

## Cleanup Planned For Old NTC Soil

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The Beacon

Clean up plans are still being devised for at least two sites at the old Naval Training Center (NTC) site.

One of the sites is located on the NTC golf course, near hole No. 2. According to Keith Forman, Navy co-chair of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and interim Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) environmental coordinator, the primary contaminant at the site is a chemical called

benzene.

"There are very low levels of it left at the site ... there isn't much that can be said about it right now because it's being reviewed," Forman said. The site was discussed at the May 27 meeting of the RAB, which was chaired by Forman.

He explained that benzene is a contaminant that is usually released after a gas spill.

Soil samples have been removed and tested from the site and two storage tanks were removed from the area in 1994.

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Forman said further monitoring of groundwater near the site of contamination will probably be performed and microbes naturally present in the soil will probably consume the remaining toxins. "We have sedimentologists, marine biologists and others from the state and federal level who are working on this ... but it's not considered a major site," he said.

Also discussed at the May 27 meeting was remediation of NTC's boat channel area,

which is located between NTC and Lindberg Field. In the first phase of the project, random sediment samples were collected from the channel and tested to determine their makeup or character.

The second phase of the project is a full remedial investigation. During the investigation, sediment samples from specific sites in three separate areas of the channel will be collected and tested.

"This will be the most complex remedial investigation we'll do at NTC," Forman said. He said it was too early to know

how much the next study would cost, but estimates are that it will begin sometime after October and should be completed during fiscal year 1998.

The remedial study will closely examine the health and ecological impact of contamination in the channel's sediment, which Forman said "forms the eastern border of NTC proper."

The next meeting of the RAB is scheduled for July 22 at 6:30 p.m. and will be held on the old NTC campus. Although a formal agenda for the meeting has not been developed, Forman expected the board to con-

tinue its discussion of the channel and golf course cleanup sites in addition to the clean up of sediment in the facilities underground steam tunnels.