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NCBC GULFPORT
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FACT SHEET NUMBER 12 SITE 7 RUBBLE DISPOSAL AREA PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS
AND ASSESSMENTS 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 that do not meet today's environmental standards. This fact sheet is the 12th 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 12: Site 7, Rubble Disposal Area

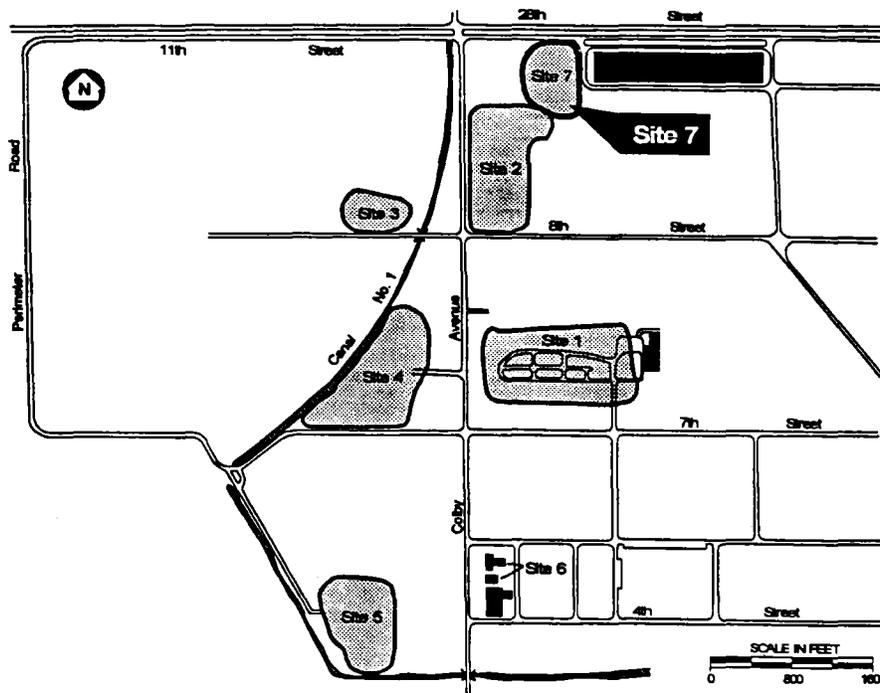


Exhibit 1. Site 7 is located on the east side of Colby Avenue between Seventh and Eighth Streets.

DESCRIPTION OF SITE 7

Site 7 was used from 1978 to 1984 for disposal of concrete, lumber, scrap metal, and other debris. The site covers an area measuring approximately 375 by 350 feet. The disposed materials were buried just below the surface of the ground. Additionally, tree clipping, sawdust, lumber, and concrete have been placed above the ground in the southeastern part of the site. The site is now an open, grassy area.

PREVIOUS 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 7 for further study.

Verification Study: The Verification Study was

completed in 1987. This study included using specialized (geophysical) equipment to find the boundary of the landfill and collection of one sample from a groundwater well. Chromium and lead were found in the groundwater at the site. These metals are naturally occurring, and are therefore commonly found in environmental samples.

Basewide Sampling: A basewide sampling program was completed 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 7 reported low levels of volatile and semivolatile organic compounds, metals, and dioxins. All substances were reported at concentrations below Federal drinking water standards.

The one surface water sample collected near Site 7 contained low concentrations of volatile and semivolatile organic compounds, dioxins, petroleum, metals, and pesticides. Surface water concentrations are not typically compared to drinking water standards.

The one sediment sample collected near Site 7 contained dioxins, lead, pesticides, and low levels of acetone (a volatile organic compound).

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 7?

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 common SVOC is naphthalene, which is the main ingredient in many furniture refinishing products.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All reports discussed in the fact sheet can be found 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