



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Installation Restoration Program RAB Update: September 12, 2002

A meeting of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Installation Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was held on Thursday, September 12, 2002 at the Best Western in Portsmouth, NH. The agenda included two items:

- An update on the Jamaica Cove wetlands construction
- A presentation on the draft Site 10 Additional Investigation report.

Waste consolidation activities for the construction of wetlands in Jamaica Cove completed today!

Phase I of the remedy for OU3 (Jamaica Island Landfill) is near completion, with the completion of the waste consolidation activities. These activities included:

- Construction of a rock berm along the pre-excavation shoreline.
- Removal of the waste materials north of Parker Avenue and consolidation on the remaining portion of the landfill
- Partial filling of the excavation with soil suitable for planting of wetland plants (salt marsh plants)
- Placement of rip-rap along the post-excavation shoreline to provide additional shoreline erosion controls.

Planting for the wetland's construction will be conducted in the Spring of 2003 to ensure the best conditions for successful establishment of the wetlands.

Lead appears to be the primary chemical of concern at Site 10 based on the results of the Site 10 investigation conducted in November 2001.

The Navy conducted an additional investigation at Site 10 in November 2001. The site was contaminated by lead battery acid drainage operations conducted in Building 238 prior to 1984. The site is located in an industrial area of the Shipyard and it is covered by the Building 238 and asphalt outside the building. The site is located on filled land, along the Piscataqua River and a steep quay wall forms the shoreline of the site. The investigation was conducted to provide sufficient data to evaluate potential human health risks and offshore impacts from the site. Metals data from soil and groundwater samples collected during the investigation were combined with the existing data for the site (from 1991 and 1998 investigations) to provide an initial understanding of potential risks and the need for additional evaluation.

The evaluation of the soil data showed:

- Lead is the primary chemical of concern based on the wide distribution and the high concentrations detected near source areas. High concentrations of lead were detected in a crawl space under Building 238; however access to the crawl space is restricted. Sources for the lead are likely from the battery operations as well as the materials used to fill the site before construction of Building 238.
- The Navy has sufficient data to proceed with the human health risk assessment for the site.
- Further investigation of the extent of high lead concentrations in the crawl space is necessary to determine what remedy is best for the soils in the crawl space.

The evaluation of the groundwater data showed:

- Groundwater at the site does not pose a concern for a person at the site (i.e., a construction worker excavating soil at the site who may come in contact with the groundwater); however, as part of the human health risk assessment, the Navy will re-evaluate whether lead is a potential concern based on any newly available screening levels for lead
- The concentrations of chemicals in site groundwater, which is moving to the offshore, would not adversely impact the quality of the river water.

Next Meeting Announced

The next regular meeting of the RAB will be held on:

Thursday, November 14, 2002 beginning at 7:00 P.M.
Best Western, Portsmouth Traffic Circle, Portsmouth, NH

The agenda will include a presentation of the draft final Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for Site 30 (Building 184). As usual, interested members of the public are welcome.

Questions?

To be added to the mailing list please contact the Shipyard Public Affairs Office at the address or telephone number listed.

If you would like more information on this or others matters relating to the Installation Restoration Program at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, please contact:

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