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FACT SHEET 6 FOR DISASTER RECOVERY DISPOSAL AREA SITE 1 NCBC GULFPORT
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NCBC GULFPORT



NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER Gulfport, Mississippi Installation Restoration Program

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The Installation Restoration (IR) Program is an environmental program conducted nationwide by the Department of Defense to identify and address contamination from past practices that do not meet today's environmental standards. This fact sheet is the sixth in a series informing interested citizens about the IR program at NCBC Gulfport. Fact sheets will be produced at program milestones and in response to other items of public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the Public Affairs Office at NCBC Gulfport, telephone: (601) 871-2393.

FACT SHEET 6: Site 1, Disaster Recovery Disposal Area

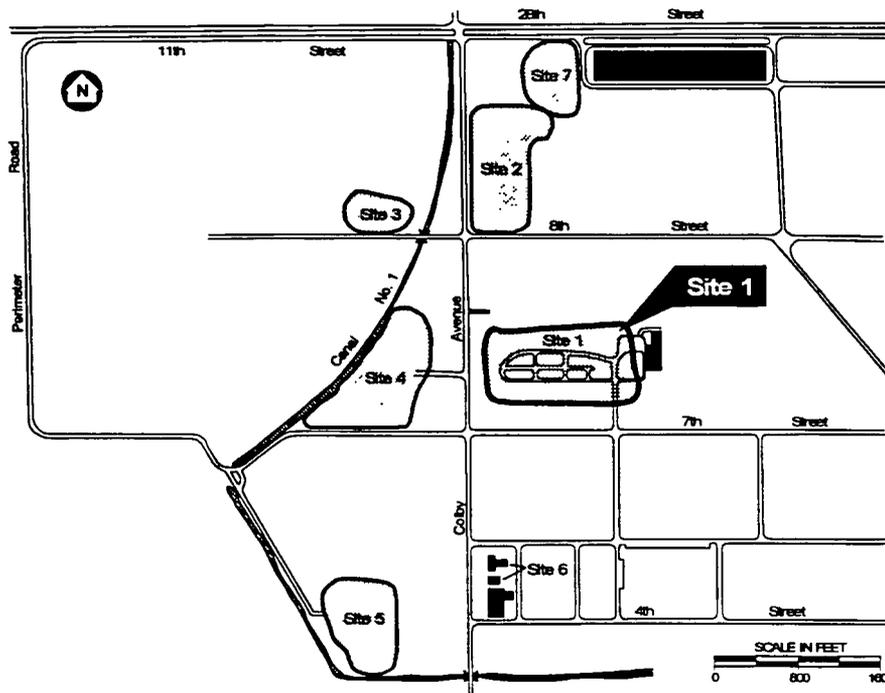


Exhibit 1. Site 1 covers approximately nine acres on the corner of Seventh Street and Colby Avenue.

DESCRIPTION OF SITE 1

Site 1 was an operating landfill from 1942 to 1948. The landfill received 55-gallon drums of waste from Seabee Center activities. Wastes included paints, oils, solvents, paint strippers, and cleaning compounds. The site is currently used as a disaster response training area.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Initial Assessment Study (IAS): The IAS was completed in 1985. This study included reviewing available waste disposal records and interviewing people who were knowledgeable about activities at Site 1. The goal of the IAS was to identify sites that needed further studies to determine if

conditions at the site could possibly pose an environmental or public health problem. Site 1 was recommended for further study.

Verification Study: The Verification Study was completed in 1987. This study used specialized (geophysical) equipment to find the boundary of the landfill. Environmental samples were collected and analyzed, including:

- three samples of groundwater from wells
- four samples of surface water and sediment from ditches and ponds.

Chromium and lead were found during this study in samples of the sediment, and groundwater at Site 1. These metals are naturally occurring and are, therefore, commonly found in environmental samples.

Basewide Sampling: A sampling program was performed throughout the entire base in December 1994. This program is further described in Exhibit 2.

Preliminary results of the basewide sampling found low levels of semivolatile organic compounds, metals, and dioxins. All substances except lead were found at concentrations below Federal standards.

These results were reported immediately to the Gulfport community and to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. A technical evaluation of the results has not yet been completed to determine if these low concentrations of substances are a health or environmental concern.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SITE 1?

The next step in the investigation of Site 1 is an in-depth geophysical survey to locate buried drums. Geophysical surveys use specialized equipment (similar to metal detectors used at the beach) to locate objects or other disturbances beneath the ground.

Another typical step in the IR Program process is to complete an in-depth environmental study, called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (often referred to as an RI/FS). The Remedial Investigation includes collection and evaluation of environmental data. An assessment of potential ecological and human health effects of chemicals found through data collection is part of this evaluation. The Feasibility Study is an engineering evaluation of the best methods for cleaning up the site.

EXHIBIT 2. WHAT DID WE LOOK FOR IN THE BASEWIDE SAMPLING PROGRAM?

Metals include naturally occurring elements such as copper, arsenic, and lead. Household items that commonly contain metals include paint, batteries, coins, and electrical components.

Herbicides are chemicals used to kill unwanted plants and weeds. Common herbicides include Round-Up[®] and 2,4-D.

Pesticides are chemicals to eliminate insects and other pests. Flea collars, roach and ant killers, and household plant and garden sprays all contain pesticides.

Volatile organic compounds, also known as VOCs, include solvents, paint thinner, and mineral spirits. Other household products that usually contain VOCs include hair spray, nail polish remover, and air fresheners. Common components of gasoline, such as benzene, toluene, and xylene, are VOCs.

Semivolatile organic compounds, also known as SVOCs, are a common component of asphalt, coal tar, and pitch. A good example of a SVOC is naphthalene, which is the main ingredient in many furniture refinishing products.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All reports discussed in this fact sheet are available at the NCBC Gulfport IR Program Information Repository located in the:

Gulfport Harrison County Library
Reference Section
21st Avenue (Highway 90)
Gulfport, MS 39501
Telephone: (601) 863-6411