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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION 12-17-1992 NSB KINGS BAY GA  
12/17/1992  
NSB KINGS BAY



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE  
KINGS BAY, GEORGIA 31547-5000

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IN REPLY REFER TO

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION  
CROOKED RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1992 - 7:00 PM**

As you know, the Navy is continuing its investigation of a contaminated groundwater "plume" near the Old Camden County Landfill, which appears to be traveling westward to the Crooked River Plantation subdivision. The plume contains vinyl chloride, a carcinogenic by-product of solvents, and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Subdivision residents were asked in September, as a precaution, to stop using their private wells and to give permission for well and groundwater sampling on their properties to help assess the extent of the plume.

Sampling of 51 private wells and additional sampling on streets, rights of way, and five private properties using a hydrocone truck has been completed. The samples have been analyzed in an on-site laboratory for contaminants common to the plume. A portion of the samples were also sent to a second laboratory for extensive analysis and to double check the findings. The Navy, in conjunction with the City of St. Marys, is holding a third public information session at this time to provide the most current information to residents as quickly as possible.

**primary purpose of the December 17 information session will be to distribute individual well testing and hydrocone sampling results to residents.** Each resident will receive his or her own results only. The Navy will also give a presentation which will cover:

- \* how the investigations have progressed,
- \* the projected location and characteristics of the plume, and
- \* next steps in the process.

Residents who allowed their well or groundwater to be tested and are unable to attend this session will receive their results by certified mail. Residents expecting results are encouraged to attend the session, listen to the presentation, and ask questions. Other interested residents are also welcome to attend.

Because the Navy is providing the results as quickly as possible, there has not been time to fully interpret all of the results collectively, to assess the potential risks the plume may pose to human health, or to begin assessing cleanup options. These topics will not be on this session's agenda but will be discussed in future sessions.

Please plan to attend the December 17 public information session. Your cooperation continues to be key to the success of this effort.

L. P. SCULLION  
CAPTAIN, CEC, USN  
PUBLIC WORKS OFFICER

## Public Information Session

### *Fact Sheet*

<b>Introduction</b>	Groundwater analysis conducted by Subase Kings Bay has identified an area of groundwater containing vinyl chloride, a known carcinogen. The contaminated groundwater "plume" is 475 feet wide and lies between 9 and 25 feet below ground surface in the vicinity of the Old Camden County Landfill. Groundwater testing has confirmed that the plume crosses Spur 40, however, additional testing will have to be conducted to determine how far the plume extends.
<b>Background</b>	The groundwater analysis was performed as part of the Subase Kings Bay Installation Restoration Program (IRP). Such programs are being conducted at all bases to identify and clean up environmental conditions from past operations which do not meet today's standards. The Navy manages the IRP through Engineering Field Divisions of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command is the Engineering Field Division managing the IRP for Subase Kings Bay. ABB Environmental Services, Inc. is contracted by the Southern Division to conduct the investigations. Two episodes of sampling and an independent laboratory analysis have confirmed the presence of vinyl chloride. Federal and state regulatory officials, city and county officials, and private citizens of the surrounding area have been notified.
<b>What is Vinyl Chloride?</b>	<p>Vinyl chloride is a colorless gas which mixes with water but evaporates completely when exposed to the air. In its most common form, poly vinyl chloride is used to make PVC, a hard plastic. It is found in cigarette and cigar smoke and was once an ingredient in some cosmetics.</p> <p>While most vinyl chloride comes from the plastics industry, under environmental conditions typically found in landfills of this type, it can be formed by the natural breakdown of other materials such as solvents. It is more likely that the vinyl chloride found in the groundwater was formed from solvents disposed of in the Old Camden County Landfill which is on base property.</p>
<b>Its Effects</b>	<p>Long-term ingestion or inhalation of high concentrations of vinyl chloride has been found to cause cancer. Although the plume is not the source of drinking water for the City of St. Marys or the base, private wells of any type in the area may be contaminated. For this reason, as a precaution, private wells should not be used for any purpose, especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- for drinking water for people or animals,</li><li>- for bathing or swimming, (Though vinyl chloride is not absorbed through the skin, there is a chance for ingestion through these activities.)</li><li>- for use of lawn sprinklers or hoses. ( Plants do not absorb vinyl chloride, however, spraying may release vinyl chloride into the air in unknown concentrations.)</li></ul>
<b>What Happens Next ?</b>	A team of Navy and contractor personnel, regulatory representatives, and local officials are working together to determine the extent of the plume, assess the associated risks, and develop a cleanup plan. To do this, residents of Crooked River Plantation are being asked to identify all private wells in the area and give permission for their testing. In addition, further investigations will be conducted to confirm the source and extent of contamination. An additional public information session to talk about specific testing methods and equipment will be held prior to the private well testing.
<b>For More Information</b>	The Navy, local officials, and regulatory representatives are committed to informing the public on an ongoing basis and to addressing this issue as quickly as possible. Questions and requests for mailings may be directed to the Public Affairs Office at Subase Kings Bay, telephone 673-4714.