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AUGUST 1995



## NAVAL AIR STATION MEMPHIS MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE **2**

### INTRODUCTION

This updates provides a brief review of the environmental restoration progress and associated redevelopment activities ongoing at Naval Air Station Memphis.

### ASSEMBLIES A THROUGH H

Sites requiring environmental investigation at NAS Memphis have been grouped into eight "assemblies" based on their potential for reuse and level of environmental concern. Assembly A was given highest investigative priority because of the potential for environmental contamination from past activities at those sites and their location on the NAS Memphis Northside which is scheduled for transfer to the City of Millington. The next highest priorities, in order, are Assemblies B, C, D, E, F, G, and H.

#### Assembly A

Assembly A includes six sites, called "solid waste management units," or "SWMUs." Investigations at each SWMU have been completed and the data are being analyzed to determine if there is any impact from contamination at these sites. A report, called the RCRA Facility Investigation (or RFI) report is currently being written detailing the findings of these studies. The report should be complete in September and will be the basis for the remediation (or cleanup actions), if any, proposed for each site. Following are summaries of the investigations which took place at the six sites in Assembly A.

#### *SWMU 1 (Fire Department Drill Area)*

The only recommended action for this site is removal of a soil pile. Disposal requirements and arrangements for disposal are currently being evaluated.

#### *SWMU 3 (N-121 Plating Shop Dry Well)*

Investigative results indicate negligible contamination. No further action will be recommended.

#### *SWMU 5 (Aircraft Fire Fighting Training Facility)*

Petroleum-related contamination has been detected and may require remediation after the facility ceases operations.

#### *SWMU 7 (N-126 Plating Shop Dry Well)*

Chlorinated solvents were identified in groundwater. The extent of the contamination has not been defined; therefore, sewer-line inspections and additional testing and monitoring wells will be required.

*SWMU 8 (Cemetery Disposal Area)*

Investigative results indicate negligible contamination. No further action will be recommended.

*SWMU 60 (Northside Landfill)*

This SWMU has shallow petroleum contamination just outside one corner of the site. Additional sampling will be required to define the extent of the contamination in order to remove it. In addition, surface soil samples will be collected in low areas across the entire landfill to complete the investigation.

**Assemblies B and C**

There are six SWMUs in Assembly B, and six in Assembly C. Only five of the Assembly C SWMUs have been investigated because SWMU 18 is an underground storage tank (UST) which will be investigated under the UST program. Investigative fieldwork is complete and a report is currently being written for submittal to environmental regulators for their review.

Although the initial investigation is complete, further studies are required for SWMUs 15 and 21 due to presence of solvents in groundwater. In Assembly B, additional samples will be taken at SWMU 40 to provide sufficient data for a preliminary risk evaluation.

**Assemblies D and E**

Draft work plans which outline the investigation strategies for Assemblies D and E have been submitted to the USEPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. These documents are also available for review in the RAB library. Comments are currently being solicited and will be incorporated or addressed before the work plans are implemented. After these comments have been incorporated and the document has been finalized, investigative field work will begin at these Assemblies. Preliminary geophysical surveys have begun.

Assembly E is comprised of the Southside RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) SWMUs, and is the first of the Southside Assemblies to be investigated.

**Assemblies F, G, and H**

Assemblies F, G, and H are the Southside Confirmatory Sampling Investigation (CSI) SWMUs. Work plans have not yet been developed for these Assemblies.

**Followup Gray Area Work Plan**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the U.S. Geological Survey have reviewed and commented on the followup Gray Area Work Plan. Resolution to these comments will be finalized this fall with fieldwork beginning shortly thereafter.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT** \_\_\_\_\_

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a document being prepared which analyzes how the planned reuse of NAS Memphis property will affect the local environment, ecology, economy, and infrastructure. The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies — in this case the Navy — to prepare a detailed EIS for major federal actions (such as the NAS Memphis realignment) that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The EIS must review the impacts of several reasonable reuse alternatives, including the plan chosen by the Reuse Committee. Once the reuse plan has been finalized, its impact on the environment can be assessed and the plan can be incorporated into the EIS.

A public meeting was held on June 28, 1994 as a kick-off for the EIS process. This meeting was held in association with a 30 day comment period designed to determine what public concerns should be addressed in this document. The draft EIS will be made available to the public in December 1995. This will be followed by a 45 day public comment period. A public hearing will be scheduled in January 1996 to provide an additional opportunity for interested individuals and organizations to comment on the EIS. The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 1996.

## **REUSE PLANNING EFFORTS**

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The community's reuse plan will be available in September. The central component to this mixed-use plan is the continued use of the airfield as a commercial airport. It is expected that the plan will include some provisions for mixed industrial use, offices, and commercial and residential development.

## **LEASE OF THE AIRFIELD**

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The expected date for the lease of the airfield from the U.S. Navy by the City of Millington is October 1, 1995. The Finding of Suitability to Lease (FOSL) has been reviewed by the USEPA and the State of Tennessee and comments are currently being incorporated. The FOSL determines that property is appropriate and available for leasing, but will include a provision that additional investigation or remediation is still required.

The lease allows the Navy to continue investigating and monitoring sites of concern with the option of beginning remediation or cleanup activities at any time.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

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The Restoration Advisory Board at NAS Memphis holds regular meetings at which environmental topics are discussed. These meetings are advertised and open to the public. You can find out when the next Board meeting will be by contacting the NAS Memphis Public Affairs Office at the following address or telephone number.

In addition, the Public Affairs Office maintains a mailing list of individuals and organizations interested in the NAS Memphis environmental program. The mailing list is used for notification of meetings, announcements, and developments in the program.

Please contact the Public Affairs Office if you wish to be added to this list or if you have any questions about the environmental program at NAS Memphis.

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