

**Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division
Trenton, New Jersey**

Fact Sheet for Installation Restoration

Sites 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9

24 November 1997

Facility Description

The Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division, Trenton (NAWCADTRN), a testing facility for military aircraft engine performance, is located on approximately 66 acres in Ewing Township, Mercer County, New Jersey. The site is five (5) miles northwest of Trenton, NJ, thirty (30) miles northeast of Philadelphia, PA, and two (2) miles north-northeast of the Delaware River. As part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1993, the NAWCADTRN was designated for closure in 1998.

Site 2, Fire-Fighting Training Area

This area, used for fire fighting training activities, was approximately 50 feet in diameter and was used by Navy personnel from 1956 to 1965. A fire ring 20 feet in diameter by 1 foot deep located within the fire fighting area was periodically filled with water and floating waste fuel/solvents. The waste fuel/solvent mixture was ignited and extinguished as part of fire-fighting training exercises. Fire-fighting exercises occurred approximately two to three times per year from 1956 to 1965. Approximately 200 gallons of waste fuels/solvents were burned per exercise. Site 2 received an estimated 3,000 to 6,000 gallons of burned waste petroleum, oils, and lubricants during the nine years of operation.

Site 3, Former Sludge Disposal Area

Site 3 was used as a disposal area for waste sludges generated from the on-site industrial wastewater treatment plant (IWTP) between 1958 to 1968. Two types of sludge were disposed at Site 3. One type was a dewatered sludge from the drying beds (Site 9) near the IWTP. These dry sludges were placed in north-south running linear trenches approximately 6 to 10 feet in length and 5 feet deep. This practice was conducted from approximately 1958 to 1964. During that time approximately 316 cu. ft. of sludge were deposited. The second type was an aqueous sludge pumped directly from the IWTP onto the ground surface at Site 3. The aqueous sludge was contained behind a berm until dry. An estimated 100,000 gallons of aqueous sludge was transported to the field. In approximately 1968, the drying berm and land surface sludges were removed. Site 3 sludges from the IWTP may have contained residual solvents, oils, or other common wastes generated at various other NAWCADTRN buildings and shops.

Site 5, Building 41 (Exhauster Wing) Overhead Fuel Lines Leakage Area

In 1965, a spill of jet fuel extended over approximately 180 square feet of ground. The release was a result of defective pipe fittings or joints in the overhead fuel line. The amount of the spill was not recorded, but an estimated 3,500 gallons of jet fuel was released at Site 5.

Site 6, Oil Contamination Near Building 34

In April 1985, when a boring was completed to determine suitability for footings, oil was observed in the drill cuttings. It was later determined that a thin layer of oil was floating on the groundwater approximately 18 feet below grade. The source of this contamination was two 25,000 gallon underground storage tanks located at Site 6. The tanks contained aviation fuel in the early 1940's. From 1957 to March 1986, the tanks held sludge from the on-site Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant. In 1988, the tanks were emptied and removed.

Site 7, MOGAS Tank Area

There were three underground storage tanks (USTs) in this area. A 1,000 gallon motor gasoline UST located at the southwestern side of Building 34 was in service from 1960 to 1978. In 1978, a leak in the tank was discovered. The tank was repaired and emptied but left in the ground. When the tank was repaired, the soil surrounding the leaking tank was observed to be visibly contaminated but was left in place. In March 1993, the soil was excavated to below NJSCC and the tank was removed from service. This UST and two others at the site were removed.

Site 9, Former Sludge Drying Beds

Sludge from the bottom of the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant primary clarifier was air-dried in sludge beds at the site from approximately 1966 to 1968. All dried sludge was transported to Site 3, Former Sludge Disposal Area, and buried. Sludges from the IWTP may have contained residual solvents, oils, or other common waste generated at various other NAWCADTRN buildings and shops.

Remedial Investigation Overview

The first environmental investigation at NAWCADTRN was an Initial Assessment Study (IAS) conducted by Rogers, Golden and Halpern to identify any areas of potential environmental concern at the facility. Results of the study were submitted in May 1986. The IAS study was limited to an environmental reconnaissance project, which did not involve any environmental sampling. However, the study identified seven areas of potential concern which were recommended for further investigation.

A subsequent environmental investigation, the Site Inspection (SI) study, was conducted at NAWCADTRN from October 1988 to April 1989 by IT Corporation. The objective of the SI was to confirm the presence or absence of contamination in soils and groundwater at the seven sites identified in the IAS and at two additional sites identified by the Navy and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Eight of the nine sites investigated during the SI were recommended for further study and contaminant delineation. The only site recommended for no action after the SI was Site 2, the fire fighting area. Sites 3, 6, and 9 were proposed for further contaminant delineation in both soil and groundwater. Sites 1, 4, 5, and 8 were recommended for additional groundwater investigation only. Soil sampling and underground storage tank removal were proposed for Site 7.

A Remedial Investigation (RI) was performed for NAWCADTRN in two phases by IT Corporation from April 1992 through December 1993. The RI was conducted to determine the nature and extent of contaminants identified during previous investigations and determine if remediation was necessary. The RI Report was completed in 1994 and distributed in November 1994.

Findings and Decision

On the basis of investigative results, and in accordance with the requirements of the Navy IR Program, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and its related laws and regulations, it is the Navy's decision, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), that no further response actions for soil are warranted at Sites 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9.

Constituents in soil at NAWCADTRN were compared to Residential Direct Contact, Non-residential Direct Contact, and Impact to Groundwater New Jersey Soil Clean-up Criteria (NJSCC). The NJSCC are not Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs), but rather criteria to be considered (TBC). If the Residential Direct NJSCC are not met at a site, New Jersey requires that an institutional or engineering control be implemented. For Sites 2, 3, 6, and 9 this will take the form of a Declaration of Environmental Restriction (DER) which provides notice of the contamination remaining at the property, the restrictions that apply, and any other institutional and/or engineering controls required. The DER accompanies the property through any transfer or lease.

Groundwater at these sites is being investigated and will be addressed as a separate site-wide Operable Unit and Decision Document. The soil at the other three IR Program sites (1, 4, and 8) will be addressed as separate Decision Documents.

Community Involvement and Additional Information

The public comment period for the Sites 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9 decision will be from 15 November to 15 December 1997. During this time comments relative to these sites can be sent to the Base Environmental Coordinator: Ken Smith, PO Box 7176, Ewing, NJ 08628-0176. All public comments will be addressed in a Responsiveness Summary that will be issued with the Final Decision Document.

More detailed information is provided in the Remedial Investigation report and other NAWCADTRN documents which are available for viewing in the document repository located at the Mercer County Library, 61 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ.