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FACT SHEET 11 FOR FORMER FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING AREA SITE 6 NCBC GULFPORT
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NCBC GULFPORT



NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER Gulfport, Mississippi Installation Restoration Program

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 11th 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 11: Site 6, Former Fire-Fighting Training Area

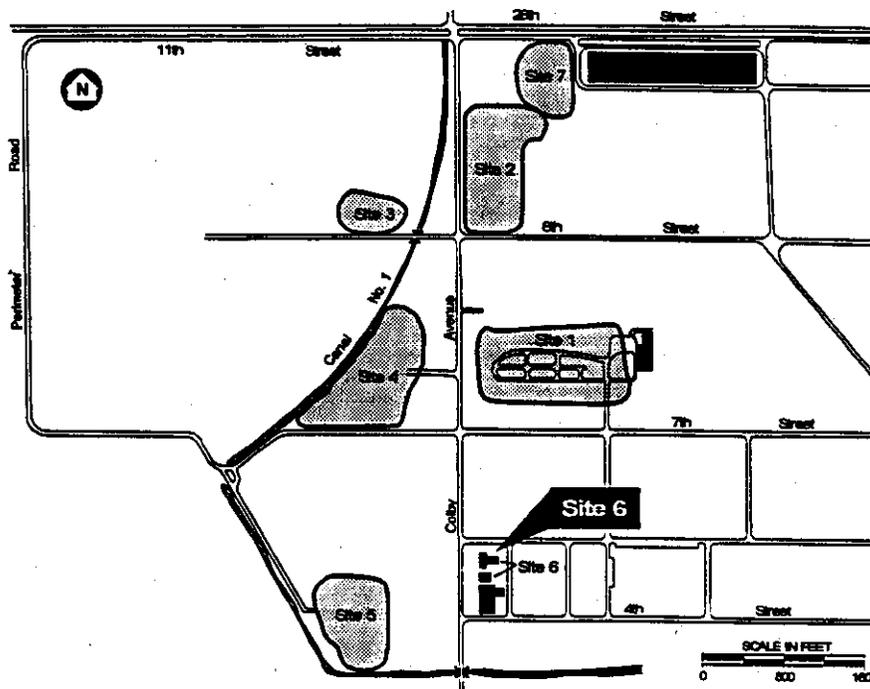


Exhibit 1. Site 6 is located southeast of the intersection of Fifth Street and Colby Avenue.

DESCRIPTION OF SITE 6

The Former Fire-Fighting Training Area, Site 6, consisted of two unlined burning pits. One pit was approximately 50-foot long, 35-foot wide, and 4- to 5-foot deep. The other pit was approximately 40-foot long, 25-foot wide, and 6-foot deep. Both pits have since been filled with soil. The larger pit is now partially covered by Building 383 and the smaller pit is located just east of Building 390.

The two pits were used for fire-fighting training from 1966 to 1975. Waste liquids from activities at the base, including fuels, oils, solvents, paint,

paint thinners, and cleaning compounds, were burned at these locations. After closing the site in 1975, the pits were filled with soil and can no longer be distinguished from the surrounding area.

PRIOR INVESTIGATIONS

Initial Assessment Study (IAS): The IAS was completed in 1985. The IAS included interviewing people with information about former base activities and reviewing records to determine if further environmental investigation was needed. Site 6 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. In addition, samples were collected and analyzed including:

- three samples from groundwater wells,
- one sediment sample, and
- one surface soil sample.

Chromium and lead were found in the sediment, soil, and groundwater samples at Site 6. These metals are commonly found in environmental samples.

Oily Product Investigation: Investigations in the fall of 1991 found an oily liquid "floating" on the groundwater beneath the site. The liquid is referred to as free-phased floating product. (See Fact Sheet No. 1 for more information.)

Further investigations of Site 6, completed in 1994, included:

- installing five *monitoring* wells to sample the groundwater and the oily liquid, and
- installing one *extraction* well and performing *pumping tests* to evaluate the best method for removing the product from the ground.

The results of this investigation are summarized in the *Free Phased Product Assessment Report*, completed in July 1994.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SITE 6?

The Seabee Center will begin cleaning up the oily product in the late spring or summer of 1995. Cleanup will include:

- pumping the oily water out of the ground,
- separating the oily product from the water,

- placing the oily product in containers for disposal,
- treating the water that has been separated from the product, and
- sending treated water into the Seabee Centers sewer system.

This cleanup may not be the final action at the site. Following cleanup of the free product, an in-depth environmental study, called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, may be completed. 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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