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FACT SHEET DISCUSSING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AT SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT UNIT 10 CSS PANAMA CITY FL  
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CSS PANAMA CITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



# Fact Sheet 4

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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 SWMU10

### **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 SWMU10.

SWMU10 is the site of an oil-water separation (OWS) system. The OWS system has been in operation since 1968 and includes a 6,000-gallon underground waste oil tank and a 10,000-gallon fiberglass and plastic oil waste holding tank. The OWS is used to treat bilge water that is removed from naval vessels.

Sampling and testing performed at SWMU10 in 1992 identified chlorinated solvents in the soil and dissolved in the groundwater. The cause of the chlorinated solvents was two incidents that occurred in 1992. During the first incident, a leak from the OWS was detected, and cleanup of the leak included the removal of two 55-gallon drums of contaminated soil from the area. The second incident was caused by the accidental flow of storm water into the 10,000-gallon fiberglass tank that caused an overflow of the tank contents to a near-by holding pond. It is estimated that 600 gallons of storm water and bilge water flowed into St. Andrews Bay. As a result of the incident, CSS Panama City personnel dug and removed approximately 20 cubic yards of soil from the retention pond. The soil was taken from the station for proper disposal.

### **What has been done so far?**

Additional tests at SWMU10 indicated a separate floating fuel layer floating on top of the groundwater in one of the groundwater monitoring wells. A program was started to measure and remove any fuel that appeared in that monitoring well on a weekly basis. This program has been stopped because fuel is no longer present in the monitoring well.

The additional tests at SWMU10 did not identify the chlorinated solvents that were reported in 1992. This may be a result of natural processes at SWMU10 acting to decrease the chlorinated solvents previously present.

Chemical compound concentrations often decrease in the environment under the right conditions. Concentration decreases can occur through several natural processes referred to as natural attenuation. Natural attenuation includes: (1) degradation of the constituents by bacteria in the soil and groundwater, (2) dilution with local groundwater, and (3) adsorption into the organic particles of the soil. All of these natural processes help to lower concentrations.

### **What Cleanup Activities Will Be Initiated?**

Because concentrations of chemical constituents tend to naturally attenuate, a monitoring program has been set up to verify that the concentrations decrease and will not move from their present location at SWMU10. The groundwater will be tested with five monitoring wells installed at the site. Every three months for one year and then once a year for an additional four-year period, groundwater samples will be collected from these monitoring wells and tested to determine the concentrations that remain dissolved in the groundwater at SWMU10.

During the first year of sampling, the test 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 SWMU10.

