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NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE

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KINGS BAY, GEORGIA

Installation Restoration Program Newsletter

March 1997

Volume 4, Number 1

This newsletter is provided to the community by Naval Submarine Base (SUBASE) on a quarterly basis or when significant developments occur in the environmental cleanup program. Copies of previous editions of EnviroUpdate can be obtained through the Public Affairs Office. For more information, contact Robert Steller, Public Affairs Office, (912) 673-4714.

Continued Improvements to the Old Camden County Landfill Treatment System

Over the last few years, several investigations and field activities have taken place to pinpoint the source of groundwater contamination and to better understand groundwater flow conditions at the Old Camden County Landfill. Based on the results of these investigation, in 1994 the Navy installed a treatment system to contain and cleanup the contaminated groundwater.

To study the effectiveness of the system and identify possible improvements, the Navy has recently conducted additional investigations and field activities. These activities have involved sampling and analyzing groundwater, conducting pumping tests, installing a new groundwater extraction well (recovery well), and providing maintenance and improvements to existing recovery wells and other treatment system components. Background information on these activities is available in previous newsletters. This newsletter will provide an update of some of the most recent field efforts.

Direct-Push Groundwater Sampling

Four years ago, the Navy used a groundwater sampling technique referred to as the "direct-push" technology to investigate groundwater at the Old Camden County Landfill. Information from this investigation was used to design the treatment system that is now operating at the site.

In March of this year, the Navy conducted another investigation using the direct-push technology to update its understanding of groundwater contamination at the site. This investigation provided a "snapshot" of the location and concentration of chemicals present in the groundwater in the area where the treatment system is operating.

The direct-push activities began March 3rd and took about two weeks to complete. You may have seen the field workers onsite with the large white truck shown in Figure 1.

Using a hydraulic system and the weight of the truck, groundwater samples were taken by pushing a cone-shaped probe into the ground through a hole in the floor of the truck. (Continued on page 2)



Figure 1. Direct-Push Technology System.

Get Involved in SUBASE's Environmental Cleanup Program!

SUBASE's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) provides a way for you to learn about ongoing environmental cleanup activities, interact with key decision makers (the Navy and Georgia Department of Environmental Protection), and provide input into the overall cleanup process at SUBASE. RAB meetings are held quarterly and are *open to the public*.

Mark your calendars! The next RAB meeting will be held **April 24th at 10:00 am at St. Marys Library.**

Topics of discussion at the April meeting will include the following:

- results of the direct-push groundwater sampling program;
- Phase II Interim Measure upgrades; and
- other Installation Restoration program activities.

If you have questions or are interested in hearing more about the cleanup, please come and join us! For more information, call SUBASE's Public Affairs Office at (912) 673-4714 or email us at pao@subasekb.navy.mil.

We're on the Information Superhighway!

Lost track of where we are in the cleanup process? Want to know how to get involved? Need information discussed in a previous newsletter?

This spring we will be updating the SUBASE web page so that you have all the answers at your fingertips. Updates will include a summary of environmental cleanup actions and the addition of recent issues of *EnviroUpdate* and fact sheets. Come visit us!

**[http://www.gnatnet.net/
~kingsbay](http://www.gnatnet.net/~kingsbay)**

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Once the probe was at the desired location and depth, the tip was controlled from within the truck to pump the groundwater. The groundwater was pumped up through the probe and into the truck where the sample was prepared to be sent to the onsite laboratory. The groundwater data is currently being evaluated and preliminary results will be available in the spring.

Phase II Interim Measure Upgrades -- Fieldwork Completed

Phase II field activities discussed in the December 1996 edition of *EnviroUpdate* are now complete. These activities included installation of a new recovery well (referred to as RW-6), redevelopment of four existing recovery wells, and the shut down of one of the original recovery wells. The fieldwork was completed ahead of schedule, and improved results can already be seen. For example, groundwater flow into the treatment system has increased from 21 gallons per minute (gpm) to 44 gpm! This means that almost twice as much contaminated groundwater is flowing through the treatment system.

The new recovery well, RW-6, was installed using an improved drilling technique, which allows the well to pump more groundwater in less time. A pumping test was conducted on the well in March 1997 to evaluate how the groundwater system responds when water is pumped at a higher rate. The Navy will use the results of the pumping test to determine if they should replace the existing recovery wells with the improved design.

Additional Cleanup Program Improvements

Several activities are in the works to make the environmental cleanup program run as effectively and smoothly as possible. These activities include developing an inter-agency project team, evaluating the effectiveness of the treatment system, and installing a telemetry system.

Project Team Initiative

As the Old Camden County Landfill continues through the cleanup process, the Navy, U.S. Geological Survey, and ABB Environmental Services, Inc. (the Navy's environmen-

tal consultant) need to work together to meet their common goal of closing the site. Therefore, an inter-agency project team comprised of representatives from each of the aforementioned groups was developed in late 1996.

Although representatives from these groups have been involved in the cleanup project for some time, the teaming initiative developed a more cohesive group that will focus on the overall closure of the site. The teaming initiative has already lead to a collective decision-making process in identifying and implementing activities needed to support corrective action at the site.

Treatment System Evaluation

As discussed in our last newsletter, evaluating the treatment system's performance is a priority in 1997. The system evaluation was completed in March 1997 and involved evaluating recent air and groundwater samples in relation to historical data. This evaluation will be used to determine the effectiveness of the system and to identify any possible improvements. The system evaluation results should be available for discussion at the next RAB meeting.

Telemetry

To further increase the effectiveness of the treatment system, the Navy will install a *telemetry* system. Currently, treatment system operators must visit the site to obtain information about how the system is operating. By installing the telemetry system, SUBASE will be able to monitor the treatment system from a remote location; thus decreasing response time to any system maintenance needs.

Electrical monitoring equipment installed in the treatment system will be tied into a computer network system, which when accessed, will tell the operator if the system has shut down or if maintenance is required. This may also allow SUBASE to better predict future treatment system problems.

In addition to these cleanup program improvements, the Navy will also improve effectiveness of the treatment system by periodically redeveloping recovery wells and providing preventative maintenance and routine servicing of the treatment system parts.

What's on Your Mind?

The community is an integral part of our environmental cleanup program. One of our goals in this program is to keep you informed about planned and ongoing cleanup actions, and to give you the opportunity to provide input on cleanup decisions, and voice any concerns you may have.

This newsletter is one way that we have been sharing information with you over the years. We have tried to write about the subjects you seem most interested in. The Navy is also keeping the community involved by conducting public meetings, providing fact sheets at program milestones, developing a web page, inviting the community to onbase environmental events such as Earth Day, and of course through the RAB. Now we need your feedback!

To help us update our mailing list and ensure that we are addressing the issues that concern you, *please fill out and return the attached comment reply card*. Your comments will assist in the development of future communications and enable us to more adequately address any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to hearing from you!

SUBASE, Working to Preserve the Earth

April 22nd is recognized nationwide as Earth Day; a day set aside to promote environmental awareness. Over the last few years, SUBASE has made efforts to be more environmentally conscious in conducting military operations. As a result, pollution prevention, recycling, and environmental cleanup efforts are incorporated into SUBASE's day-to-day decisions and activities.

Come find out more! SUBASE will be highlighting these and other environmental activities at their Earth Day festival. The festival will be held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on April 18th and 19th at the SUBASE Navy Exchange.

Demonstrations, giveaways, and environmental program information will be available. Bring the kids; it's fun for the whole family!



Questions & Answers

Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay - Who To Call?

For general questions or information about SUBASE and the environmental program, contact:



Robert Steller
Public Affairs Officer
(912) 673-4714



An Information Respository containing documents related to the environmental cleanup activities at SUBASE is also available to the public. The Information Respository is located at:

St. Marys Public Library
100 Herb Bauer Drive
St. Marys, Georgia 31558
(912) 882-4800

Become involved in the environmental program at SUBASE, attend a RAB meeting!
These meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public.
Mark your calendars for the next meeting scheduled for April 24th at 10 am.

Public Affairs Office
Naval Submarine Base
1036 USS Tennessee Avenue
Kings Bay, Georgia 31547-2606