



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Kittery, Maine

Installation Restoration Program RAB Update: May 25, 2000

Navy Investigates Jamaica Island Landfill for Buried Metal Debris

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Installation Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met on Thursday, May 25, 2000 to hear the updates on the Jamaica Island Landfill (JILF) test pit work and the Operable Unit 3 (OU3) Feasibility Study (FS).

At the March 2000 RAB meeting, the Navy discussed the test pitting activities that were conducted at the JILF in late February/early March 2000. At the May 2000 RAB, the Navy provided an update on the results of the test pitting and provided a photograph presentation showing test pitting at 11 of the 25 test pits at the JILF. The Navy dug the test pits at the JILF to investigate the landfill contents. Pipes, rebar, steel girders, and other construction debris were the main waste materials found in the test pits. At one test pit in the shallow soils (above the high tide groundwater level), approximately 40 drums were uncovered. The majority of the drums were intact and were removed from the test pit, properly sampled and packaged, and shipped offsite for disposal. Most the drums contained a non-fluid tar-like substance. These drums were sampled and found to contain coal tar (like roofing tar). The materials in the drums were found to be non-hazardous. Data for the soil samples collected from the test pits (one soil sample was collected from each test pit) will be available soon.

OU3 Feasibility Study Update Presented to RAB

The OU3 FS is currently being revised to address issues raised by the EPA, MEDEP, and RAB. The Navy, EPA and MEDEP developed a schedule to resolve the concerns and the Navy has prepared several interim submittals providing proposed revisions to the OU3 FS. One of the major changes to the OU3 FS is the determination that any cap used at the JILF needs to conform to MEDEP hazardous waste standards. Several other changes have also been proposed to the OU3 FS. The Remedial Alternative of complete excavation has been eliminated from further evaluation because of time, cost, and human health and environmental safety concerns. In addition, wetlands for erosion controls and/or in combination with other standard erosion control measures (e.g., riprap) is being considered for all alternatives except the No Action alternative (Alternative 1).

Questions?

If you would like more information, please contact:

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If you know anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list to receive these RAB updates and Installation Restoration fact sheets, please contact the Public Affairs Office at the address and telephone number listed above. The next RAB meeting will be held on August 3, 2000 at the Courtyard Marriott, in Portsmouth, NH.