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NCBC GULFPORT
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FACT SHEET NUMBER 7 SITE 2 WORLD WAR II LANDFILL ASSESSMENT AND FUTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS NCBC GULFPORT MS
4/1/1995
NAVFAC SOUTHERN



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 which do not meet today's environmental standards. This fact sheet is the seventh 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 7: Site 2, World War II Landfill

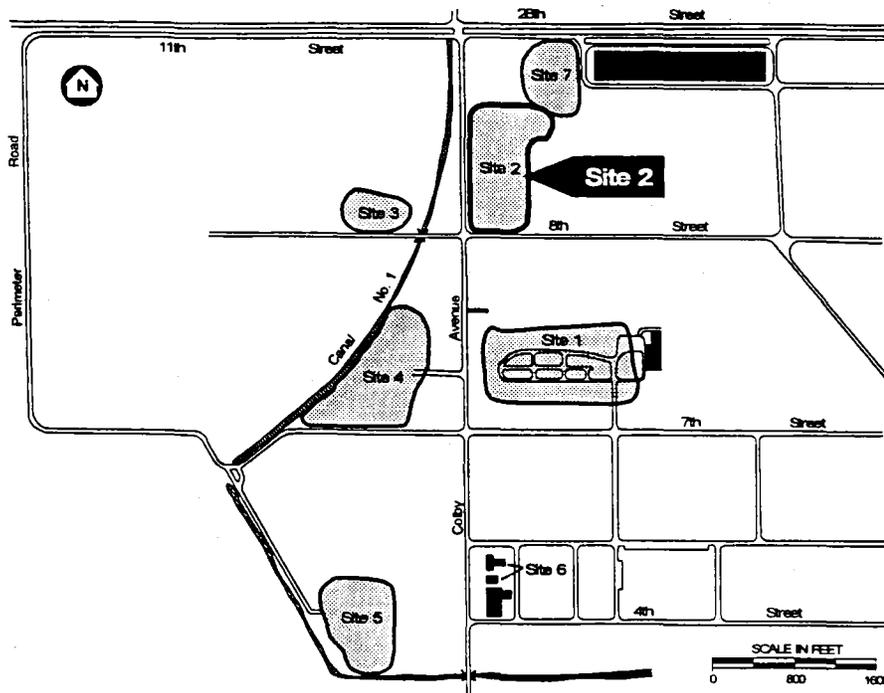


Exhibit 1. Site 2 is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Colby Avenue and Eighth Street.

DESCRIPTION OF SITE 2

Site 2 was operated as a landfill from 1942 to 1948. The 11-acre landfill received general trash from dumpsters located throughout the Seabee Center. Wastes were reportedly burned in the northern part of the site, then buried in 8-foot trenches located in the southern part of the site.

The majority of wastes in the landfill included general trash such as paper, cardboard, wood, and

garbage. In addition, some liquids, such as paints, paint thinners, solvents, oils, and fuels may have been placed into the landfill. Site 2 is now covered with pines and underbrush.

PRIOR INVESTIGATIONS

Initial Assessment Study (IAS): The IAS was completed in 1985. The IAS included interviewing people who were knowledgeable

about activities at the base and reviewing records to determine if further environmental investigation was needed. The IAS recommended Site 2 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, the following samples were collected for laboratory analysis:

- two samples from groundwater wells and
- one surface water and sediment sample.

Chromium and lead were found in samples of the sediment and groundwater at Site 2. 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 groundwater samples taken in the vicinity of Site 2 found low levels of volatile and semivolatile organic compounds, metals, dioxins, and pesticides. All substances were found at concentrations below Federal standards.

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

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SITE 2?

The next 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 naturally occurring 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