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INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM



NAVAL AIR STATION
OCEANA

ATLANTIC DIVISION,
NAVAL FACILITIES
ENGINEERING COMMAND



FACT SHEET

INTRODUCTION

In 1975, the Department of Defense began the Installation Restoration (IR) Program. The mission of the Department of the Navy Installation Restoration Program is to identify, assess, characterize and clean up contamination resulting from past use and disposal activities, and to protect public health, welfare and the environment.

BACKGROUND AT OCEANA

NAS Oceana has been in existence since 1940 when it was established as a small auxiliary airfield. Oceana has expanded to more than 16 times its original size and is now a 6,000-acre master jet base supporting a community of more than 9,100 Navy personnel and 11,000 dependents. The primary mission of NAS Oceana is to provide the personnel, operations, maintenance and training facilities to ensure that fighter and attack squadrons on aircraft carriers of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet are ready for deployment.

In the past, the Navy, like many businesses and industries of the time, employed practices that today's science has shown were potentially harmful to people or the environment. Since 1981, NAS Oceana has had a comprehensive hazardous waste management program to ensure proper handling, collection and disposal, and to prevent releases to the environment. The Environmental Division at NAS Oceana also aggressively manages programs to ensure compliance with all laws and regulations concerning quality of surface water, ground water, soil, air and natural resources.

RCRA

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) was passed in 1976 as an amendment to the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965. RCRA establishes a national strategy for the management of solid and hazardous waste

operations. RCRA provides for cradle-to-grave tracking of hazardous material and includes record keeping on generation, transportation, storage and disposal of these materials. The passage of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) in 1984 greatly expanded authorities for requiring investigations and corrective action for releases at facilities that manage hazardous waste. The corrective action authority extends to a wide range of responses for releases to all media from waste management activities.

RCRA 3008(h) CONSENT ORDER AT OCEANA

A RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) was conducted in 1988 to examine potential contamination resulting from past disposal practices at NAS Oceana. As a result, a consent order was drafted in 1991 to study 60 sites where past activities were identified as having potentially impacted the environment. After some further review, clarification, and negotiations, this list was reduced to 19 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and the order signed in June of 1991. The SWMU areas were used for fire fighting training; hazardous waste storage; oil collection, storage, and disposal; pesticide and electrical transformer storage; and aircraft cleaning and maintenance.

The Consent Order specified four RCRA corrective action steps that would be required:

- o Interim Measures including a community relations plan.
- o RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI).
- o A corrective measures study (CMS) to identify appropriate remediation technologies for cleanup.
- o A corrective measures implementation of the selected remedies.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Three studies were conducted under the IR Program prior to conducting the RFA and issuance of the consent order:

- o Initial Assessment Study - 1984
- o Round 1 Verification Study - 1986
- o Line Shack Site Inspection - 1988

RCRA STUDIES AND CURRENT STATUS OF SWMU SITES AT NAS OCEANA

- o Interim RCRA facility Investigation (RFI) - 1990
- o RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) - 1993

Based on data obtained during the RFI coupled with the data from past investigations, the sites fell into four recommended action categories. These categories have been agreed to by the State and EPA and are as follows:

- o **Advance to CMS.** Sites that are sufficiently characterized and have contamination that warrants a corrective measures study (CMS) of potential remediation options (Sites 1, 2B, 2C).

- o **Continued RFI.** Sites that have contamination that has not been characterized sufficiently to either proceed to CMS or reasonably rule out further action (2D, 2E, 15, 25).

- o **Address Contamination.** Relatively small sites having petroleum contamination that are characterized sufficiently, and involve simple soil excavations, without a CMS (Sites 11, 18, 19, 20, and 24).

- o **No Further Study or Remediation.** Sites where investigation results do not indicate the need for additional study or consideration of remediation options (Sites 16, 21, 22, 23, and 26).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

NAS Oceana established a Technical Review Committee (TRC) and held the first meeting in January of 1989. The committee consists of state and federal regulators, representatives from the cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake, and community representatives. This group has met twice thereafter to review the investigative findings and conclusions, and to discuss the plans for future action.

The TRC group is converting in an effort to expand and provide an open forum for Navy - public interaction. This new group will be called the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB is an expanded group comprised of existing TRC members and sufficient representatives from the local community to reflect the diverse interests therein. Membership may include but is not limited to local officials, school district representatives, civic club reps and homeowner organizations. The expressed purpose of the RAB is to allow individuals from the community to have an interactive exchange of information with regard to the environmental remediation at NAS Oceana.

The Department of the Navy has interviewed community members and has drafted a community relations plan which is currently under review. The plan would further expand community relations and information exchange.

The objectives of all community relations efforts are:

- o Furnish accurate, timely, and easily understandable information to affected and interested parties.
- o Establish an effective mechanism for incorporating public comments and for considering public concerns in the decision-making process.
- o Establish a means of monitoring public concerns and information needs throughout the corrective action process.
- o Identify additional groups and individuals who may become interested as work progresses.
- o Modify the program as necessary to met the changing needs of the local community.



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