

FactFinder Environmental Update

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Natural Attenuation

Introduction

The Installation Restoration Program is an ongoing Department of Defense program conducted at military bases nationwide to identify and address potential sites of contamination resulting from past waste disposal practices. This fact sheet is one in a series to inform interested citizens of environmental investigations and remedial actions at NAS Jacksonville.

The purpose NAS Jacksonville's Installation Restoration Program is to identify and clean up sites where contamination or possible contamination could pose a risk to people and/or the environment.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to describe natural attenuation and why it is being considered as a cleanup approach.

What is natural attenuation?

Environmental definitions:

natural *adj.* 1. Present in or produced by nature. 2. Of, relating to, or concerning nature. 3. Conforming to the usual or ordinary course of nature.

attenuate *v.* 1. To reduce in force, value, or amount: WEAKEN. 2. To lessen the density of.

Natural Attenuation = reduction in mass,

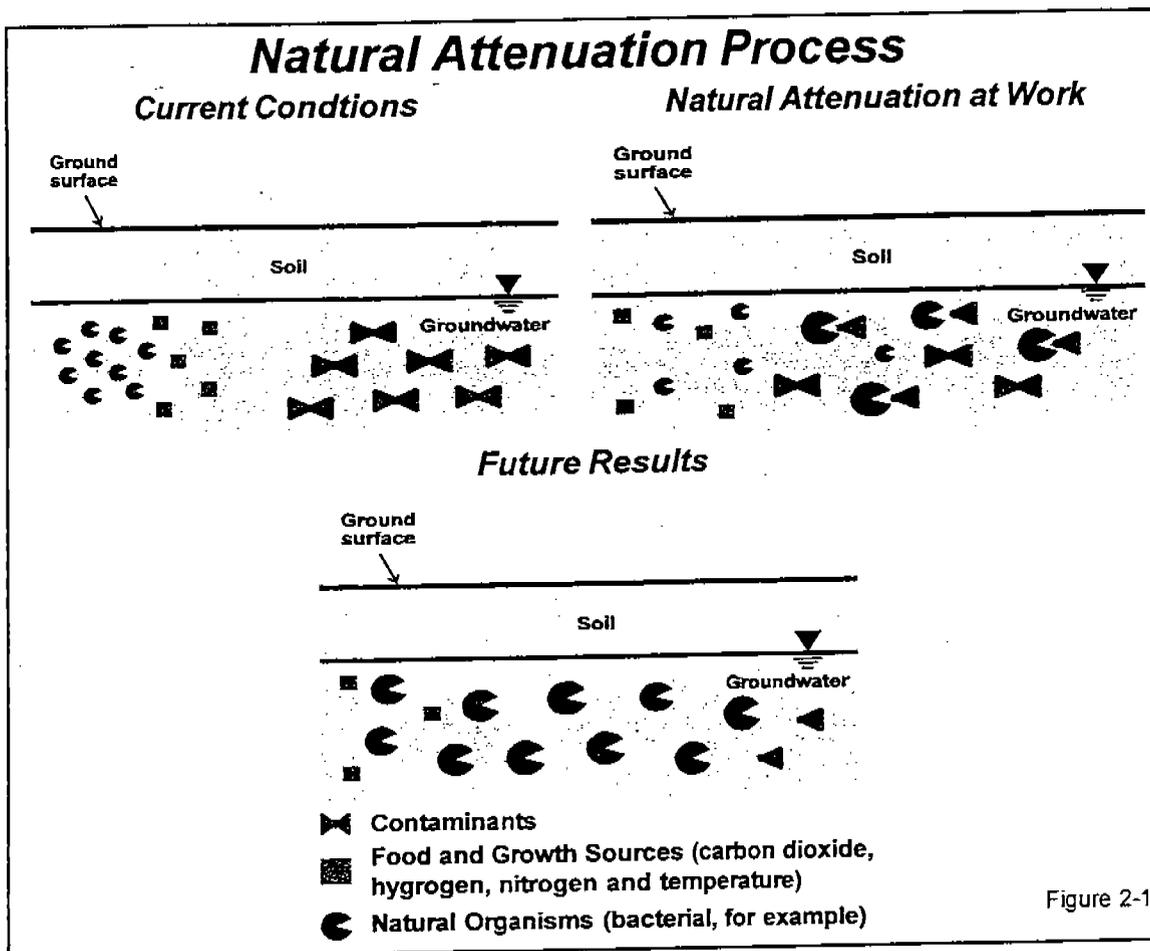
concentration, or mobility of contaminants in the environment by physical, chemical, and biological processes.

What does this mean?

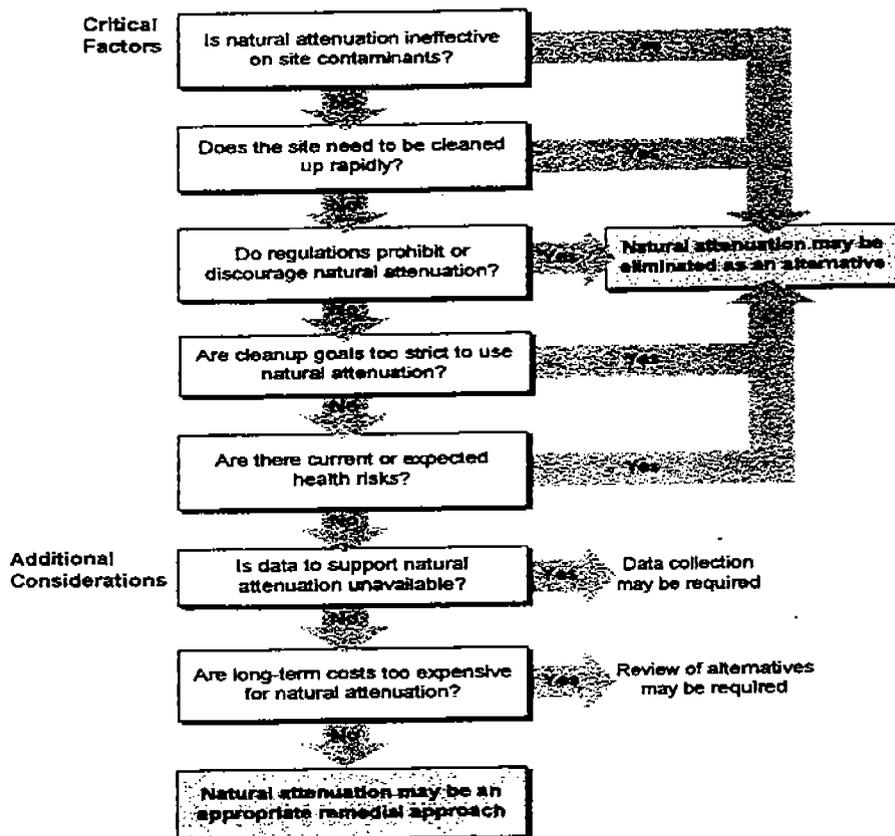
It means that natural organisms in the soil reduce the amount of contamination in the environment by attacking and destroying contaminants. It also means:

- Is a scientifically accepted and an EPA approved method of remediation for certain conditions.
- Soil, sediment, or groundwater contaminants are left undisturbed
- Natural processes reduce contamination
- It's not a "do-nothing" solution
- Requires monitoring to measure effectiveness
- Specific conditions must be met for natural attenuation to be used
- Cost-effective, nonintrusive method of environmental cleanup

Figure 2-1 illustrates how the natural attenuation process works. Figure 2-2 shows why natural attenuation is being considered.



Is Natural Attenuation the Right Cleanup Approach?



Available Information

Information on this site, as well as all materials regarding the environmental cleanup at NAS Jacksonville, are available for public review at the Charles D. Webb Wesconnett Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 6887 103rd Street.

Library hours are Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Written Comments/Mailing List

If you wish to contact the Navy regarding cleanup activities, or if you would like to be on the Stakeholder's Report newsletter mailing list, please contact:

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