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NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE

# ENVIROUPDATE

KINGS BAY, GEORGIA

Installation Restoration Program Newsletter

September 1996

Volume 3, Number 3

*This newsletter is provided to the community 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.*

## ***Pumping Tests Continue....***

**To help us better understand groundwater chemistry and flow conditions**

As discussed in the last newsletter (June 1996) we have been collecting more data in the field to better understand groundwater flow around the landfill during interim measure (IM) pumping and non-pumping conditions. By varying the pumping conditions and rates of the system we may be able to physically bring *less* groundwater to the surface for treatment but remove *even more* contaminants from the aquifer. In May we started a pulsed pumping test in the field where we turned the system on and then off to see how the aquifer and contaminants levels responded under different pumping scenarios.

The pulsed pumping test is being conducted in sequences or phases. We completed the first sequence this summer with the pumps turned off for an 8-day period in June. Our engineers and scientists are now evaluating data collected during that sequence as well as chemical data collected since the cleanup program began. As they evaluate the chemical data over time certain trends in chemical concentrations are observed and help them to assess the effectiveness of our cleanup measures. The technical team is now assessing data collected since April 1994 (when the IM system was started) including sampling events in April 1995, April 1996, and data collected during the summer test.

Preliminary evaluation of the data continue to indicate that the IM system is effective in limiting the movement of chemicals in the groundwater towards the subdivision. Chemical concentrations decrease in the area of the subdivision when the system is operating and when groundwater is being pumped. After a

temporary 4-month shutdown for system maintenance, the wells were sampled in April 1996. Analytical data after this nonpumping period indicate that concentrations of chlorinated solvents increased in one well located in the subdivision. Once the system started pumping again, the concentrations decreased.

## **Pulsed Pumping Test, Take 2**

After looking at the data from Sequence 1, we are planning the second sequence that will extend through the end of this year. Sequence 2 will be very similar to our summer test. After a long period of pumping to remove about six million gallons of groundwater from the aquifer, we will turn the pumps off and let the system REST for a maximum of six weeks. During both the pumping and the rest periods we will be collecting numerous samples for chemical analysis. The rest period is expected to last from mid-November to late December. We will be looking to see how the groundwater and chemical levels respond during this test. This information will help us assess removal of contaminants, whether pulsed pumping is a long-term cleanup option, and how long it will take to clean up the groundwater to meet regulatory cleanup goals.

*For more information:*

**Attend the next Restoration Advisory Board meeting on January 23, 1997 at St. Marys Library or contact Bob Steller at 673-4714**

## ***Navy Seeks to Involve Others***

As part of our cleanup program under federal environmental laws, the Navy is required to identify other parties that may have contributed to the disposal of wastes at the Old Camden County Landfill. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, better known as Superfund, parties responsible for contributing to contaminated sites could have potential liability for cleanup costs. In addition to the Navy, six parties have been identified as using the landfill in the past. They are the U.S. Army, Camden County, Camden County Board of Education, the cities of St. Marys and Kingsland, and Gilman Paper Company. The Navy wants to ensure that these parties are involved and have the opportunity to participate in the environmental cleanup activities. The Navy hopes that these parties will work with SUBASE, the regulatory agencies, and the Restoration Advisory Board so that technically-sound and cost effective solutions can be implemented.

## ***A Big SUBASE Thank You!***

SUBASE's Installation Restoration Program Coordinator, Sandi Mukherjee is leaving SUBASE to work for the Navy in the cooler climate of Pennsylvania. Sandi has been an asset to our environmental team for the last 2 years and will be greatly missed. We welcome Rhonda Bath to our cleanup team. As an environmental engineer she will take over Sandi's responsibilities. Rhonda has worked at SUBASE over the last year in the Trident Refit Facility. Welcome!

We also say good-bye and good luck to Ted Taylor, the project manager for ABB Environmental Services, our environmental engineering consultants. Ted and his family, now based in Knoxville, are seeking the even cooler climate of Maine (*Brrrrr*). Ted has also been instrumental to our cleanup program over the last two years and we thank him for this technical and managerial contributions.

### **? Questions ?**

**Contact Bob Steller, Public Affairs Officer, 673-4714 or visit our webpage at  
<http://www.gnatnet.net/~kingsbay/>**

**Program documents are available for review at the Information Repository at St. Marys Public Library.**

**Public Affairs Office  
Naval Submarine Base  
1063 USS Tennessee Avenue  
Kings Bay, Georgia 31547-2606**