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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "NAVY INSTALLS ADDITIONAL WELLS" NSB KINGS BAY GA
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Navy Installs Additional Wells

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Staff Writer

A little more than one year after the initial discovery of contaminated ground water at the old county landfill and in some areas of Crooked River Plantation, the Navy already has started the estimated \$4 million process, which will lead to a complete cleanup.

ABB Environmental Services, a firm contracted by the Navy to conduct the initial investigation and conduct cleanup efforts, already has begun drilling 15 monitoring wells around the landfill and will begin drilling 10 additional monitoring wells within Crooked River Plantation Subdivision on Wednesday.

Laura Harris, field operations leader for drilling with ABB Environmental Services, said the monitoring wells are being installed so they will have permanent locations to monitor the ground water and all the wells in the subdivision should be completed by Thanksgiving.

Ms. Harris said drilling will begin about 8 a.m. each morning and

be completed by 6 p.m.

"There will be some noise and we may have to block some driveways because of the size of the equipment but residents will be notified in advance," she said.

Also, parents should advise children not to play around the drilling rigs while they are in operation, she said.

Ms. Harris said it takes about a day to complete one well and once all the wells have been drilled crews will come back in December to take samples from the wells.

Additionally, ABB also will continue to sample the air around the landfill and the subdivision as well as the water in Porcupine Lake.

Lt. Cmdr. Mike Patterson, with the Public Works department at the base, said they are waiting on approval from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources before ABB can begin pumping the water out of the ground and treating it.

He said he expects to get the approval around Feb. 1, 1994.

Once the water is treated is will be released to the St. Marys water system or to the Base Land Appli-

cation system, said Tracey Keel, site engineer with ABB Environmental Services.

Lt. Cmdr. Patterson said he would prefer the water be released into the city's system because it is a public system and that route would require less approval from regulatory agencies.

Mr. Keel said after the water is treated and ready to be released ABB will run a pilot test in which about 40 gallons of water per minute will be released 24 hours a day for 45 days.

This test is designed to determine the effectiveness of water treatment, Lt. Cmdr. Patterson said.

There are two ways in which the water can be treated, Mr. Keel said.

Micro-organisms, which will eat the contaminants, can be placed into the water or air can be passed through the water to separate the contaminants from the water, he said.

The contaminants would be pushed into the air and caught on a carbon filter, which would then be

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disposed of at a waste treatment plant, Mr. Keel said.

After ABB receives approval from Ga. DNR around Feb. 1, it will begin experimenting with the two methods of treating the water, he said.

"We don't know what the final solution will be," Lt. Cmdr. Patterson said. "We could remove the source of the contaminants or cap the landfill, but chances are we'll never find the source because more than likely there's more than one source."

"What we want to emphasize is that everything we're doing is not a final cut and dry solution," Mr. Keel said. "It may take care of the problem and it may not."

Lt. Cmdr. Patterson said if pumping out the groundwater and treating it is the solution, it probably will take several years before all the water is clean.

The Navy currently is paying for the cleanup of the contaminants through its Installation-Restoration Program and to date

some of the cost from those who contributed to the waste at the landfill.

The Navy still maintains the contaminants discovered in the ground water pose minimal risk to residents in the area but have asked that they voluntarily discontinue use of their private irrigation systems for watering lawns, washing outdoor items and recreation.

The initial discovery of vinyl chloride resulted from Navy testing, in February 1992, of wells around the old county landfill located across from Crooked River Plantation subdivision on federal property.

During testing 17 contaminants were found beginning 16 feet below ground level and running as deep as 51 feet, but no contaminants were detected in the air, in Porcupine Lake or in shallow groundwater.

Of the 17 contaminants identified in the plume, seven are carcinogens and 10 are non-carcinogens.