

# GOULD ISLAND BUILDING 32 Fact Sheet Update (September 2005)

## INTRODUCTION

The Gould Island Electroplating Shop and Building 32 (Site 17) has been demolished and is scheduled to undergo a Remedial Investigation (RI).

## SITE HISTORY

Gould Island lies between Aquidneck and Conanicut Islands, about 1.5 miles from the NSN shoreline. The site was initially defined as three small rooms in the southwest corner of Building 32 at the northeast end of Gould Island. Electroplating and degreasing operations were performed in Building 32 during the mid-1940s, when it was used to service and store torpedoes. The area of the Site has expanded to include all of the Building 32 area.



Aerial Photograph of Gould Island in 1940's

## PREVIOUS STUDIES

Site 17 was included in the Initial Assessment Study for the base (1983). The report suggested that operation rinse water was disposed directly into the bay so that contaminated sediments might be present off shore.

In 1986, a confirmation Study reported that sediment samples revealed slightly elevated concentrations of cyanide and copper. Mussels collected from the area of the rinse water out-fall contained elevated levels of copper.

A Waste Inventory and Sampling Report (1992) characterized waste present in Building 32 as liquid waste containing elevated levels of cadmium and organic chemicals. As a result, in 1992, the Navy initiated a removal action to dispose of liquid and semi-liquid wastes from the plating shop area.



Naval Station Newport  
Newport, RI



A work plan for a Study Area Screening Evaluation (SASE) was issued in 1992 but the project did not proceed at that time because funds were needed to address contamination at other Navy sites.

In 1997, the Navy performed UST removal and closure actions near Building 32. In an agreement with the EPA and RIDEM, the Navy conducted the first phase of the SASE on all of Building 32 in 1998. This study found low concentrations of degreasing and fuel-related contaminants in the soils under the building, and the status was upgraded from a "Study Area" to a "Site".

Building 32 and the remaining structures in the area were demolished in 2001, due to the deteriorated condition of the structures.

During building demolition in 2003, PCB-contaminated soils were discovered around transformer vaults near Building 32. Removal actions for these soils were completed under TSCA.

The Remedial Investigation field work was conducted in 2005, which included a full evaluation of soil, groundwater, sediment and piping at the site.

## NEXT STEPS

The Remedial Investigation report will be prepared and will include human health and ecological assessments with consideration of dynamic ocean environments and bay-wide contaminant inputs. A draft report is anticipated in January 2006.



Former Location of Building 32