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## News

# Community Board Reviews Plan To Rehab NTC

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 The Beacon

The Restoration Advisory Board has until Jan. 11 to finalize comments on a document about the ongoing cleanup at the Naval Training Center (NTC), according to Phillip Dyck, environmental coordinator of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

"Despite the holidays we have to move faster now in order to send that update to Washington in March," he explained.

Dyck presented a summary of the document during a meeting held Nov. 29 and highlighted that five of the 92 current potential areas of concern were identified after the first cleanup plan was issued, in 1994.

"This is the main difference between the previous plan and the second one," he added. "Another thing is that the boat channel sediments study has been designated as a site to be further investigated, although it's not considered a restoration site because no contamination has been found there so far."

"There was hardly any discussion on that site during our meeting," said Jim Durbin, board community co-chair. "But there'll be if the Navy discovers something in there."

Petroleum is the most common pollutant detected at the center, whose 545 acres will be transferred to both public and private sectors after the cleanup is over. Since underground storage tanks used by the Navy to keep lubricants, gasoline, diesel and other fuels did not have leak

spills are often discovered after tanks are removed. "This may pose threats to human health and the environment by contaminating surrounding soil and migrating into ground water or by vaporizing into the atmosphere," stated NTC public affairs officials in a fact sheet released in April.

Pesticides were also found at the inactive 32-acre landfill — between Lindbergh Field and the

boat channel — and the golf course maintenance shop, according to Dyck.

"In other places there were metals such as lead and copper," he said. "But with excavations and other remedial options available for our fast-track program, everything will be ready in time."

The NTC is scheduled for closure by Sept. 25 1999, but Dyck said it will probably be shut

down in mid-1997. "The sooner we close it, theoretically, the more savings for taxpayers."

Established in 1993, the advisory board is composed of 22 representatives who meet every fourth Tuesday of the month to review reports of the environmental restoration programs underway at NTC.

"Our responsibility is to provide feedback to the Navy," Durbin said. "But we have no

authority to determine how (the center) will be used."

Nevertheless, an update on NTC reuse process was presented during the November meeting, as an effort to coordinate the efforts between BRAC groups. "It helps to know which are some of the possible destinations of the areas we're cleaning up," Dyck added. "After two years of meetings, now we start to see our goal more clearly."