N62604.AR.001343
NCBC GULFPORT
5090.3a

HERBICIDE ORANGE AT THE SEABEE CENTER" NCBC GULFPORT MS
4/1/2002
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

Herbicide Orange at the Seabee Center

NCBC Gulfport Administrative Record
Document Index Number

39501 - GENERAL
13.06.00.00.0040

1968 – 1977

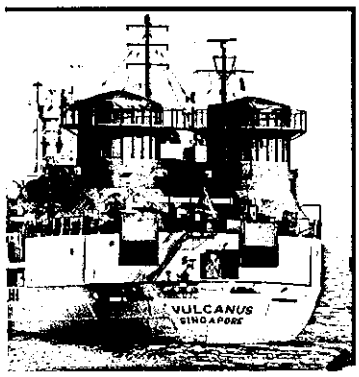
The Air Force Stored Herbicide Orange on the Seabee Base during the Vietnam War. Some of the drums leaked over time.

1970's

The dioxin-containing chemical in Herbicide Orange, known in scientific shorthand as 2,4,5-T, was banned in the United States and a number of other nations, as evidence mounted that linked it to disorders in lab animals.

1977

The herbicide was transported from the base by train to the incinerator ship *Vulcanous* where it was destroyed.

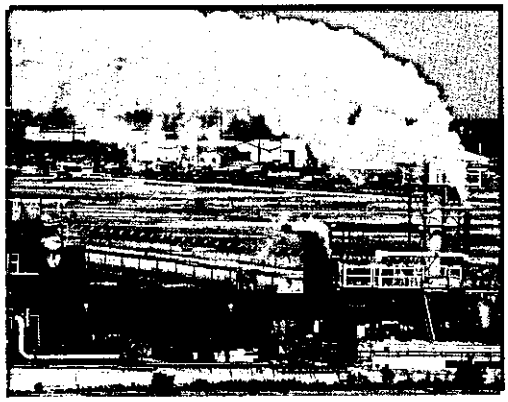


1984

Studies of Site 8 and associated ditches find dioxins in soil and sediment.

1987 – 1988

The Air Force incinerated contaminated soil at Site 8, the Former Herbicide Storage Area, to reduce dioxin levels to 1 part per billion.

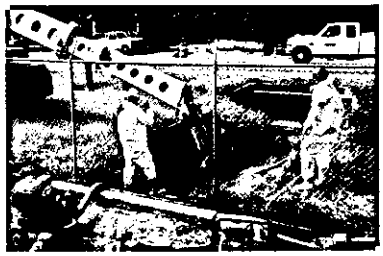


Ash generated by the incinerator was stored in a fenced area on Site 8.

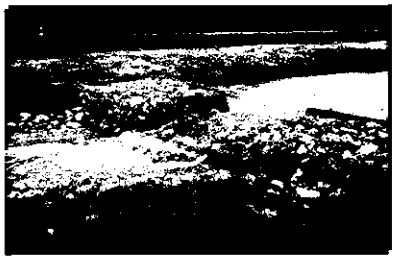
1990 Mississippi establishes new, stricter standard for dioxin of 4.7 parts per trillion. This new standard was based on the results of animal studies.

1994 Environmental sampling reveals the need to further investigate possible dioxin contamination on the Seabee Center.

1995



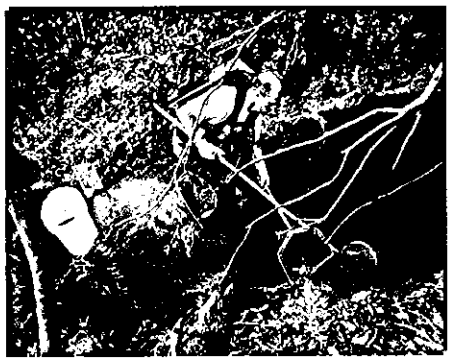
Dioxin is found in the ditches north of the Seabee Center. The Seabee Center removes sediment along 28th Street to support widening of the road.



Sediment recovery traps are installed to slow the flow of sediment from the base through the ditch system. The traps are later tested and shown to be very effective.

1996

Over 800 residents were interviewed as a first step to determine if dioxin contamination could cause a heath effect.



1997-1998 Extensive soil, sediment, and surface water sampling showed where dioxin was present and in what amounts.

1999

Studies of local fishing habits showed how fish are caught and eaten in the area. Also, fish were collected and sampled to test for dioxin contamination. The fish were found to be safe to eat.

1999

Groundwater was sampled on the base. Results showed the dioxin was not leaving the base in the groundwater.

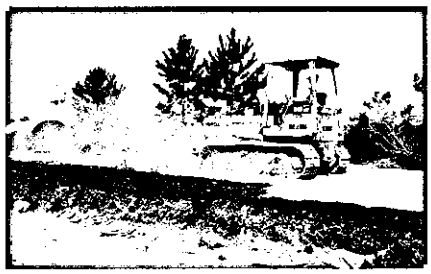
The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality makes slight change to the action level for dioxin (from 4.7 to 4.3 ppt).

2000

The risk assessment for dioxin is drafted.

The human health risk assessment showed a possible health risk if someone were to live on Site 8 or the affected ditch system.

The ecological risk assessment indicated that there is no likely risk to the environment. The levels of dioxin found could cause reproductive problems in only the most dioxin-sensitive species – and those species do not live in the contaminated area.



2001

Engineering studies and a Feasibility Study are performed to begin the process of recommending a cleanup approach.

What's Next?

The *Public Comment Period* for the Proposed Plan allows an opportunity for the community to voice concerns and opinions about the recommended cleanup.	April 4 – May 4, 2002
A *Record of Decision, ROD,* documents the selected alternative after community and state regulatory concurrence is achieved.	At close of comment period if community concurs with the Seabee Center's recommendations.
A *Remedial Design* will include developing and documenting detailed plans for implementing the cleanup.	Follows signing of the ROD.
Perform the *Remediation* or cleanup.	Begins upon completion of the Remedial Design.