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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "YARD CLEANUP ESTIMATED AT \$88M" NSY PORTSMOUTH ME  
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# Yard cleanup estimated at \$88M

By Larry Favinger  
Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH— There are few certainties involved with the Superfund cleanup at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, but two of them are the process itself is slow and frustrating, and it's expensive.

That was part of Carolyn Lepage's message as she spoke to the annual meeting of the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League last night at the Urban Forestry Center.

Work on the cleanup began in the mid-1980s, she said, and there is "still a long way to go in cleaning up contaminants at the shipyard." The Navy, or Department of De-

fense, has already spent more than \$17 million in studies and action and she estimated more than \$88 million will be spent before the job is completed in September of fiscal year 2016.

Lepage, of Lepage Environmental Services in Auburn, Maine, works with SAPL and the Restoration Advisory Board which monitors the Superfund work. She talked about the various sites under study at the yard, noting new ones had been looked at this summer which may be added to the existing list. If that happens, she said, the process may slow even further.

### Consultant: Job won't be done until 2016

Lepage said the shipyard is located on five islands which have become one because of the use of fill, and that's part of the problem. When there is filling taking place, she said, "anything you don't want gets thrown in there and that's what causes the problems."

Superfund, she said, looks at "things that are not really active anymore" the results of what took place "back when it was legal" to fill areas without licenses or concerns.

She said the system was to bury things and out of sight, out of mind. Now those sites are of major concern because of their impact on

the environment.

An example, she said, was contaminants found in the area of industrial waste outfalls, now referred to as Site 5. Metals, cyanide, PCBs, phenols, oil and grease were found there so the area was dredged and the dredged material was disposed of at the Jamaica Island Landfill, now known as Site 8.

Jamaica Island Landfill is about 25 acres in size and was used from 1945 to 1978. Disposed there were solvents, sludges, asbestos, incinerator ash, and, it is rumored according to Lepage, a two-man submarine.

None of the sites at the yard was nearing completion at this time, but work is continuing, Lepage said.