



N00101.AR.002153
NAS SOUTH WEYMOUTH
5090.3a

172

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
ENGINEERING FIELD ACTIVITY, NORTHEAST
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
10 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY
MAIL STOP, #82
LESTER, PA 19113-2090

IN REPLY REFER TO

30 August 2001

NOTICE TO DISTRIBUTION

Ladies and Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
(TRC) MEETING FOR NOMANS LAND ISLAND NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE, CHILMARK, MA

The Navy is progressing with environmental work at Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge in relation to the Navy's past use of the island. Representatives of various local, state, federal and tribal agencies that make up a Technical Review Committee (TRC) are participating with the Navy in determining appropriate actions. **The next meeting of the TRC will be held on September 6, 2001, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Menemsha School, Chilmark, MA, and will be open to the public.** The agenda includes a continuing discussion of environmental fieldwork to be conducted in September and October and additional research of historical information that will be conducted through the end of this year.

Since the last TRC meeting on June 21, 2001, we have developed a detailed Statement of Work for the planned fieldwork. This statement of work is available at the information repositories located at the offices in the Towns of Chilmark and Aquinnah, the Wampanoag Tribal Administration Building in Aquinnah, and the Caretaker Site Office at the former Naval Air Station, South Weymouth MA. In summary, the major elements of fieldwork include 1) additional testing in one area known as the "Former Debris Area" to better understand the higher levels of metal contamination found at that location; and 2) sediment and shellfish testing in the shallow water around Nomans Land Island to determine if any contaminants are migrating off of the island, or might occur from ordnance in the water. Also, a more detailed scientific analysis of the possible effects of environmental conditions on the ecology of the island is included in the scope of work (called a "stage 2 ecological-risk analysis").

An aerial magnetometer survey on and around the island will also be conducted in mid September to provide additional information that may help guide environmental investigations to a satisfactory completion. This state-of-the-art technology will add to the other information that has been used to identify specific areas for environmental investigation, and thus help ensure that overall conditions are adequately assessed. Many of the TRC participants are excited about the potential contribution this survey will make to the environmental investigations. You may see the helicopter coming and going from the Martha's Vineyard airport during the survey.

Finally, the additional research planned for later this year includes a search for historical records, review of historical aerial photographs, and interviews with people who may have additional knowledge related to environmental conditions on and around the island. It is a significant effort to find, collect and analyze this information, but along with the other work being conducted, will further ensure that environmental conditions resulting from the Navy's former use of Nomans Land Island have been adequately identified.

Again, thank you for your interest in Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,



R. W. WARNER, P.E.
by direction

(Note: Individuals wishing to be added or removed from this mailing list for environmental information about Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge, Chilmark MA should send their request to the above address.)