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NAS WHITING FIELD
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FINAL PROPOSED PLAN FOR SITE 3 NAS WHITING FIELD FL
5/1/2004
TETRA TECH NUS

PROPOSED PLAN

Site 3, Underground Waste Solvent Storage Area

The Department of Defense and the Navy have completed the investigation of Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field Site 3, Underground Waste Solvent Storage Area. The site history and current conditions indicate no treatment, containment, or restricted access is necessary.

July 2004

The Proposal

The proposed final remedy for Site 3 is No Action for surface and subsurface soils. Under this proposed remedy, no treatment, containment, or restricted access is deemed necessary for surface and subsurface soil. Groundwater at Site 3 is being investigated separately as part of the NAS Whiting Field basewide groundwater study (Site 40) and is not addressed by the proposed remedy. There is no surface water or sediment at Site 3. This proposal was developed by the Navy with concurrence from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The NAS Whiting Field Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) has provided input into the development of the proposed remedy.

The Navy, USEPA, and FDEP will select a final response action for surface and subsurface soils at Site 3 after the public comment period has ended and all written comments received have been evaluated. The final response action will be selected to ensure adequate protection of human health and the environment and will be detailed in a Record of Decision (ROD) document for the site. This document will be published as a permanent part of the administrative record for NAS Whiting Field.

This Proposed Plan summarizes information found in greater detail in the Remedial Investigation Report for surface and subsurface soils, Sites 3, 4, 6, 30, 32, and 33; the Feasibility Study for surface and subsurface soils, Sites 3, 4, 6, 30, 32, and 33; the Feasibility Study Addendum for Site 3, Underground Waste Solvent Storage Area, surface and subsurface soils; and other site documents. These materials are available for review at the **NAS Whiting Field Information Repository, West Florida Regional Library, Milton Branch, 805 Alabama Street, Milton, Florida, 32570; (850) 623-5565.**

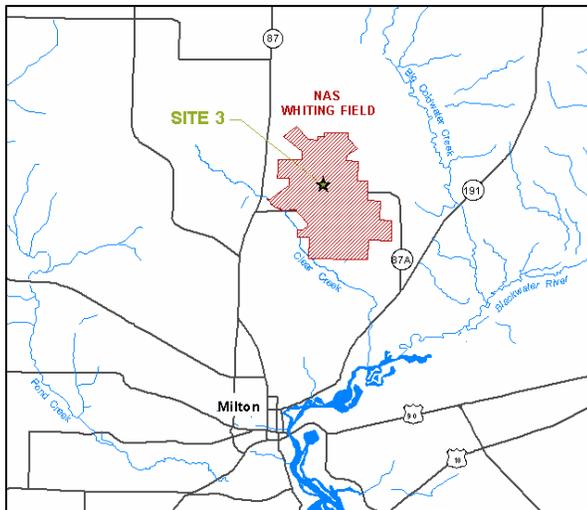


Figure 1. Site 3 Location Map

Site History

Location: Site 3 includes areas at the north and south ends of the Aircraft Maintenance Hangar, Building 2941, located in the North Field Industrial Area (Figure 1).

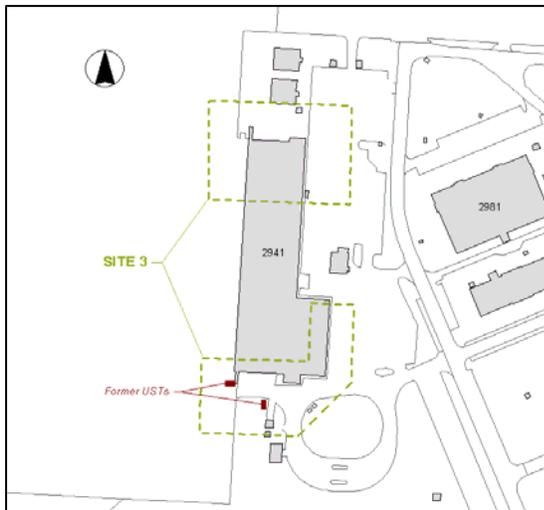
Operational and Waste Disposal History: Site 3 includes the area where two 500-gallon metal underground storage tanks (USTs) were used from 1980 to April of 1984 for the storage of waste solvents and residue generated from paint-stripping operations conducted at Building 2941. Wastes from the USTs were periodically removed for off-base disposal. In April of 1984, use of the USTs was discontinued and the two tanks were removed from the site. During removal, one of the USTs was punctured, resulting in the release of waste solvents onto the ground. The spilled solvent and contaminated soil were removed and sent off-base for disposal.

Examination of the tanks revealed holes up to 0.5 inch in diameter apparently caused by the waste solvents corroding through the metal tanks. The quantity of leakage from the USTs before their removal is not known.

Site 3 also includes the area where a waste oil UST was located near the southwestern corner of Building 2941.

This tank was used for the storage of airframe, power plant, and ground support equipment liquid waste from 1968, and possibly earlier, until 1986. The waste consisted of waste oil, PD-680 dry cleaning solvent, and waste Freon. This tank was reportedly removed before the expansion of the aircraft apron in 1987.

Current Conditions: The site is approximately 2.5 acres and is characterized by concrete and asphalt surfaces, buildings, mowed turfgrass, and heavy human activity.



In accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) §300.430(f) as well as Section 117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), this document summarizes the Navy's proposal for No Action for surface and subsurface soils at Site 3 (Underground Waste Solvent Storage Area) at NAS Whiting Field.

The proposed plan is a document intended to fulfill the public participation requirements under CERCLA and the NCP with the specific purposes as follows: provide basic background information; identify the preferred alternative for remedial action at the site and explain the reasons for the preference; describe other remedial alternatives considered before the proposed selection was made; solicit public review and comment on all alternatives described; and provide information on how the public can be involved in the remedy selection process.



Comments

The Navy will be accepting written comments (see insert) from July 30 through August 30, 2004. The comment period includes an opportunity for a public meeting where the Navy would present more detailed site information. A meeting will be held if there is a request from members of the public before the end of the comment period.

All comments will be considered before a final decision is reached.

What's Inside

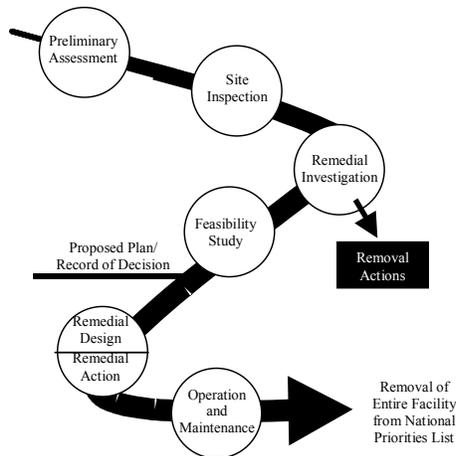
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Environmental History

Regulatory Framework

Environmental work at Site 3 is part of the ongoing Installation Restoration program at NAS Whiting Field. This is a Department of Defense program to investigate and, if necessary, clean up conditions related to suspected past releases of hazardous materials at military facilities. The program complies with the CERCLA and other applicable Florida and Federal environmental regulations, and is typically performed in the following stages:

NAS Whiting Field was placed on the USEPA National Priorities List for environmental study and cleanup in June 1994.



Investigation Activities

The Remedial Investigation at Site 3 was conducted in phases from 1990 through 1999. Fieldwork included a range of environmental studies to collect the data needed to determine the presence, nature, and extent of contamination. The field activities and their objectives included the following:

Surface Soil Sampling: conducted to determine surface soil contaminant concentrations by laboratory chemical analysis.

Subsurface Soil Sampling: conducted to provide subsurface soil characteristics and contaminant concentration data. Activities included a soil gas survey, installation of soil borings, and sampling of subsurface soil to develop a description of subsurface soil characteristics.

Investigation Findings

The Remedial Investigation Report provided an understanding of the soil environmental conditions at Site 3. Groundwater conditions at Site 3 will be investigated and evaluated separately in the basewide groundwater study (Site 40). After the Remedial Investigation Report was completed in 1999, a Feasibility Study was conducted to identify the best approach to address the soil contamination at site. A Proposed Plan was published in June 2001 recommending a final remedy of land use controls to restrict future use of the site to non-

residential activities and to prohibit residential use of the site. During this time, the following conditions changed:

- Arsenic, originally identified in the Feasibility Study as a chemical of concern, was determined to be naturally occurring at Site 3. Aluminum, iron, and vanadium were also determined to be naturally occurring at NAS Whiting Field. This was based on additional review of data from the facility and surrounding area.
- Over the course of investigations at this site, the USEPA changed its screening criteria for evaluation of hazardous waste-related sites.

To address these changed conditions, a Feasibility Study Addendum was prepared in 2004.

The current findings of soil environmental conditions at the site are summarized below.

General Site Conditions:

- Surface and subsurface soil is predominantly sand and silt with thin layers of clay.

Soil Conditions:

- Concentrations of dieldrin exceed the standards set by USEPA for residential areas; however, they are below FDEP standards.

Data collected during the Remedial Investigation were used in two risk assessments: the human health risk assessment and the ecological risk assessment.

Due to changed conditions, a revised human health risk assessment was conducted and the results were included in the Feasibility Study Addendum. This revised risk assessment used data collected during the Remedial Investigation and the current USEPA screening criteria. This risk re-evaluation assumed worst case conditions for hypothetical future residents exposed to soil at the site. Ecological risk assessment findings and revised human health risk assessment findings for soil are presented below.

Risk estimates were calculated using FDEP and USEPA guidelines designed to protect human health and the environment. For cancer-causing chemicals, the cancer risk numbers shown below are an expression of an individual's likelihood of developing cancer as a result of exposure. The estimate can also be presented in terms of the number of excess cases of cancer in a given population. For example, a cancer risk level of 1.0E-06 means one additional case of cancer in 1,000,000 exposed persons. For noncancer-causing chemicals, the measure of the likelihood of adverse effects occurring in humans is called the Hazard Index (HI). An HI greater than 1.0 suggests adverse effects are possible.

Human Health Risks: Dieldrin is not present at Site 3 above FDEP standards for soil and the associated increased lifetime cancer risk to future residents due to dieldrin (1.1E-06) is within USEPA's target risk range of 1.0E-04 to 1.0E-06.

Environmental History

(continued from Page 2)

The non-cancer risk evaluation for dieldrin indicated no unacceptable non-carcinogenic effects for the hypothetical future resident exposed to surface or subsurface soils. The total HI for the hypothetical adult resident (0.0013) is less than 1.0. The total HI for the hypothetical child resident (0.012) is less than 1.0.

Ecological Risks: The quantity of the terrestrial habitat at Site 3 is limited and the quality is poor. The site is comprised of buildings, asphalt and mowed turfgrass surfaces and is surrounded by intensive development, with the exception of some turfgrass to the south. In addition, aircraft and vehicle traffic on and adjacent to the site would deter terrestrial wildlife from using the turfgrass areas. Most importantly, the site comprises only a small portion of the home ranges of most of the terrestrial wildlife species found on-base. Therefore, reduction in growth, survival, and reproduction of small mammal and bird populations at and near the site is unlikely. For these reasons, potential risks are acceptable and further ecological study at Site 3 is unwarranted.

Basis for the Proposal

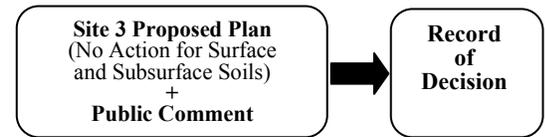
Based on the Remedial Investigation, and the revised risk assessment in the Feasibility Study Addendum, and review of inorganic data from the facility and surrounding area, the Navy is proposing No Action for surface and subsurface soils. Under this action, no treatment, containment, or restricted access is deemed necessary.

The USEPA and FDEP concur with the No Action for surface and subsurface soils recommendation at Site 3. Community acceptance of the proposed remedial action is the next step. Once the proposal is approved, the ROD will be signed by the Navy and USEPA with concurrence by FDEP. This document will establish a No Action for surface and subsurface soils decision at Site 3. No other soil cleanup measures at Site 3 will be proposed after approval of the selected remedial action.

Public Involvement

The Navy has established an active outreach program to ensure community involvement in environmental activities at Site 3 and throughout NAS Whiting Field. The Navy will be accepting written comments on the proposed Site 3 remedial action from July 30, 2004 to August 30, 2004. Public participation in the selection

process is encouraged. Comments can be submitted using the enclosed form. Comments will be summarized and responses provided in the responsiveness summary section of the ROD.



The comment period includes an opportunity for a public meeting where the Navy would present the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Feasibility Study Addendum reports and Proposed Plan, answer questions, and receive comments in writing from the public. A public meeting will be held if one is requested by members of the public before the end of the comment period.

The NAS Whiting Field RAB is another method used by the Navy to promote public involvement in the base environmental cleanup program. For example, the RAB has been invited to participate in developing in the proposed remedy by reviewing the documents, offering suggestions, and expressing their concerns on the proposed remedial actions. The RAB meets regularly at convenient times and locations to discuss Installation Restoration program status and provide community input into the cleanup process. RAB meetings are open to the public and are advertised in local media.



Technical Presentation at a RAB meeting

A community mailing list is also maintained to distribute updates about the environmental program directly to interested members of the community.

If you need additional information, would like to comment on the proposed remedy or would like to request a public meeting, please contact:



Mr. Ronald Joyner
Public Works Department
NAS Whiting Field
7151 USS WASP Street
Milton, Florida 32570-6159
(850) 623-7181 (Ext. 40)



Comments

For your convenience a public comment form is included with this proposed plan. Written comments and requests for more information or a public meeting must be mailed (postmarked) by August 30, 2004.

Glossary (commonly used terms)

Aquifer: an underground layer of rock, sand, or gravel capable of storing and transmitting water within cracks and pore spaces, or between grains.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): a Federal law enacted in 1980 and modified in 1986. CERCLA, administered by the USEPA and commonly known as Superfund, outlines a process to evaluate hazardous waste conditions that may pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Feasibility Study: an engineering analysis and report identifying and evaluating the most appropriate technical approaches for addressing contamination at a site.

Feasibility Study Addendum: an engineering analysis and report providing supplemental information to a previously submitted Feasibility Study for a site.

Hazard Index (HI): the measure of the likelihood of adverse effects occurring to humans from noncancer-causing chemicals.

Information Repository: a public file containing technical reports, reference documents, and other materials relevant to the site cleanup.

National Priorities List: the USEPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term cleanup under Superfund.

Proposed Plan: a public participation document detailing the preferred response action at a site.

Public Comment Period: a legally required opportunity for the community to provide written and oral comments on a proposed environmental action at a hazardous waste site.

Record of Decision (ROD): a public document explaining selected cleanup alternatives at a site; it is based on information and technical analysis, and on consideration of public comments and concerns. The ROD is issued and signed by the Navy and the USEPA at the completion of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and after community acceptance of the Proposed Plan.

Remedial Action: the actual construction or cleanup phase following the selection of cleanup alternatives.

Removal Action: an action taken to address a release or potential release of hazardous substances not posing immediate danger to public health or the environment.

Remedial Investigation: an in-depth study to determine the nature and extent of contamination and establish cleanup criteria.

Response Action: a federally authorized action to respond to environmental contamination. There are two types: removal action taken over the short-term to respond quickly to a more immediate threat, and remedial action involving long-term activities for a more permanent cleanup solution.

Responsiveness Summary: a section of the ROD summarizing the public comments received and the responses to the comments.

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB): an advisory group composed of regulatory agency representatives, site personnel, and community volunteers who provide input and promote public involvement in cleanup activities.

Risk Assessment: a study estimating the potential risk from a site to human health and the environment.

Site Inspection: an investigation phase where readily available information is collected and analyzed to assess the extent and severity of contamination. A USEPA scoring methodology follows the site inspection to identify any immediate threat to human health or the environment.

Public Comments

If you have comments or questions on the Site 3 Proposed Plan, please provide them in the space below (use a separate sheet of paper, if needed). Include your name, address, and telephone number so we can contact you, if necessary. All comments will be considered in the final response decision for Site 3.

Comments must be mailed (postmarked) by August 30, 2004.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Mailing List Update

If you would like to be added or removed from the NAS Whiting Field environmental mailing list, please check the appropriate box and fill in the correct address information to your left.

- Address change
- Add to mailing list
- Delete from mailing list

Comments:



Return to Mr. Ronald Joyner, Public Works Department
NAS Whiting Field, 7151 USS Wasp Street
Milton, Florida 32570-6159, (850) 623-7181 (Ext. 40)
e-mail: ronald.joyner@navy.mil



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