

0906- 8/25/02-00848

**Notice of Navy's Invitation  
for Public Review and Comment on the  
Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Report  
Site 9 and Vicinity**

**South Gate Annex  
Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia**

The Department of the Navy invites public comment on the Draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) report which presents information pertaining to a non-time-critical removal action (NTCRA) of calcium hydroxide that was deposited in a "lagoon" at Site 9 and vicinity as a byproduct of acetylene gas production at the facility from the 1940s until the early 1960s. Additional materials to be removed during this NTCRA include abrasive blast material (ABM), and construction debris. The calcium hydroxide lagoon is located along the property line separating the Norfolk Naval Shipyard's South Gate Annex and Atlantic Wood Industries, Inc. (AWII). The site is located south of Elm Avenue and just west of the Jordan Bridge, along the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. In addition, the work to be performed during this NTCRA includes the installation of an impermeable cover over an approximate 2-acre area within the AWII property adjacent to the Navy property.

The purpose of the NTCRA is to reduce potential risks to human health and the environment by removing approximately 21,000 cubic yards of calcium hydroxide from the site. In addition, 1,000 cubic yards of ABM and will be removed from the South Gate Annex, including drain pipes related to a former septic field. An impermeable cover will also be applied to an approximate 2-acre area within the AWII property.

The EE/CA examined three potentially acceptable alternatives for removal and disposal of the calcium hydroxide wastes deposited in a "lagoon" at Site 9 and vicinity. These alternatives included the following:

- Alternative 1 - No Action**
- Alternative 2 - Direct Excavation and Off-site Disposal**
- Alternative 3 - Direct Excavation, On-site Treatment, and Off-site Disposal**

Alternative 3 was recommended as the most effective alternative to meet the objectives set forth in the engineering evaluation. This alternative will remove the calcium hydroxide and other materials that have been identified at the site during past investigations. The excavated/treated material will be disposed of in a Navy-approved permitted landfill. This alternative will be protective of human health and the environment.

For the ABM to be removed from the South Gate Annex and the contaminated soils related to a former septic field, the EE/CA examined two potentially acceptable response alternatives. These alternatives included the following:

- Alternative 1 - No Action**
- Alternative 2 - Direct Excavation and Off-site Disposal**

Alternative 2 was recommended as the most effective alternative to meet the objectives set forth in the engineering evaluation. This alternative will remove the ABM and contaminated septic field soils identified at the site during past investigations. The excavated material will be disposed of in a Navy-approved permitted landfill. This alternative will be protective of human health and the environment.

Following the excavation and off-site disposal of these wastes, the site will require restoration. The following alternatives were evaluated for site restoration:

- Alternative 1 - Creation of an Expanded Tidal Inlet**
- Alternative 2 - Backfill to Pre-construction Elevation**
- Alternative 3 - Creation of an Engineered Tidal Wetlands**

Alternative 3 was selected as the recommended alternative for site restoration. This alternative is protective of human health and the environment, and provides an enhanced ecological habitat.

To reduce exposure to contaminated soils over an approximate 2-acre area within the AWII property adjacent to the Navy property, the EE/CA examined four potentially acceptable response alternatives. These alternatives included the following:

- Alternative 1 - No Action**
- Alternative 2 - Asphalt Cap**
- Alternative 3 - Soil Cover**
- Alternative 4 - Engineering Cap System**

Alternative 4 was recommended as the most effective alternative to meet the objectives set forth in the engineering evaluation. This alternative will reduce contaminant exposure to human health and the environment, and prevent uncontrolled vertical migration of hazardous substances into underlying groundwater. This alternative will be protective of human health and the environment.

The EE/CA is available for public review at the following location. In addition, a public awareness session to answer questions pertaining to the alternatives evaluated in the EE/CA will be held at this location on Tuesday, September 10, 2002 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Portsmouth Public Library Main Branch  
601 Court Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(757) 393-8501

Written comments will be accepted on the EE/CA from August 25, 2002 through September 25, 2002. Please send all written comments on or before September 25, 2002 to the following address:

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Code 1160  
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