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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "NAVY COMPLETES TESTING OF CROOKED RIVER WELLS" NSB
KINGS BAY GA
12/23/1992
CAMDEN COUNTY TRIBUNE

Navy completes testing of Crooked River wells

By Allison Smrekar

Tribune Staff Reporter

The U.S. Navy has completed its investigation at Crooked River Plantation subdivision to determine the extent of groundwater contamination by vinyl chloride.

Results from the groundwater testing should be available in December.

Data from hydrocone testing is currently being analyzed to determine both the extent of groundwater contamination and the levels of vinyl chloride pollution at the site. Once the data is analyzed, the Navy in conjunc-

tion with the Georgia Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Natural Resources will decide if further testing is warranted.

"We may be doing more testing after we have a review with the regulatory agency," said Bob Steller, base deputy public affairs officer. "If they want more testing, we'll do it."

Meanwhile, all the initial testing by ABB Environmental Services is complete except for occasional monitoring tests. The hydrocone testing involves push-

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ing a large metal probe into the earth to extract samples.

Vinyl chloride was discovered last September at the old Camden County landfill 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.

Residents of Crooked River Plantation were asked in September to discontinue use of ground wells as a precautionary measure and to notify the Navy so that the wells could be tested. Roughly 51 of the 95 identified wells in the subdivision were tested as well as the area directly surrounding the landfill.

Not all residents' wells were

tested because private permission was needed to proceed.

"We only tested wells where we had written permission to test," Stellar said.

Also, as part of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), the base is developing a community relations plan which will outline ways that the community will be informed and involved in the program at the base. The IRP is conducted at all military bases to identify and clean up conditions from past operations which do not meet today's environmental standards.

The Community Relations

Plan is being developed with suggestions offered in interviews conducted by Steller and Kathy St. James of ABB Environmental Services with local citizens, elected officials and the media last week. The plan will include a schedule of public meetings, distributions of fact sheets, a public information file and press releases.

Stellar said that feedback from the interviews ranges.

"I've been doing interviews all this week, and some of the folks whose wells were tested are very anxious and others are not," he said. "The concern ranges from moderate to high."