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GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM,
ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE AND
FACT SHEET NAVAL ACTIVITY PUERTO RICO

NAVAL ACTIVITY PUERTO RICO

GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION RESTORATION (IR) PROGRAM AND THE ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

Environmental Investigations conducted at Naval Facilities are generally conducted under EPA guidance developed for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act (CERCLA) as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act 1986 (SARA).

A remedial response conducted as part of the IR Program consists of the following activities:

- Pre-remedial Activities (preliminary assessments, site inspection).
- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
- Remedial Design
- Remedial Action
- Operations and Maintenance

Sites 15 and 16 at NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads have completed the first phase of the remedial response activities: the preliminary assessment and site investigation. Versar's upcoming field efforts will provide the data necessary to complete the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, and prepare Remedial Design specifications for the cleanup of these two site.

This process is often long and tedious. Open and consistent communication with the community during this process assures that the public concerns have not been lost sight of or dismissed. The purpose of the attached questionnaire is to solicit opinion from the potentially affected community to assist in developing the community relations plan (CRP). Community or individual interviews are an activity associated with the CRP and are held so individuals and the community can voice their concerns regarding a site in a productive manner, and a CRP relevant to community needs can be prepared. Ideally, the CRP would anticipate all likely community concerns and identify appropriate community relation activities accordingly.

The questions asked during the interview are designed to identify community attitudes and concerns, not to provide detailed technical information about the site(s) or future activities. Request for specific information should be referred to the appropriate public relations contact person.

The attached questionnaire is not intended to be distributed to the general public as a checklist. It is intended solely as guidance to the interviewer, and to keep the process

consistent from one interviewer to the next. As such, the questions posed are relatively broad and the interviewer will typically be expected to continue with follow-up questions to the interviewee's initial response. The questions are intended to be prompts for the discussion and each topic should be explored to its logical conclusion.

In conducting the interview, we recommend the interviewer provide the attached fact sheet, and allow a few moments for the subject to review the information before beginning the interview. The names, affiliations, date and time of the interview, and salient responses should be recorded before the end of the interview.

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NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you aware of the upcoming activities at the Old Power Plant and Substation No. 2 or any other environmental concerns at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Base?
2. If so, at what point did you become aware of these concerns and what is your knowledge of these concerns?
3. Do you have any current concerns regarding these matters?
4. Do you consider these matters to be part of a larger environmental concern at the naval base?
5. Have any of your concerns or other issues been publicized through the media?
6. Has an active leader(s) emerged to represent the community concerns?
7. What topics have attracted the most community attention?
8. Do you believe that the community in the vicinity of the naval base is sensitive to environmental issues?
9. Have you approached any government officials about your interests and/or concerns?
10. If so, do you feel that these officials have been responsive to your inquiries and concerns?
11. Are you aware of the current or previous activities associated with the areas of concern?
12. Have you ever participated in any of these activities?
13. Are you aware of any parties that may have been involved in any of these activities?
14. Do you or any community members feel that these issues can affect you any way?
15. Are regulatory and other agency officials perceived as credible and responsive to public concerns?
16. How can the EPA, EQB, or the Navy best provide you and your community with information regarding response activities?
17. How would you like to be involved in future activities?
18. What kinds of information would you like to receive and how frequently?
19. Can you recommend other individuals or groups that have expressed interest or concern in these issues that should be contacted for additional information?

FACT SHEET ON THE SOIL SAMPLING AND PCB CLEANUP TAKING PLACE AT THE OLD POWER PLANT AND SUBSTATION NO. 2 NAVAL STATION, ROOSEVELT ROADS

Navy contractors are beginning soil sampling activities at two areas of the Naval Station to aid in cleanup of PCB-bearing soil surrounding the Old Power Plant, Building No. 38 and Substation No. 2. The soil samples will be used to determine where soil was stained with transformer oil that contained a potentially harmful chemical, PCB. The Navy intends to clean up this soil, once its full extent has been determined. The information contained in this sheet will provide you with the facts you need to understand why this is being done and what it means to you.

WHAT ARE PCBs?

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are a non-conductive liquid (dielectric) fluid that was widely used in high voltage electrical transformers, capacitors, and other electrical components (commonly found in radios, televisions and other home appliances) manufactured before 1979. Since 1979, EPA has been requiring a gradual phase out of the use of this chemical. PCBs were widely used in older electrical devices because they are a very durable cooling agent that does not easily break down.

WHY ARE THEY HERE NOW?

As a result of EPA regulations governing the use of PCBs, the Navy and other owners of transformers have been required to replace them or refill them with a dielectric (cooling) fluid that does not contain PCBs. In decommissioning the Old Power Plant and in replacing transformers at Substation No. 2, some of the PCB-containing fluid leaked from transformers onto the ground. The Navy confirmed that this had happened after soil samples from these areas were collected and analyzed for PCBs.

WHEN WILL THE SOILS CONTAINING PCBs BE REMOVED?

EPA regulations require that all soils containing significant amounts of PCBs be excavated and properly disposed of. Initial soil samples collected from these two areas indicated that some soils would have to be excavated. The sampling which is about to begin will determine how much soil will be removed. PCB-bearing soil cannot be identified by sight or smell, so a large number of samples for chemical analysis are required so the spill area can be mapped out.

CAN I BE HARMED BY THEIR PRESENCE?

No. Both the Old Power Plant and Substation No. 2 are in areas of the base where few personnel are likely to go. Many EPA studies have been done that show that PCBs are not acutely hazardous to health. That is, brief exposure to PCB-bearing materials, while not recommended, is not generally considered dangerous to your health. PCBs are non-volatile and very insoluble, and therefore, are not readily transmitted by air or water. There is no danger in breathing air near these areas and the drinking water supply is not threatened. Someone would have to be actually eat soil containing PCBs, or touch stained soil where PCBs are highly concentrated to be in danger. Also, illness only results from prolonged daily exposure over a period of decades.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
THE ROOSEVELT ROADS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**