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FACT SHEET 12 REGARDING EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES AT SITE 1
NAS PENSACOLA FL
4/1/1999
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Naval Air Station Pensacola
Installation Restoration Program (IRP)

This is one in a series of fact sheets informing interested citizens about the environmental investigations and remedial actions at NAS Pensacola. Other fact sheets will be written at appropriate points in the program and in response to public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the NAS Pensacola Public Affairs Office (850) 452-2311.

FACT SHEET 13: Explanation of Significant Differences
Site 1 – Naval Air Station Pensacola

Introduction

This fact sheet explains the significant differences between the remedy originally selected for environmental concerns at Site 1 of Naval Air Station Pensacola, and the actual remedy that is proposed by the U.S. Navy for completing the site remediation.

The Navy is required to issue an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) when it modifies any remedy documented in a Record of Decision (ROD). This ESD covers Site 1 – the Inactive Sanitary Landfill – as required under the public participation rules of Section 117(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Section 300.435(c)(2)(i) of the National Contingency Plan. This ESD also is part of the site Administrative Record (AR), which contains the ROD and background information on which the remedy initially was selected.

Background

The landfill that is now Site 1 was used from the early 1950s until 1976 for disposal of solid and industrial waste generated at NAS Pensacola and nearby Navy installations. The site received various wastes, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), solvents, pesticides, oils, plating solutions, mercury, asbestos, paint chips and sludge, medical waste, pressurized cylinders, and household garbage. In addition, a tar pit was found on the western edge of the landfill. During the earlier years of disposal, waste was commonly burned before burial. However, this practice ended in the late 1960s because of concerns over air pollution. The landfill officially closed on October 1, 1976.

The site covers approximately 85 acres. It is bordered by Bayou Grande to the north, A.C. Read Golf Course to the east, and vegetation to the west and south.

Selected Remedy and the Significant Differences

The Navy, with concurrence from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), selected a remedy for Site 1 and documented the decision in the August 21, 1998 ROD. The original remedy was selected to address contamination detected in soil at the site and groundwater leaving the site. The 1999 change only affects the groundwater treatment portion of the remedy.

The original remedy involved extracting groundwater after it passed the landfill, treating it, then discharging the treated water into Wetland 3, on the base. The ROD details the remedy.

The significant difference in the 1999 modification is the discharge location of the water. Groundwater will not be treated on site and then discharged into the wetland, but will be discharged directly into the

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