

# Neighbors Bucks County

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## Navy pays for cleanup at base

At least \$250,000 will go toward the work on contaminated areas. Warminster fears a delay in developing the land.

By Steve Ritea

INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

WARMINSTER — The Navy has approved funding for a second stage in its cleanup of at least 50 environmentally questionable sites at the Naval Air Warfare Center.

The Navy sent the township a letter March 12 committing to release a minimum of \$250,000 for a cleanup project by the end of this month, Supervisor Bill Goldsworthy said.

NAWC officials already have identified 53 possibly contaminated areas that need to be evaluated and perhaps cleaned before the base closes and the property passes on to the township.

The Navy has yet to determine the cost of a cleanup.

The township hopes to begin making use of the property by the end of the year when the base begins to close.

The Navy is moving the base's operations to Maryland.

Goldsworthy said supervisors were concerned by one line in the March 12 letter that said the Navy's work would be "phase consistent" — meaning it would evaluate and clean up the most hazardous areas first, wherever they might be on the base, and then move on to areas progressively less hazardous.

But the township plans to develop the base in sections, Goldsworthy said, so it needs the base to be cleaned up section by section.

"We don't want it to take three to four months to do four or five items and then another three to four months to do four or five more," he said.

"I don't think there's going to be any order involved," said Dave Polish, a Navy spokesman. "We don't expect we're going to find anything that's going to require any major action."

Tom Ames, environmental coordinator for the Navy, said it already

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## Navy to pay for base cleanup

**CLEANUP** from BC1 had spent more than \$15 million on studies and cleanup at the base.

The Navy has been pumping contaminants out of a well that an Ivyland food-processing company, John Wagner & Sons, used for cooling over several years.

Earlier this month, Navy officials told township environmental engineer Tony Bartolomeo that they had discovered a high concentration of trichloroethylene, a toxic chemical, in the well.

Concentrations as high as 2,000 parts per billion were discovered at

times, Bartolomeo said. The drinking water standard is 5 parts per billion.

Township officials and the Navy are unsure whether the contamination came from the nearby NAWC.

Polish said the Navy had begun pumping and treating the well.

Ralph Starr, president of Wagner & Sons, said the company has been connected by the Navy to the township's municipal water supply.

When it used the well, he said, Wagner & Sons always filtered the water.