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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "TEST WELLS PUMPING WATER FOR TREATMENT" NSB KINGS  
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# Test Wells Pumping Water For Treatment

By **BRANDI TIPPS**  
Staff Writer

ABB Environmental Services, contracted by the U.S. Navy, has begun its Interim Measure Program to treat contaminated groundwater at the old County landfill.

The pumps were turned on March 19 and the pilot program test will run for the next 45 days, said Bob Steller, director of Public Affairs at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay.

According to ABB Environmental, the interim measure program consists of five extraction wells.

"Combined, these wells are designed to pump approximately 40

gallons of groundwater each minute to the surface. At the surface, a buried pipeline will carry the groundwater away from the wells to a treatment site located on the Base. The contaminated groundwater will be treated using an air stripping technology and biological treatment," according to an ABB Environmental fact sheet.

These technologies are expected to stop further movement of the contaminated groundwater and are expected to reduce the levels of contamination found in the groundwater.

During the air stripping process, equipment will transfer the contaminants from the water into air in a completely closed system.

Because many of the contaminants are very volatile (easily evaporate into gas) they are expected to be almost completely removed from the water.

Those chemicals then will be removed from the air with activated carbon, which will then be treated off site.

In the biological treatment process, bacteria will be used to destroy contaminants. Although the bacteria is not harmful, the enzymes produced are effective in breaking down the contaminants in the groundwater.

According to ABB Environmental Services, the treated groundwater will meet all applicable local, federal and state requirements before being discharged to the local wastewater treatment plant.

After the 45 pilot test is completed, the data will be analyzed to

determine what is the best method of cleanup for the contaminated groundwater, Mr. Steller said, adding that once a decision is made another public hearing will be held to receive public comment.

The problem with the old landfill was first discovered in August 1992, when the Navy confirmed that contaminated groundwater, thought to be from the old County landfill located on the base, was moving toward Crooked River Plantation Subdivision, which is west of the landfill.

The contaminated groundwater is between nine feet and 57 feet and the chemicals found include vinyl chloride, dichloroethene, trichloroethene, benzene, toluene and xylene.

Additional environmental investigations are scheduled to be conducted this summer and fall.

The supplemental investigation will include, collection of surface water and sediment samples from Porcupine Lake; excavation of test trenches in the landfill to determine the source of contamination,

if possible; collection of surface soil samples in the landfill; conducting air monitoring in the landfill and subdivision and conducting two groundwater sampling events.

Following the supplemental investigation the data will be interpreted to determine whether other contamination exists in the soils, sediment, surface water and air.

Additionally, the next step will be to support the development of the Health and Environmental Assessment and Corrective Measures Study/Corrective Action Plan.