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NAS WHITING FIELD
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FACT SHEET NUMBER 2 NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST NAS WHITING FIELD FL
6/1/1994
NAVFAC SOUTHERN



**NAVAL AIR STATION
WHITING FIELD
Milton, Florida**

**Installation Restoration (IR) Program
Fact Sheet 2**

2

The National Priorities List

June 1994

This fact sheet is one in a series developed to inform interested citizens about the Installation Restoration (IR) program being conducted at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field in Milton, Florida. The IR program is an environmental investigation and cleanup of military installations nationwide organized to manage areas of contamination from past spills and waste disposal practices. Fact sheets will be produced at program milestones and in response to other items of public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the Public Affairs Office at NAS Whiting Field, telephone: (904) 623-7651.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

On June 30, 1994, NAS Whiting Field was placed on the National Priorities List. This list identifies sites selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for priority environmental investigation and potential cleanup activities.

NAS Whiting Field is one of 150 federal facilities around the country that have been

named to the National Priorities List. Being on the National Priorities List allows increased resources to be focused on NAS Whiting Field resulting in faster cleanup.

This fact sheet outlines the process for the placement of sites on the National Priorities List and describes how this status affects the cleanup of these sites. Additional fact sheets will be distributed in the future to keep the community informed of the program's progress.

OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST PROCESS

Under the National Contingency Plan written to implement Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), there are three mechanisms used to place a site on the National Priorities List:

- If a site meets certain criteria delineated in the National Contingency Plan, regardless of the Hazard Ranking System score; or
- If a state designates a site as its top priority, regardless of Hazard Ranking System score; or
- If a site scores sufficiently high on the Hazard Ranking System established in the National Contingency Plan.

NAS Whiting Field has been listed based on its Hazard Ranking System score. There are four steps in the process of being listed on the National Priorities List when listing is based solely on the Hazard Ranking System score:

- Discovery
- Evaluation
- Proposal
- Final Listing

The Hazard Ranking System score was calculated using data gathered after the site had been discovered and evaluated through a series of complex studies.

Once a site has been proposed for placement on the National Priorities List, the public is notified in the *Federal Register* and given 30 days to comment on the proposed listing. The Office of Management and Budget agrees funding is available to support investigation and cleanup, if necessary. The Environmental Protection Agency then addresses the comments and publishes a final list.

CLEANING UP A NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST SITE

A first step in the cleanup process, as shown in the diagram on the following page, is the *Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study*. The *Remedial Investigation* includes collecting and evaluating environmental information to determine if certain contaminants are present at a site.

If contaminants are found at levels which pose a risk to human health or the environment, an evaluation of the possible approaches for cleanup at the site, called a *Feasibility Study*, is conducted. These studies began at NAS Whiting Field in 1984. (See *Fact Sheet 1, Revision No. 1* for more information.)

After a cleanup approach has been chosen for a given site, an engineering design (or *Remedial Design*) is developed to direct the cleanup activities. This planning stage is followed by *Remedial Action*, which is the actual cleanup work at the site. *Remedial Action* includes activities to improve site conditions, such as digging up and removing contaminated soils.

The Navy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection will be developing and working under a Federal Facilities Agreement to create a framework for decision-making in the environmental cleanup process. This process encourages community participation, described in the following section.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community involvement will include participation in public meetings and opportunities to review remediation (i.e. cleanup) plans. To support public participation, public meetings will be held periodically to

discuss the cleanup activities at NAS Whiting Field. In addition, fact sheets will be prepared and distributed to keep the community informed of the progress at the site. Copies of two previously published fact sheets (*Fact Sheet 1* and *Fact Sheet 1, Revision No. 1*) are available through the Public Affairs Office at NAS Whiting Field. News releases similar to the January 29, 1994, *Pensacola News Journal* article announcing that NAS Whiting Field was proposed for the National Priorities List, will be used to keep the public informed of future activities. In addition, a Community Relations Plan and the Administrative Record, a public information record detailing the Installation Restoration Program, are available for review at the Milton Public Library.

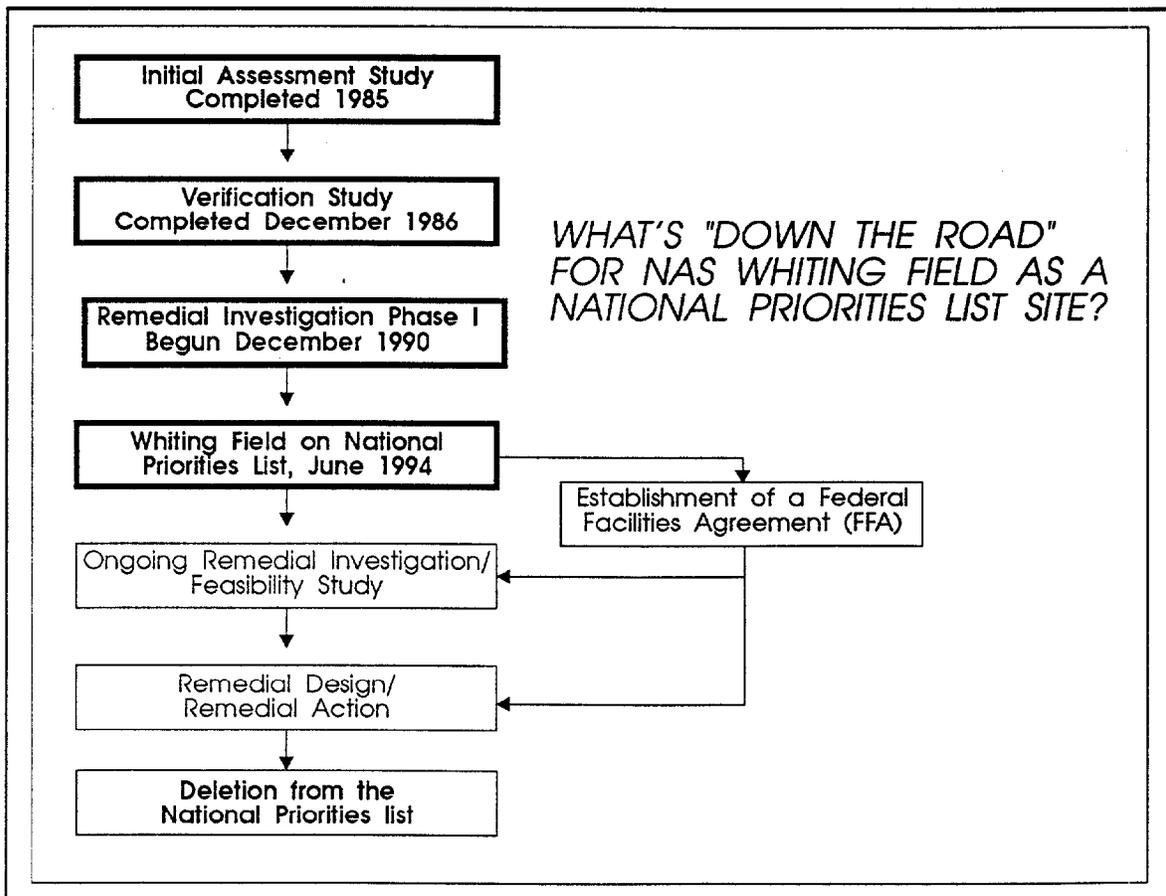
For additional information on the National Priorities List status of NAS Whiting Field or for a copy of *Fact Sheet 1* or *Fact Sheet 1, Revision No. 1*, please contact:

Public Affairs Officer
 NAS Whiting Field
 7550 USS Essex Street
 Suite 203
 Milton, Florida 32570-6155
 (904) 623-7651

The Community Relations Plan and the Administrative Record are available at the:

Milton Public Library
 805 Alabama Street
 Milton, Florida
 (904) 623-5565

Hours: Monday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



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