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FACT SHEET DISCUSSING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AT SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT UNIT 9 CSS PANAMA CITY FL
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Fact Sheet 3

 28
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This fact sheet has been developed to inform the public about on going environmental cleanup activities at the Coastal System Station (CSS) Panama City in Panama City, Florida. The base Installation Restoration (IR) Program investigates and cleans up areas of contamination from past practices at military installations nationwide. Fact sheets will be produced at program milestones and in response to public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the CSS Panama City Public Affairs Office (850) X- X

Environmental Cleanup Activities CSS Panama City SWMU9

What is going on?

The U.S. Navy has been working toward cleaning up the environment through many programs including, the Installation Restoration (IR) Program. By finding and cleaning up contamination from past waste management and disposal activities, we at Coastal Systems Station (CSS) Panama City can better protect public health and the environment today. We want you to know how far we have come in our cleanup efforts.

What area is being cleaned up?

The Navy calls sites being investigated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Areas of Concern (AOCs) and Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs). Several sites have already been investigated fully and have progressed to the point of cleanup. One of these areas is termed SWMU9.

SWMU9 is the location of a former circular, earthen fire-fighting training area used by CSS Panama City beginning in the 1980s. The earthen area is located next to the current concrete fire fighting training pad. Facility records indicate that training at SWMU9 ended in 1985; however, site visits indicate that SWMU9 may have been used for fire fighting training as late as 1993. Exercises at SWMU9 consisted of pouring and igniting fuel on the ground inside the circular earthen area to practice extinguishing the flames. Approximately 20 training exercises were conducted at SWMU9 and a total of 50,000 gallons of fuel were ignited in the area.

What has been done so far?

Study of the damage to the area did not identify a separate fuel layer floating on the groundwater, but did identify some fuel compounds on the soil and dissolved in the groundwater. The study determined that clean-up activities for the surface soil and the groundwater were needed at SWMU9. The Navy Public Works Center Pensacola has submitted a plan to remove and dispose of soil from the circular earthen fire fighting training area. In addition, further testing of the groundwater indicated that natural processes might be decreasing the fuel components that are dissolved in the groundwater.

Low concentrations of dissolved fuels often decrease in the environment under the right conditions. Dissolved fuel concentrations can be decreased in the environment through several natural processes referred to as natural attenuation. Natural attenuation includes: (1) degradation of the dissolved fuels by bacteria in the soil and groundwater, (2) dilution of the dissolved fuels with local groundwater, and (3) adsorption of the dissolved fuel into the organic particles of the soil. All of these natural processes help to lower the fuel concentrations. Long-term monitoring is needed to see if these processes are decreasing the dissolved fuel concentrations.

What Cleanup Activities Will Be Initiated?

Because low concentrations of dissolved fuels will naturally attenuate, a monitoring program has been setup to verify that the dissolved fuel concentrations decrease and will not move from their present location at SWMU9. The groundwater will be tested through eight monitoring wells installed at the site. Every three months for the first year and then once a year for another four-year period, groundwater samples will be collected from these monitoring wells and sent to a laboratory to determine the concentrations that remain dissolved in the groundwater. During the first year of sampling, the laboratory results will be entered into a groundwater model. The model will be updated every year with new test results. If concentrations do not decrease to acceptable concentrations by the end of the five-year monitoring period, additional remedial efforts will be considered. One possible remedial effort would be to restrict the future use of the groundwater around SWMU9.

