

N62604.AR.000123
NCBC GULFPORT
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PUBLIC NEWS RELEASE REGARDING SOIL MIGRATION AND STORAGE OF HERBICIDE
ORANGE NCBC GULFPORT MS
2/8/1979
NCBC GULFPORT

SEABEE NEWS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Miss 39501



OFFICIAL U.S. NAVY RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE NO. 10

865-2393
KAY PURVIS

SEABEE CENTER, Gulfport, Miss., Feb. 8 - The U. S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy announced today that the award of a construction contract to Roy Anderson, Jr., Inc. of Gulfport, Mississippi to control normal soil migration from the former Herbicide Orange Storage site located at the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Mississippi. Erosion control actions were based upon the result of Air Force environmental monitoring late last year which showed very low levels (parts per billion) of the herbicide's contaminant, TCDD (DIOXIN) in drainage ditch sediment in and near the former storage area. The 12-acre site at the NCBC had been used from 1968-1977 for storage of approximately 840,000 gallons of herbicide prior to its incineration at sea in the western Pacific.

The design consists of four features. The first feature requires the redesign of the drainage system so that all rainwater runoff from areas adjacent to the site will be diverted around, rather than through, the site. This will ensure that only rain falling directly onto the site will contact the contaminated soil.

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The second feature of the design specifies that all drainage ditches will be lined with gravel. The gravel will be elevated above the surrounding soil surface to trap migrating soil particles.

The third feature calls for a filter dike to trap any silt that might migrate through the gravel barrier at the storage site. Because TCDD is not water soluble and moves only as part of soil sediment, the first three features should be totally effective in preventing migration of contaminated soil from the 12-acre site.

The fourth feature of the design provides for a spillway in the storm drain downstream from the storage area. This barrier will prevent movement of aquatic life up into the drainage system.

The construction is scheduled for completion in April 1980.