



NAVAL AIR STATION, PENSAC PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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Removal Actions at Sites 30, 32 and 39 Fact Sheet

■ what is happening?

At NAS Pensacola, every effort is being made to clean up sites which were identified under the Department of Defense's **Installation Restoration Program (IRP)**. Three sites on the base have been chosen for early removal initiatives. The removal actions, **as** all aspects of the **IRP**, are conducted in **compliance** with state and federal regulations. Compliance is assured by participation of the regulatory agencies in IRP decisions. **The** IRP is being conducted at bases nationwide to identify **and** address potential contamination from past practices. -These past practices are no longer used because they do not meet today's environmental **standards**.

■ What is a Removal Action?

At any site where there **has** been a release or spill that could potentially impact human health and/or the environment, a removal action may be performed to remove the source of possible contamination. Performance of removal actions is designed to "prevent, minimize or mitigate damage to the public health or welfare or to the environment," **as** stated in the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)**. CERCLA is the defining legislation for cleanup of sites that involved the use or disposal of hazardous materials, such **as** chemicals or petroleum products, at some time in the past.

Removal actions may be appropriate for several types of sites mentioned by **CERCLA**. These include sites where hazardous materials, such **as** chemicals or petroleum products, spilled or leaked into the ground in the past and could **have an** impact on human or environmental health. CERCLA **also** mentions sites where no actual release or leak into the environment **has** occurred, but the possibility of a release or leak exists because of the presence of chemicals or petroleum products.

Removal actions may involve **heavy** equipment to remove dirt from **the** site. In the case of a storage **tank**, the **tank** must be carefully cleaned and exposed before being removed from the ground. This typically requires time, planning, equipment and expertise, and is not a quick and easy procedure.

■ Who selects this procedure?

These actions are agreed upon by the decision-making group overseeing the IRP. That group is composed of representatives of the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, the Florida Department of **Environmental Protection** and the Navy. The team **was** put together to make decisions about environmental activities recommended for the base. In **this** way, actions **proposed** by the Navy and agreed upon by the other agencies **are** sure to follow the requirements set out to protect human **health and** the environment.

■ Which areas will be affected?

The following sites were selected for early removal actions:

- 4 Site 30 — Wetland SA (portion of Site 30)
- 4 Site 32 — Former Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 4 Site 39 — **Oak** Grove Campground

These three sites **are** discussed separately in **this** fact sheet.

■ **SITE 30 -
Wetland No. 5A**

Wetland 5A, the headwater of a small creek **flowing** southeast **from** Site 30, crosses under Murray **Road** and intersects a drainage ditch west of Chevalier Field which discharges into the Yacht Basin.

A steel waste-receiving structure in Wetland **5A** is the focus of **this** removal action. The structure may have received plating wastes generated from Buildings **649** and **755** from the **1940s** through the **1970s**, when **plating** operations in both buildings stopped. Several byproducts of the **metal** plating process were present in samples of the sediment from around the structure. These same byproducts were found at even higher concentrations in the sediment inside the structure. **A** surface water sample taken next to the structure contained similar byproducts, but at relatively low concentrations.

■ **Why was this site selected?**

The concern is that this structure will continue to leak **contaminants** into water and sediment, impacting plant and **animal** life nearby.

■ **What will be done?**

The structure will **be** emptied, and the contents properly removed and disposed. It is possible that soil around the structure will need to be excavated and disposed. The structure will be removed from the wetland and steam cleaned before being disposed.

■ **SITE 32 - Former
Treatment Plant**

The former wastewater treatment plant at Site **32** began treating sanitary sewer wastes in **1941**. The plant is located on Magazine Point Peninsula, north of Chevalier Field. Three main structures, a sedimentation **tank**, sludge drying beds, and a chlorine contact chamber, are affected by **this** removal action.

These structures were connected in the wastewater treatment process, which allowed solids to settle out of the water in the sedimentation **tank** before the water was passed to the chlorine contact chamber. The solids, called "**sludge**," were then pumped to the drying beds where water, **as** it drained from the sludge, was pumped to the contact chamber where chlorine was added **as** a disinfectant.

● **Why was this site selected?**

While the system was only designed for **sanitary** sewage, industrial wastes from the plating operation in Building **649** may have been disposed of through **this** plant. For this reason, the original removal actions, which included only the sludge drying beds, have been expanded to include the **sedimentation tank** and the chlorine contact chamber. The drying beds were targeted because analytical results identified concentrations of metals and chemicals in the sludge. Samples taken **from** the contact chamber and the sedimentation **tank** indicated industrial byproducts similar to those found in the drying beds, and therefore similar potential contamination.

■ **What will be done?**

All three structures will be emptied of solids **and** liquids. All small or removable solid materials will be placed in roll on/roll **off** containers **and** properly disposed of. All materials too large to remove, including the **tank** walls, will be steam cleaned to ensure that no contamination remains. **Any** wastewater created in this process will be captured and placed in proper containers for disposal.

■ **SITE 39 - Oak Grove Campground Area**

Approximately **200 feet** south of the **Oak Grove campground**, a circular area approximately **300 feet** in diameter is littered with broken brick, concrete, tile, glass, coal and nails. Soil within **this** circle is **darkly stained and** surrounded by sparse vegetation. Debris is from a demolished base building **and** the **soil is stained** by used motor oil. Old railroad ties were **reportedly** once stored **in this** area.

■ **Why was this site selected?**

In **1990**, campers first **reported stained** soil; **test results** indicated low to moderate concentrations of **petroleum** products, such as used oil or wood preservative, in the stained **area**. A **risk assessment** has determined **that** these concentrations pose **no risk** to recreational users, but they may not meet the most restrictive residential **standards**.

The chemicals in Site **39 soil** could pose a **risk** to local groundwater if left in place. Groundwater **test results** have indicated that the soil is not **affecting** the water quality; however, it may if **no** action is taken. While **natural** processes would eventually reduce the **amount** of contaminants in the soil, it **has** been recommended **that** at least the top foot of soil be removed to protect the groundwater.

■ **What will be done?**

All stained soil will be removed **and** disposed. After the area has been completely excavated and tested for any **remaining** contamination, the site will be filled with clean soil and replanted. The site will be **left as close as** possible to **its** natural state.

■ **What else will be done?**

Extensive preparation is underway to implement **procedures** for worker health and safety, **sampling and** analysis, equipment decontamination, **and** proper disposal of the structure and other **wastes** generated during the removals (including soil and water). Air will be monitored at each site during excavation **and** removal to ensure safe breathing conditions for **onsite** personnel **and** to control any **additional** emissions.

After these **tasks** have been completed, **and** tests have confirmed contamination removal, the final step will be to **backfill** or **cap** the decontaminated structures, preventing further access. It is possible **that** the structures themselves will be removed **and** properly disposed of.

Information collected during these removal actions, including laboratory test results, will be **used** in making **future** decisions for each of these sites.

■ **Where can I find more information?**

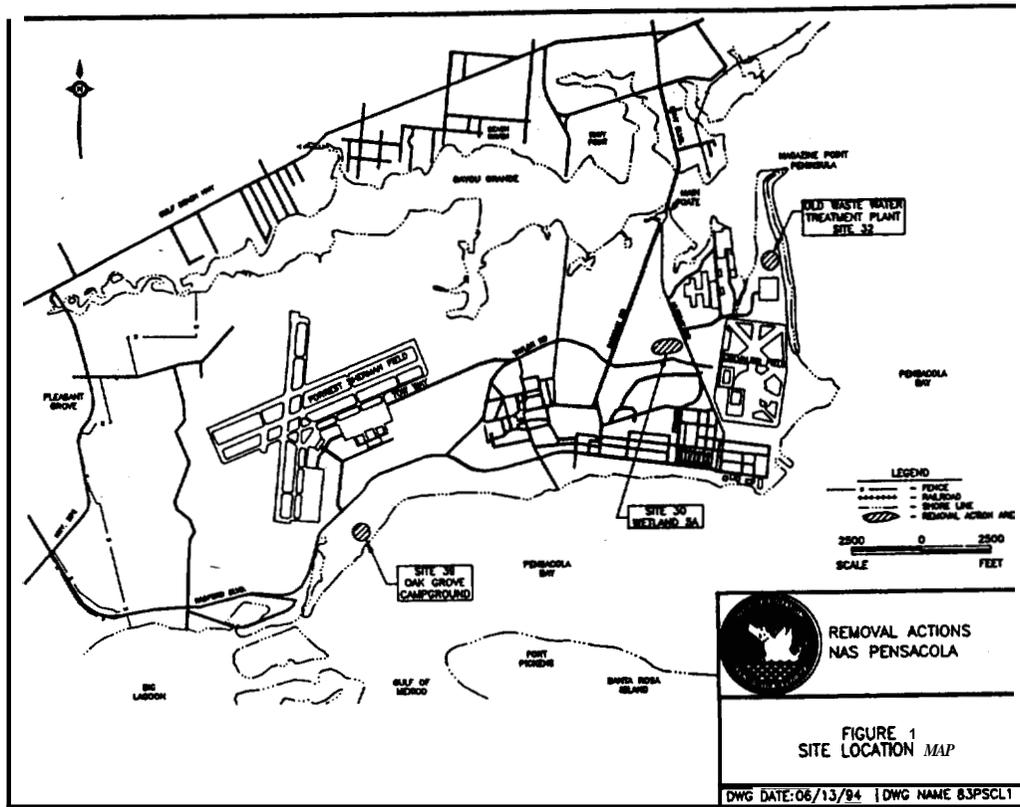
Work plans **discussing** site **background** information **and** the removal **actions** are available in three local information repositories:

- ◆ ~~West~~ Florida Regional Library, **200 W.** Gregory Street, Pensacola, **(904) 435-1760**
- ◆ **John C. Pace** Library, Univ. of **W.** Florida, Pensacola, **(904) 474-3180**
- ◆ **NAS Pensacola** Library, **Building 633**, **NAS Pensacola**, **(904) 4524362**

■ **How can I get involved?**

If you have questions about these removal **actions**, the IRP, information repositories, or other environmental issues, call Michele Harrison at the **NAS Pensacola Public Affairs** Office, **(904) 452-2311**.

■ Site Location Map



NAS Pensacola
Public Affairs Office
Building 191
Pensacola, FL 32508

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