

# Environmental Update

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 1992

## Shipyard Sets

## Hazardous Waste

## Investigation

## Workshop Date

Provided by:

Environmental Affairs Office

Commander

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard  
Portsmouth, NH 03804-5000

## Workshop Date Set

October 20, 1992 was set as the date for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's next public workshop. The workshop will be held to discuss the draft RCRA Facility Investigation Report. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm at the Traip Academy, Williams Road, Kittery, ME. The next information you will receive is a factsheet later this month. The factsheet will explain what we know to date on the onshore investigations which is the purpose of the 20 October Public Information Workshop.

## What is the TRC?

The purpose of the Technical Review Committee is to review and comment on the environmental investigation and proposed remediation at the Shipyard.

The committee was established in 1987 by Portsmouth Shipyard and includes representatives from the Northern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, U.S. EPA Region I, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, New Hampshire Fish and Game, and members of the local community.

The TRC is an important link in the communication chain between Navy technical experts, the regulators, and the local community. A total of eleven meetings have occurred approximately every 60 days over the past two years.

Topics vary according to current events, ranging from the presentation of sampling results to reviewing draft reports and to discussing future activities.

## Meet the TRC Community Representatives

There are a total of six community representatives on the TRC. In an effort to introduce to the reader the TRC members, each community member active on the TRC was asked about their family, education, and occupation. In addition, each member was asked: How do you, as a TRC member, feel about the job the Shipyard is doing to identify what hazardous waste exists on-site and what actions may need to be taken? The answer to this question follows a brief biographical sketch of each member.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The TRC has an opening for a new member who must be able to meet the following qualifications.

- attend bimonthly meetings at the shipyard
- review technical documents
- represent community interests
- provide technical expertise appropriate to needs of the investigation
- resident of Portsmouth/Kittery area

If interested, please contact Jim Tayon at (207) 438-3832

Remember,  
please recycle





**Philip McCarthy**

**Family:** Phil is married with 2 sons.

**Education:** Phil received his B.S. at the University of Maine in Math/Science, and has a Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling.

**Occupation:** He has been the Kittery Town Manager for 3 1/2 years.

*I have been very impressed with the attitudes and actions with the Shipyard investigations. All the players; the Navy, EPA, State and particularly the Shipyard have been movers and shakers, pushing forward and being very thorough during the process. The Shipyard has been quite concerned with the well-being of the community.*

**Jeffrey K. Clifford, P.E.**

**Family:** Single

**Education:** Graduate of Yarmouth High School in Maine, and graduated from the University of Maine in 1981 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering.

**Occupation:** Civil Engineer, P.E., for G&Underwood Engineers, Inc. Member of Kittery Conservation Committee and Co-chair of Wetlands Task Force for Town of Kittery.



*The Navy has been outstanding at identifying the waste at the Shipyard and we can hope that the Navy will do the same job to see that cleanup is done expeditiously. The timing of the cleanup is my main concern at this point.*



**Maria Barth**

**Family:** Maria is married and has 3 children. Maria was born in Sweden and moved to the USA after high school.

**Education:** She graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Masters Degree in Education.

**Occupation:** Maria participates in several organizations as an interested public member. She is an active Town Council Person, a member of the Executive Board of the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, and is active in children's issues.

*I see the Navy as making a sincere effort. However, I'm looking for the Navy to be specific with regard to cleanup needs. The Jamaica Island Landfill is of most concern to the local community and the first report of the Jamaica Island Landfill is not out yet. We should not concentrate*

*on the past but instead deal with what is there today and clean what has to be cleaned up.*

*There is suspicion in the public's mind that risk assessments are negotiated, that is, that there is some sort of compromise with the health of the public or the ecology. We have to be honest and have corrective measures that are appropriate.*

*There should be a continued effort to respond to public interest and to meet their needs for information, recognizing that a continual reassessment is necessary.*

*It should be part of the public information that back in the 1970s no one, not even EPA, understood the ramifications of dealing with hazardous waste.*



Onil A. Roy

Family: He is married with 3 children, and has 2 grandchildren.

Education: Onil is a graduate of Winslow, Maine High School. B.S. at the University of Maine-Presque Isle.

Occupation: Onil has been a resident and teacher in Kittery for 28 years. He teaches freshman science, biology, and environmental science at Traip Academy.

*I'm impressed by how the whole procedure is moving, by all the experts that have been called in, the testing of all the sites, gathering of data and providing all of the information in an*

*open meeting with no attempt to cover up or to hide anything.*

*This is a unique effort to make everyone in the surrounding area understand that there is an effort to do the right thing in a sincere way. The Navy is making a strong effort to make Kittery apprised of the environmental situation. Involving the University of New Hampshire and the Jackson Estuarine Laboratory was an excellent decision because they are familiar with the area and have the expertise for the estuary investigation.*

**Chris Mitchell, P.G.**

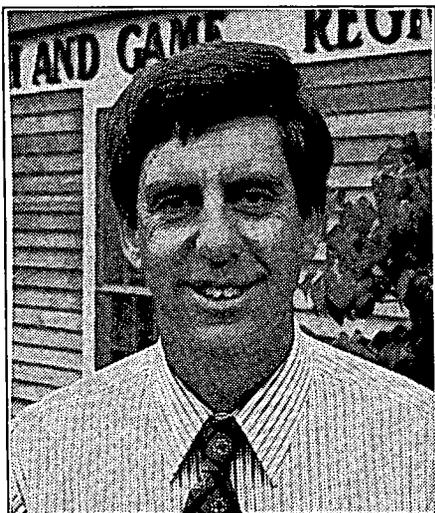
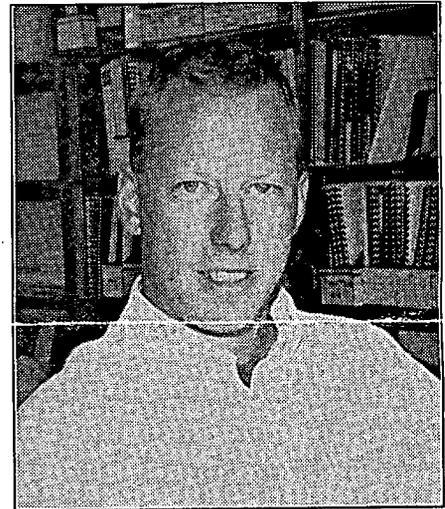
Family: Chris is married with 1 daughter. He has been a Kittery resident for 5 years.

Education: B.A. Geology 1982, Lawrence University, Wisconsin; Masters Degree in Geology 1988, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Occupation: Senior Geologist for Fugro McClelland. He was past chairman of the Kittery Recycling Committee and Treasurer of the Kittery Point Fire Department. He has a particular interest in "finding

realistic technology solutions to environmental problems." Chris is on a 2-year assignment in England. The TRC wishes to thank him for his insight and exceptional technical reviews. We look forward to his return.

*Navy is meeting or exceeding the schedule set forth by the regulatory process. Everything I've seen about the Navy is that they are interested in moving the investigations, their consultants and the regulatory authorities to the optimum. However, the process is painfully slow.*



John Nelson, Jr.

Family: John is married with 2 children.

Education: John is a graduate of Braintree, Massachusetts High School. B.A. Biology 1967, St. Anselm's College, New Hampshire; Masters Degree in Marine Zoology 1968, University of New Hampshire; Masters Degree in Business Administration 1982, Rivier College, New Hampshire; Masters Degree in Civil Engineering 1986, University of New Hampshire.

Occupation: He is Chief of Marine Fisheries Division, New Hampshire

Fish & Game Department. He has lived in Portsmouth since 1975 and has worked on the estuary since 1969.

*The Shipyard is doing a good job, certainly an adequate job. Efforts that have been performed so far are a credible effort to characterize the chemical contaminants from the various disposal sites. As far as the offshore studies, I am looking forward to evaluating the data. We've seen a synopsis of the offshore results, but now we need the data so we can assess the information.*

## Current Events with the TRC

The primary discussion at the Shipyard's August TRC meeting focused on the Shipyards community relations activities. The goals of community relations activities are to provide accurate and timely information to the public, address community concerns and issues, and involve the community in the decision-making process concerning the hazardous waste investigation at the Shipyard. To accomplish these goals, a Community Relations Plan (CRP), discussed below, is being developed.

## Community Interviews

Many community members have been visited by Jim Tayon, Shipyard Environmental Engineer, to be interviewed about their knowledge of the ongoing hazardous waste investigation. The one-on-one interviews with community members assisted the Shipyard in gauging their concerns about the investigation while also providing the public an opportunity to ask questions. The questions asked during the interviews also helped the Shipyard understand how or if communication between the Shipyard and the public was lacking, and exactly what kind of information the community was interested in receiving. Approximately 28 community members were part of the interviewing process. Those interviewed included State and local politicians, teachers, lobstermen, business people, scientists, schoolchildren, and homemakers.



Drawing by local artist Bob Carignan

## Community Relations Plan

Once public concerns and information needs are gauged, they are placed into the CRP whose main purpose is to identify effective ways to provide timely information to the public. The CRP includes a site description, an overview of the community relations history, a listing of community issues and concerns, and the techniques identified to meet the community's information needs, roles and responsibilities of CRP participants, and a point-of-contact at the Shipyard. The CRP will be available in the public repositories this month.

Community Relations activities outlined and scheduled in the CRP include: News releases, 2 repositories established at the Portsmouth and Kittery public libraries, a mailing list that is growing weekly, development of a series of Environmental Updates and fact sheets, a video for use at small community meetings and in the repositories, and public workshops at project milestones. Other community relations activities will be expanded as necessary to meet new concerns and changes throughout the investigations.

## Puffins in Maine?

In the most recent Update, we included a sketch of puffins drawn by local Shipyard artist Bob Carignan. The puffin is not a seabird commonly seen along the Maine and New Hampshire coast line, and some readers have asked why the picture was included in the newsletter.

Actually, in the 1800s, the colorful puffins nested by the thousands on Maine's coastal islands. In 1880, the puffin was close to being wiped out by humans who used their feathers in women's hats, and consumed as both poached puffin and puffin eggs. Also, the increased population of gulls bullied the shy puffins out of food and nesting sites and ate puffin eggs and chicks. In an attempt to coax the puffins back to Maine coastal islands, decoys and solar-powered tape recorders playing taped bird calls have been used. Since then, a small number of puffins have returned to Maine, demonstrating that it's possible, but difficult, to restore the coastal seabirds to old habitats. Perhaps in the future the puffin will again be a part of the coastal shores.

## U.S. Navy . . . *Earth Friendly*

