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SOIL EXCAVATION TESTS FACT SHEET SITE 8 NCBC GULFPORT MS
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Soil Excavation Tests Fact Sheet

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER
Gulfport, Mississippi
Installation Restoration Program

This fact sheet is one in a series informing interested citizens of the environmental investigations and remedial actions at Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport. Fact sheets will be produced at program milestones and in response to other items of public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the Publi

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Soil Excavation Tests

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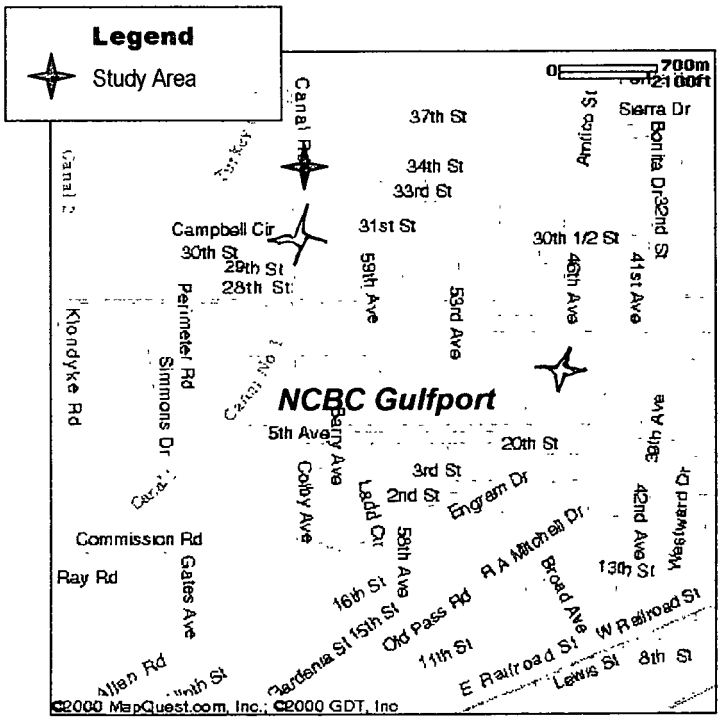
Introduction

This fact sheet describes soil excavation tests being performed at the Seabee Center and in a swampy area north of the base.

Why an Excavation Test?

The primary goal of the study will be to show that contaminated soil can be removed effectively.



Trucks carrying excavated soil will travel from the study area off of Canal Road north of the Seabee Center. It will be carried to the Former Herbicide Storage Area on the base.

How Will the Health and Safety of the Community Be Protected?

Two keys steps are being taken to protect the Seabee Center's neighbors.

1. **The work site will be divided into two areas: a "study area" and a "clean area."** The excavated soil will be placed in lined bins located in the study area. The trucks will remain in the clean area. When the bins are full they will be moved from the study area onto a truck located in the clean area. This will ensure that only clean trucks are moving through the city streets.

2. **Sediment recovery traps** (called "SRTs) are being installed where water flows from the site. SRTs were successfully used to stop the dioxin that was found in the ditches of the Seabee Center from flowing off of the base. More information on the SRTs can be found in Fact Sheets 15 and 21.

How Will the Test Be Performed?

The test will involve removing soil from a swamp north of the base along Canal Road (see map) and from an area within the Former Herbicide Storage Area on the Seabee Center referred to as Site 8B. All of the materials will then be trucked to another area within the Former Herbicide Storage Area referred to as Site 8A. The soil will remain on Site 8A to be managed with other dioxin-containing soil already placed on the site.

How Does the Excavation Test Fit in to the Overall Cleanup Process?

The excavation tests are part of a larger study called a **Pilot-Scale Study**. It is called a "pilot-scale" because it is a small-scale version of the cleanup method being considered. The results of the pilot-scale study will be used to further assess the most likely cleanup method for off-base dioxin contamination.

What Is the Most Likely Cleanup Method for Off-Base Dioxin?

No recommendation has been made at this time. However, a likely cleanup approach would be to excavate the soil from the swamp and move it to the Former Herbicide Storage Area on base. The dioxin-containing soil would then be "cemented" in place under a clean "cap." The cap could then be used for industrial purposes such as the storage of heavy vehicles.

What Other Tests Are Included in the Pilot-Scale Study?

There are five separate tests in the Pilot-Scale Study:

- **Excavation Test:** The first test is the Excavation Test described in this fact sheet.
- **Free Water Removal Test:** This test determines how much water will be lost from mud after it is excavated. The water that is released from the mud will be stored on base in a 10,000-gallon tank until it is tested for the dioxin.
- **Mixing and Spreading Test:** This test confirms the best way to evenly mix dioxin-containing soil with the right amount of cement. The resulting mixture is referred to as the "**Material Blend**."
- **Compaction Strength Test:** This test evaluates the strength of the Material Blend. These Compaction Strength Tests are necessary to demonstrate that the Material Blend will be capable of supporting anything that might be stored or driven on top of the cap.
- **Leachability Test:** This test is performed to ensure that dioxin will be held in place by the cap.

When Will the Study be Completed?

The study will be completed in late summer or early fall of this year. The report, called the "Pilot Scale Study," will be placed in the Information Repository in the Gulfport-Harrison County Library upon completion of the study.

What's Next?

The Pilot Scale study will demonstrate the workability of the cleanup methods identified in the **Feasibility Study** (or "FS") that is currently being prepared. The FS is comparing a variety of alternatives for cleaning up dioxin-containing soils. It will include a recommended cleanup method. The recommendation will be summarized in a document called a Proposed Plan.

Will I Have an Opportunity to Be Involved?

The **Proposed Plan** will be made available to the community during a **public meeting** that will be held at the beginning of a **public comment period**. You are encouraged to participate. If you would like to receive notification of the availability of the Proposed plan, please contact Gordon Crane (see "For More Information" below) or the Seabee Center's Public Affairs Office to be added to the mailing list.

In addition, you are always invited to attend quarterly Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings. RAB meetings are typically held on the first Thursday of every third month (March, June, September, and December).

For More Information...

Questions concerning the dioxin investigations or other environmental activities at Seabee Center may be directed to Gordon Crane, the Installation Restoration Program Manager, at (228) 871-2485.

Final reports on the dioxin investigation at NCBC are available at the Seabee Center's local information repository at the following location:

Gulfport-Harrison County Library
Reference Section
21st Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501
Telephone: (228) 863-6411