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NWS EARLE
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE
COLTS NECK, NEW JERSEY 07722-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO

pwsec9/4/12cps

096pm
20 SEP 1991

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building
Federal Facilities Section
New York, New York 10278
Attn: Paul G. Ingrisano, Project Manager

RE: SITE ANALYSIS OF NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE

Dear Mr. Ingrisano:

Your letter date 28 August 1991 requested that I review the site analysis and provide commentary concerning location and analytic description on certain sites.

Specifically at the Waterfront Area sites 12, 15 and the Ohmsett Facility, and the Mainside Area sites of concern are 18, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

The enclosure constitutes my site by site observations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William T. Matthaey".

William T. Matthaey
Environmental Engineer

Encl:
NWS Earle - WF

cc:
G. Hoover (NORTHNAVFACENCOM Code 1421)
J. Freudenberg (NJDEP)

SITE 12 - BATTERY ACID SPILL SITE

Site 12 is more accurately described as a holding area for Material Handling Equipment batteries. These batteries were removed from service either because they needed to be recharged or were no longer useable and required replacement. Damaged batteries placed in the holding area may have leaked electrolyte onto the paved surface, most were shipped off site wet. A figure showing the Waterfront area will more accurately locate the holding area, east of R-10 at the north end of the paved area, and occupied between 7500 and 10000 square feet.

SITE 15 - SLUDGE DISPOSAL SITE

During the latter 60's a Navy tug boat was assigned to Naval Weapons Station Earle. With protracted periods of inactivity for the tug the bilge material accumulated, this material was transferred into a rail tank car which was emptied infrequently. Although classified as oily bilge, years of analysis of bilge water consistently fails to substantiate the presence of contaminants in excess of regulatory levels, and oil content less than 1%. Oily bilge is not an EPA regulated waste. See NWSE Figure for Site location.

OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SIMULATED ENVIRONMENTAL TEST TANK (OHMSETT)

This Government owned contractor operated testing facility became operational in mid-1974 and ceased operation in 1988. In the interim the concrete tank with a water surface of 65 feet by 667 feet was used to test spill control and cleanup materials and equipment under varying conditions. Wave heights of up to 3 feet could be generated, while a towing bridge was capable of speeds up to 6 knots with a 34,000 pound load. This facility occupied approximately 5 acres and consisted of the tank with a multi-tiered observation tower and two buildings.

A new interservice support agreement has been negotiated between the Navy and the United States Department of Interior. Rehabilitation of the tank is being conducted under the Authority of the Minerals Management Division of DOT. Major oil spills served to rekindle interest in reactivating the facility for continuing testing and certification of spill control materials and equipment.

SITE 18/21 DEMILITARIZATION FURNACE

The demilitarization furnace is not currently in operation. Thermal destruction of munitions fuses etc. ceased in October of 1989. Adjacent to the furnace compound is Site 21 a 65 foot by 70 foot paved bermed fenced storage area operated in accord with the conditions set forth by our facility permit issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Site 21 remains operational as a storage area, Site 18 however is undergoing closure in accord with a plan approved by NJDEP. These sites appear to accurately located on Figure 1 Mainside Area.

SITE 20 GRIT BLAST AREA AT BUILDING 544

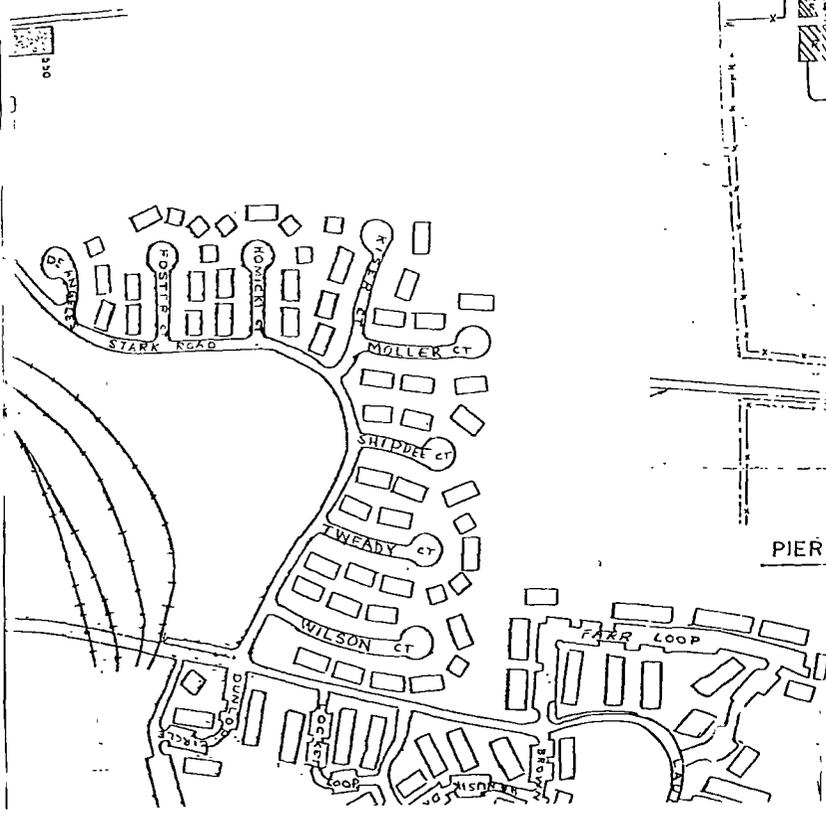
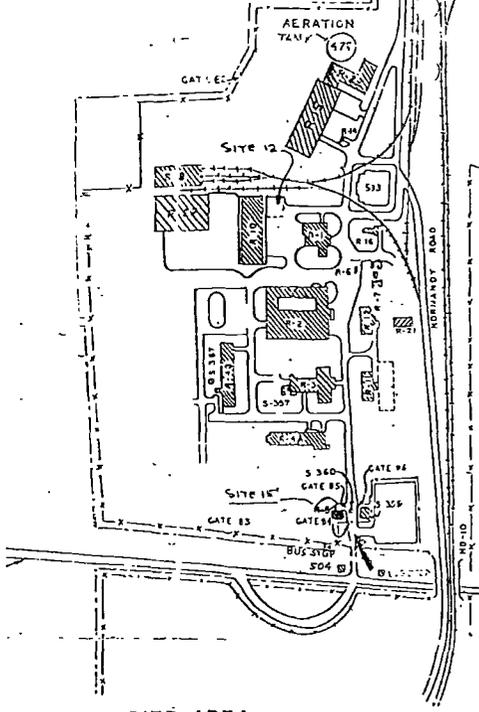
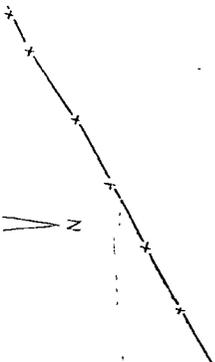
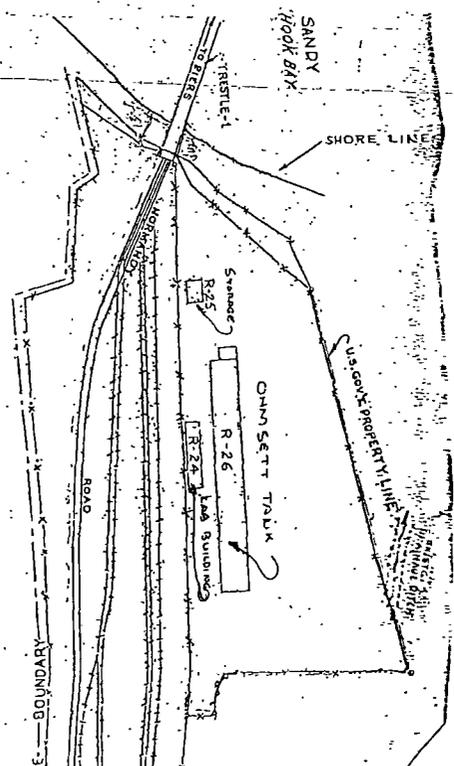
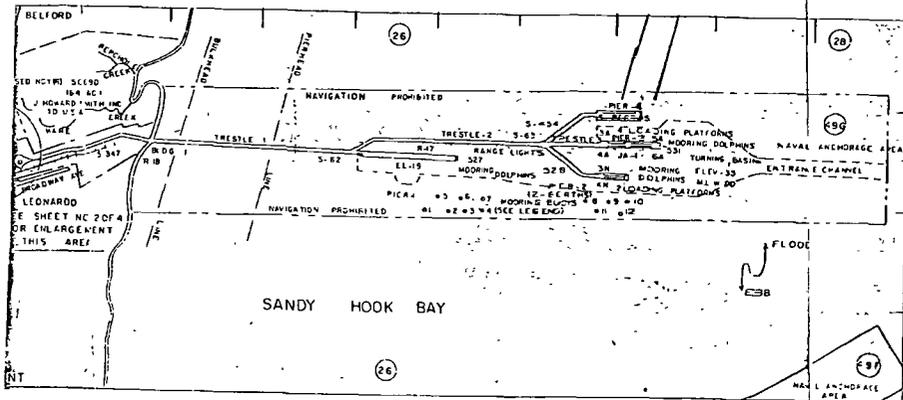
This area is not as extensive as represented on Figure 1, published reports indicate that the disposal area involved approximately 150 square feet. The spent abrasive debris was generated by an intermittent blasting operation over a period of 5 to 6 years. This site is currently under study in the RI/FS program. The need for site mitigation has not yet been determined. General location is as indicated on the figure of the Mainside area.

SITE 23 - D-2 INERT STORAGE BUILDING

Prior to 1976 this building was classified as an inert storage building. A heating system was installed and the building reclassified for limited ordnance production. Since that time the building has seen intermittent use for ordnance repackaging, repainting and stencilling operations. Any paint chips generated could result from workers using wire brushes. The location is as indicated. This site is also under study in the RI/FS program.

SITE 23 - D-5 ORDNANCE OPERATIONS

This building has abrasive shot blasting equipment as well as painting equipment. the blasting equipment is complete with a dust collecting system and a bag house which provides for the collection and containerization of abrasive debris as well as paint chips. As with all ordnance operations at Earle use of the painting equipment as well as the abrasive equipment is intermittent. The location on the figure is reasonably accurate, this site is included in the site investigation work plan.



NWS EARLE
FIGURE NWSE-WF