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ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Fact Sheet #9
September 15, 1994

INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION PLANNED FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AREA (SITES 2, 41 AND 43)

Introduction

As part of its Installation Restoration Program at NAS Jacksonville, the U.S. Navy accelerates cleanup at sites where contamination has been identified as requiring immediate action. One of these early cleanup actions--an **interim remedial action**--is planned at three Potential Sources of Contamination (PSCs) in the Wastewater Treatment Plant Area, known in technical literature as Operable Unit Two. The interim remedial actions proposed for these sites are not intended to be the final cleanup actions at these sites.

From August 10 through September 23, 1994, a public comment period is being held to solicit community comments about the **alternatives** developed in this plan. The Navy will summarize and respond to public comments in a **responsiveness summary** that will become a part of the public record.

The Installation Restoration (IR) Program is a Department of Defense program conducted at military installations nationwide to identify and, if necessary,

clean up contamination resulting from past waste disposal practices which do not meet today's environmental standards.

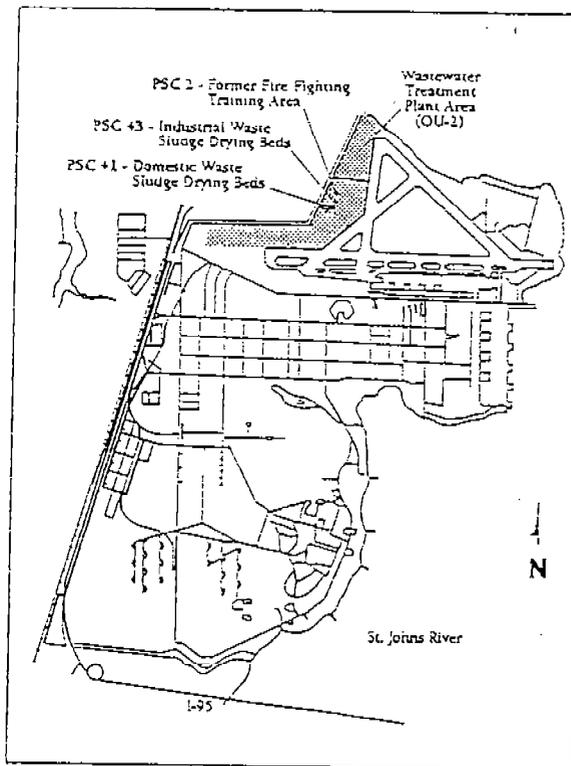


Figure 1. All three PSCs are located on the northern portion of NAS Jacksonville.

For more information about the environmental cleanup at NAS Jacksonville, call the Public Affairs Office at (904) 772-4032 or the Installation Restoration Manager at (904) 772-2717. A public information repository is also available at the Charles D. Webb Wesconnett Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 6887 103rd Street, Jacksonville, FL 32210, (904) 778-7305.

Location

The three sites slated for cleanup are located near the Wastewater Treatment Plant Area located on the northern portion of the air station (see figure 1). The St. Johns River is located to the north and the Timuquana Country Club golf course is located to the west. NAS taxiways and runways are located to the south and east.

Access to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Area is strictly limited because of its proximity to NAS taxiways and runways which have security requirements. A chain link fence and continuous patrols prevent unauthorized entrance to the area.

Site Backgrounds

The *Former Fire Fighting Training Area*, PSC 2, was used from 1966 to 1991 to train fire fighters for simulated aircraft crashes. Obsolete vehicle chassis and parts were covered with jet fuels, aviation gasoline or other **petroleum products** and ignited. An estimated 6,000 gallons of fuel were burned here annually. The area is now a shallow, unlined pit approximately 120 feet in diameter.

The abandoned *Domestic Waste Sludge Drying Beds*, PSC 41, were constructed in 1970 and used until 1987 for the elimination of water from sludge generated at the wastewater treatment plant. Before the industrial waste sludge drying beds were constructed, industrial wastewater treatment plant sludge was also sent to this area. During operations, approximately 300 cubic

yards of sludge were removed from the beds each year and spread around the site.

The *Industrial Waste Sludge Drying Beds*, PSC 43, were constructed in 1980 and used until 1988 to drain water from sludge generated at the industrial wastewater treatment plant. During operations, approximately 40 cubic yards of sludge were removed from the beds each year and spread around the area. Operations of these beds stopped in 1988 and the remaining sludge was removed and disposed of at an offsite facility.

Investigations

A **Focused Remedial Investigation**--intensive testing--was conducted from June to September 1993. Soil and material samples and temporary observation wells confirmed the presence of contaminants.

Soil samples at the Former Fire Fighting Training Area showed **semivolatile organic compounds** and volatile organic compounds, a residue typical of weathered and/or burned waste petroleum products. **Total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH)**--chemicals typically found in petroleum products--were also found in the soil samples. The observation wells indicate free product--liquid petroleum--is also present.

The materials sampled at the Domestic Waste Sludge Drying Beds and the Industrial Waste Sludge Drying Beds revealed metals, particularly cadmium, chromium, lead, nickel and silver at

FORMER FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING AREA (PSC 2)	FREE PRODUCT	SUBSURFACE/SURFICIAL SOILS
Alternative 1	Collection of free product and disposal at an offsite waste oil disposal facility.	Excavate and treat offsite. Dispose at an offsite stationary thermal treatment facility.
Alternative 2	Collection of free product and disposal at an offsite waste oil disposal facility.	Excavate and conduct onsite thermal treatment. Dispose onsite.
DOMESTIC WASTE SLUDGE DRYING BEDS (PSC 41) AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE SLUDGE DRYING BEDS (PSC 43)	SLUDGE DRYING BED MATERIALS AND HAZARDOUS DEBRIS	NONHAZARDOUS DEBRIS
Alternative 3	Excavation and offsite disposal of sludge drying bed materials and all debris.	Excavate and dispose offsite.
Alternative 4	Excavation and offsite treatment and disposal of sludge drying bed materials and hazardous debris.	Excavate and dispose offsite.
Alternative 5	Excavation and onsite treatment of sludge drying bed materials and hazardous debris.	Excavate and dispose offsite.

higher levels than those naturally occurring in the area. These materials are a result of industrial sludge disposal in this area.

Cleanup Alternatives

Based on these investigations and legal requirements, cleanup **alternatives** were developed to meet the cleanup objectives. The alternatives are described in Table 1.

Selected Alternatives

Working in partnership to review and evaluate alternatives, the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** and the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** have agreed with the Navy's selection of cleanup alternatives at these sites.

The preferred cleanup alternative for the Former Fire Fighting Training Area, PSC 2, is Alternative 2. The preferred cleanup alternative for the Domestic Waste Sludge Drying Beds and the Industrial Waste Sludge Drying Beds is Alternative 5. Both alternatives were selected because they reduce contamination onsite as well as eliminate the need for costly offsite transportation and management, minimizing risks associated with contaminated soil leaving the base.

Public Comment Period

Community acceptance of the preferred alternatives for cleanup of these sites will be evaluated at the conclusion of the

public comment period. Comments will be addressed in the **Responsiveness Summary** prepared for the **Interim Record of Decision**.

The public comment period for these proposed plans is held from August 10 to September 23, 1994. During that time, interested parties may submit written or verbal comments to:

Ms. Miriam Lareau
Deputy Public Affairs Officer
NAS Jacksonville
P.O. Box 102
Jacksonville, Florida 32212-0102
(904) 772-4032

Information Repository

Information about NAS Jacksonville's environmental cleanup program is available to the public through an **information repository** which contains site information, program activities and findings. The repository is available at:

Charles D. Webb Wesconnett Branch
Jacksonville Public Library
6887 103rd Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32210
(904) 778-7305

Community Participation

Questions, comments and suggestions concerning NAS Jacksonville's Installation Restoration Program may be directed to the Deputy Public Affairs Officer at (904) 772-4032. The Public Affairs Office also maintains a mailing list for the distribution of periodic fact

sheets. To be included on this list, please contact Ms. Lareau at the above address or phone number.

Glossary

Alternatives: A combination of technical and administrative methods, developed and evaluated in a feasibility study, that can be used to address contamination at a site.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP): The state agency that is involved in identifying regulations and concurring with the preferred remedy at a site. The FDEP is one of three parties (along with the USEPA and the Navy) in the Federal Facility Agreement.

Information Repository: A public file containing the administrative record, site information, documents on site activities and general information about a site or sites.

Interim Record of Decision: A document that outlines the Interim Remedial Action to be implemented at a site. It includes the Navy's responses to comments on the proposed plan and the FRI/FFS report.

Interim Remedial Action: Steps taken to manage or remove a source or potential source of contamination at a site at which a full investigation and cleanup recommendations are not yet complete.

Operable Unit (OU): Groupings of sites based on types of wastes disposed, physical proximity, similar past uses, and/or the suspected contaminants of concern.

Petroleum Products Waste: Waste (either solid or liquid) that is contaminated with chemicals found in petroleum products such as gasoline, jet fuels, kerosene and other waste fuel oils.

Responsiveness Summary: A section within the Record of Decision that presents the Navy's responses to public comments on the Feasibility Study or Focused Feasibility Study and the proposed plan.

Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH): A measure of the gross amount of contamination in a material that takes into account a number of chemicals typically found in petroleum products. TPH is not a specific chemical but measures the total concentration of a range of chemicals.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA): The federal agency responsible for identifying regulations and concurring with the preferred remedy at a site. The USEPA has the authority to make the ultimate decision on selection of an alternative if consensus cannot be reached among the FFA parties.