricted during the removal, we anticipate no risk to the public from this action. After the material is removed, the site will be regraded with clean fill and paved with asphalt.

Investigations to determine the extent of contaminated groundwater and the options for site cleanup will continue. We believe that removing the source of oil contamination is an important step in returning the groundwater to its natural condition. In addition to providing needed parking facilities, the asphalt will act as a cap to prevent surface water infiltration and potential contaminant transport through the soils remaining at the site. We will not hesitate, however, to conduct additional excavation in the future if conditions warrant.

SUMMARY. The Navy is taking actions to prevent the spread of contamination at this site, while allowing the construction of much-needed parking facilities. Subsequent investigations, which will entail additional groundwater sampling, will confirm the adequacy of these measures and prescribe necessary efforts to clean up this area to levels deemed acceptable by the state and the general public. Questions concerning this action may be directed to either of the following:

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