

NACIP studies conducted at LantDiv

Because the control of pollutants in our environment continues to be of utmost governmental interest, the Chief of Naval Operations has directed a very positive program, known as NACIP, the Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants, to be implemented at various Navy and Marine Corps bases throughout the United States and its territories beginning this fiscal year.

The purpose of the program is "to systematically identify, assess and control environmental contamination from past storage, use and disposal of chemical and hazardous materials at Navy and Marine Corps activities." If the physical or biological features of a potential hazardous site are being adversely affected by past disposals, a corrective solution will be executed. Here at the Sewells Point Naval Complex in Norfolk, all activities that may have been involved with the handling or disposal of hazardous materials or wastes were contacted for participation in NACIP.

In the NACIP program, the Navy Energy and Environmental Support Activity (NEESA), in coordination with each NavFac Engineering Field Division (EFD), conducts an Initial Assessment Study (IAS) at an activity as Phase I of the program's four phases. The IAS is performed to ascertain the potential for contamination of the environment from past usage and disposal of probable hazardous materials to determine if additional NACIP actions are required. The firm of Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE) of Gainesville, Florida, was selected by NEESA to accomplish the Sewells Point Area (SPA) studies, Wallace Eakes of NEESA served as contract coordinator for the project. ESE was selected from over 80 firms and had a team of highly competent multi-disciplinary scientists

with each targeted activity in the SPA. This included collecting and evaluating existing evidence and data, along with interviewing active and former employees who may have had knowledge of past disposal practices. EFD records were also reviewed in an attempt to gain information for the NACIP program. Following the review of records and interviews, the ESE team made on-site inspections of the areas where hazardous materials and wastes might have been placed in the past. A determination then had to be made as to whether a leakage into groundwater could have occurred and whether subsequent health and environmental ramifications were present.

An aerial flyover inspection of the SPA and Craney Island was also conducted to evaluate environmental alterations from pollutants and to get an overall view of the potential sites. LantDiv's Jerry Wallmeyer of the Environmental Quality Branch in the Utilities, Energy and Environmental Division, served as the local EFD point of contact, coordinator and contractor team escort for the duration of the IAS.

As Wallmeyer explained, the purpose of this study is not to point fingers at past practices or any particular activity, but to help the activities "try to find potential problems before they find you." The results of the IAS will



Gainesville, Florida, was selected by NEESA to accomplish the Sewells Point Area (SPA) study. Wallace Eakes of NEESA served as contract coordinator for the project. ESE was selected from over 80 firms and had a team of highly competent, multi-disciplinary scientists and engineers on site for two weeks in May. ESE's project manager for Phase I of the NACIP program is Bruce McMaster; project engineer is Russ Bowen.

In the 1940s and '50s, before pollution became a real concern, there were no legislative requirements for documenting disposal sites; therefore, pinpointing the location of such sites today to evaluate their status is not a simple matter. During May 10-21, the contracting firm performed the Initial Assessment Study

Disposal areas such as this landfill were studied during the NACIP investigation.

Jerry Wallmeyer (left) and Wallace Eakes conduct a field investigation to define and identify candidate sites.



determine if any health or environmental hazards still exist. If, as a result of the study, contamination is suspected, a follow up confirmation study as well as corrective measures will be initiated by LantDiv. If no contamination is found, no further action is required. If the NACIP program does move into Phase II, the Confirmation Study, and chemical analyses of soil and groundwater will be performed by the EFD contract. If a problem is determined to exist, a viable solution will be recommended. Phases III (Control Technology Development) and IV (Implementation of Corrective Measures) will be enacted only if the Confirmation Study is positive. The entire program is supported by NavFac Pollution Abatement funds, at no significant cost to the activity involved.

The completed IAS reports for SPA and Craney Island, will identify candidate sites for Phase II efforts. The contractor is currently writing the report of the IAS; completion is expected in November.

NACIP's contract coordinator Mr. Eakes of NEESA was very appreciative for the "superb cooperation" received from LantDiv. He commented that "the excellent support from our EFD here helped tremendously in accomplishing our mission."

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