

Contamination public workshop

KITTERY — Portsmouth Naval Shipyard will report the findings of a 1½ year study of toxic contamination in the Piscataqua River Wednesday night (May 12) in a public workshop, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., at the Kittery Lions Hall.

According to James Tayon, the shipyard's toxic waste cleanup project engineer, no major environmental contamination has been found in the river, but some stress on plants and animals in the estuary does exist.

"There is some contamination in a few areas, but nothing that warrants immediate action," he said in a telephone interview Monday. "We really don't know if it's coming from the shipyard, downstream or upstream, because of tidal flushing action."

The meeting includes a health assessment report from a toxicologist, as well as presentations on the results of tests taken on 12 different organisms living in the river including eelgrass, lobsters, flounder, and mussels.

The agenda also calls for a presentation on where the Navy is at in its efforts to clean up 13 toxic waste sites on the shipyard that have resulted in chemical releases into the environment.

Tayon expects the major portion of the cleanup will be completed by the Navy within the next three to four years.

"Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes."

Oscar Wilde

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