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NSWC INDIAN HEAD
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CONSENT FOR NO FURTHER ACTION FOR SITE 1 THORIUM SPILL NON TIME CRITICAL
REMOVAL ACTION NSWC INDIAN HEAD MD
9/26/2016
U S EPA REGION III

CONSENT FOR NO FURTHER ACTION

SIGNATURE PAGE

Site 1: Thorium Spill

Naval Support Facility Indian Head

In 2016, the Department of the Navy (Navy) completed a non-time critical removal action (NTCRA) at Site 1, located within the Naval Support Facility Indian Head in Indian Head, MD (NSFIH). Because the removal action reduced the levels of thorium-232 and radioactivity in site soils to levels below those measured in background soils, no further action (NFA) is recommended for Site 1. Per NSFIH's Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) effective March 2002, this decision has been made in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III, and with consultation of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), heretofore known as the Indian Head Installation Restoration Team (IHIRT).

Thorium ore was historically used at Site 1 for training exercises until 1967. Subsequently, efforts were made to remove the known sources of the ore and decontaminate the training area's soils. Thorium-232 is the predominant thorium isotope contained in the ore, and the radionuclide contaminating site soils. It is also known to occur naturally in soils.

Despite the decontamination efforts, it was suspected that residual thorium-232 may remain in the site's soils at levels that may present elevated risks to human health and the environment. Per NSFIH's FFA, it was determined that Site 1 would require further environmental investigation using the FFA's Site Screening Process (SSP).

The SSP began in 2005 and was completed in 2007. It determined the lateral and vertical extents of elevated levels of thorium-232 to be within the lawn, adjacent to and north of Building 1662. In 2010, an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Assessment (EE/CA) determined that an NTCRA would be appropriate to address the thorium-232 contamination in site soils. The NTCRA was completed in 2016, removing 172 cubic yards of soil. Remaining levels of thorium-232 were determined to be below those measured in background. Therefore, the site has been remediated to conditions protective of human health and the environment.

In accordance with Section 9.3 subsection D(3) of the FFA, it is the consensus of the Navy and EPA that conditions at Site 1 are appropriate for NFA under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. If conditions change to where unacceptable risk to human health or the environment is determined after execution of this agreement, the IHIRT agrees to reevaluate this site as deemed necessary.



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