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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "NAVY WILL BEGIN TESTING OF WELLS AT CROOKED RIVER"
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CAMDEN COUNTY TRIBUNE

Navy will begin testing of wells at Crooked River

By Allison Smrekar
Tribune Staff Reporter

The U.S. Navy will begin its preliminary investigation of the groundwater contamination near the old Camden County landfill this month following a public meeting on Thursday to discuss testing.

A plume of vinyl chloride was discovered this summer during groundwater testing at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base. Vinyl chloride results from the breakdown of solvents and is a known carcinogen if inhaled or ingested in high concentrations over a period of time.

Preliminary testing indicated that the plume had vinyl chloride concentrations greater than environmentally acceptable. The goal now is to find out the extent of the plume and to determine whether or not the levels of vinyl chloride in the plume are harmful.

Bob Steller, base deputy public affairs director, said in a telephone interview that a commercial contractor, ABB Environmental Services, will handle the testing for the Navy, but that the testing is in the earliest stages.

"We've just started the testing," Steller said. "The extent of the testing will depend on what they find," he said. "Once we find out the extent of the plume, then we will come up with a plan but it will have to go through both the state and federal bureaucracies."

According to Steller, the purpose of the Oct. 15 public meeting will be to discuss the groundwater testing which will begin this month near the old landfill. The area to be tested includes the Crooked River Plantation subdivision.

The meeting will be held on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Crooked River Elementary School. Captain Len Scullion will chair the meeting, and representatives from ABB Environmental Services will be available to answer questions about the testing procedures.

Permission forms for testing on private property and wells will be available at the meeting.

Well: Navy will begin testing this month

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Although the Navy did not get a 100 percent response from preliminary questionnaires sent to subdivision residents, records indicate that 95 private wells have been identified within the area of the plume.

"We are making testing available to everyone," Steller said. "The government is paying for it."

Although neither a budget or a time table has been set for

testing, the process will include testing of private wells and groundwater sampling using hydrocone technology in designated right of ways and roadways.

In hydrocone testing a large truck pushes a metal probe into the ground to retrieve samples. However, any testing on private property requires the property owner's written permission.

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