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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "WELL DIGGING BEGINS IN CROOKED RIVER PLANTATION" NSB  
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# Well digging begins in Crooked River Plantation

BY ALLISON SMREKAR  
TRIBUNE STAFF REPORTER

Wells are being installed this week near Crooked River Plantation to aid in the cleanup of groundwater contaminants.

Under contract with the U.S. Navy, ABB Environmental Services will install recovery wells along Spur 40 and monitoring wells within Crooked River Plantation subdivision.

The wells are part of a remediation process to begin cleanup of contaminated groundwater leaking from an old county landfill inside Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base.

<sup>2nd</sup> Captain Len Scullion of the base public works department said initial testing work for the project will occur on base in the vicinity of the old 35-acre landfill. Crews also will begin installing monitoring wells in the subdivision this week.

A drilling rig will produce boreholes ranging from 20 to 90 feet deep for use as monitoring wells. Some locations will have multiple groundwater monitoring wells installed at different depths.

Approximately one month after the wells are installed, technicians will return to collect

"Although there is minimal (health) risk, we have to clean up the area according to environmental regulations," said Bob Steller, Kings Bay spokesperson. "We have spent \$2 million to date and we will probably spend an estimated \$4 million or more."

Lt. Commander Mike Patterson of the base public works department said the Navy might try to recover some of its costs from prior landfill users. In the meantime, project costs are being paid by the Navy.

"We want to solve the problem as quickly as possible," he said. An underground area, or

water samples.

"By installing wells at permanent locations to monitor the groundwater, we will have a better understanding of the landfill," said Laura Harris, ABB field operations leader.

Drilling will occur at 15 different locations at the landfill and in Crooked River Plantation subdivision. A total of 25 wells will be installed by Thanksgiving.

Workers will drill from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, according to Harris.

"It will be a noisy process and

plume, contaminated with vinyl chloride was discovered near the Crooked River subdivision area last summer during a groundwater investigation as part of the Navy's Installation Restoration Program.

The plume is contaminated with vinyl chloride which results from the breakdown of cleaning solvents. The chemical is a carcinogen when inhaled or ingested in high concentrations over a period of time.

Preliminary testing indicated the plume had vinyl chloride concentrations greater than environmentally acceptable.

traffic is likely to be disruptive, but we will not have trucks coming in while children are trying to get to school and we will finish by 6 p.m. daily," she said.

Keel said ABB plans to use two possible methods to solve the contamination. One method introduces a microorganism which will eat the vinyl chloride contaminants.

The other method blows bubbles into the groundwater to drive volatile contaminants into the air. The contaminants are then captured from the air with carbon filters.