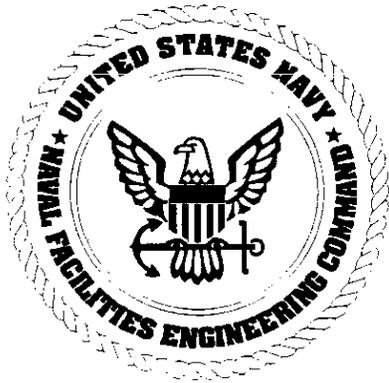


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FACT SHEET 7 FOR 1996 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNIT 39 (SWMU 39) CNC
CHARLESTON SC
9/1/1996
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NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON Environmental Cleanup Program

This fact sheet is one of a series to inform interested citizens about the environmental investigations and cleanup actions at Naval Base Charleston. Other fact sheets will be written at appropriate points in the program and in response to public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the Public Affairs Office at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southern Division (803) 820-5771.

Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 39

Environmental Investigations are being conducted by the Navy at Naval Base Charleston, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support any needed cleanup for transfer of the property.

Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 39 is the site of a former storage area for petroleum, oil, and lubricant drums north of Building 1604, near the northern boundary of the Naval Base. Soil and groundwater around SWMU 39 were sampled and groundwater was found to contain petroleum and traces of chlorinated solvents. Because of this, additional investigations were conducted to determine the extent of any contamination. Results from these studies have indicated that the groundwater is affected up to the boundary of the base. Results were provided to the community at the public Restoration Advisory Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 1996. Following are some answers to questions you may have about this site.

What kind of substances were found?

Two substances have been detected in the groundwater at the Naval Base property boundary. The first material is chlorinated solvents, typically used in vehicle maintenance degreasing. These are heavier than water and typically sink to the bottom of the groundwater. The other is a petroleum-based product, having constituents that are typical of gasoline. This product is lighter than water, so it typically floats on top of the water. Neither material dissolves easily in water.

How much was found?

The concentration of total chlorinated solvents in groundwater at SWMU 39 was 0.319 parts per million at 30 feet below ground surface and 0.222 parts per million 15 feet below ground surface. Concentrations detected at the Naval Base property boundary were 0.065 parts per million at 15 feet. Seven to eight inches of petroleum products were measured floating on the groundwater surface about 3 - 5 feet below the ground surface in one monitoring well located in the northwestern corner of the base.

Are there any health risks?

None are known at this time. Based on the information presently available, these two substances are present only in groundwater. Therefore any direct contact is unlikely. A search of South Carolina Department of Health and

Environmental Control records identified no drinking water wells in this area. Public supplied water would not be affected by this contamination.

Where are the substances coming from?

The source of the contamination is not yet known.

Where are the substances going?

The Navy has sampled at the western boundary of the base and cannot confirm that the substances extend beyond the property line. However, the next phase of the investigation will be designed to define the extent of any contamination, if present, outside the Naval Base property.

While there are 7 - 8 inches of petroleum product floating in the monitoring well in the northwestern corner of the base, only small concentrations of petroleum compounds have been detected in wells further downgradient, or "downhill" from there.

How long has the Navy known about this?

The analytical data from samples taken at the western boundary of the Naval Base was received at the end of August. Since that time, interpretation of the data has been underway. The results were presented to the community at the public Restoration Advisory Board meeting held on Tuesday, September 10, 1996.

What is going to happen next?

Pending approval by the City of North Charleston, the next groundwater sampling activities will begin off base during the week of September 16, 1996. Sampling should take no more than two weeks to complete. Laboratory analysis of the data will be sped up so it can be performed in one week after data is collected.

When will we know more?

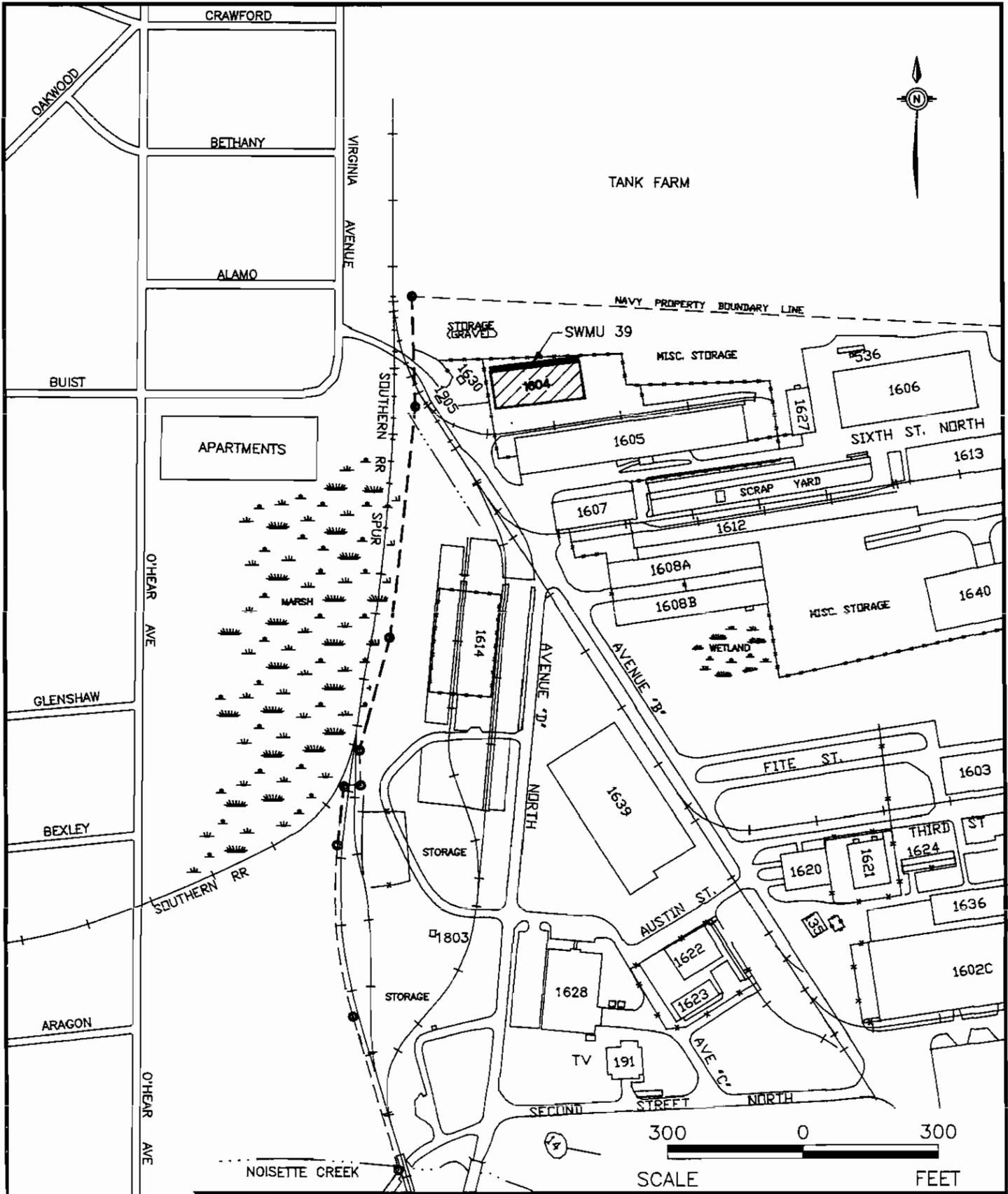
A status report will be presented to the Restoration Advisory Board on October 8, 1996. For time and location of the Restoration Advisory Board meeting, call Jim Beltz at (803) 820-5771.

Will the Navy sample on my property?

The next phase of the groundwater sampling will be on public property (such as streets and rights-of-way). The outcome of that phase will determine whether sampling on private property is necessary.

Who can I talk to for more information?

Please direct any questions to Mr. Jim Beltz at the Public Affairs Office at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southern Division, (803) 820-5771.



NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON
CHARLESTON, S.C.

SWMU 39
VICINITY MAP
NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON

DWG DATE: 09/19/96 | DWG NAME: 29ZARAB6