



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Kittery, Maine

Installation Restoration Program RAB Update: June 21, 2001

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Installation Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met on Thursday, June 21, 2001 to discuss ways the Navy can improve communication with the RAB and the community, and to hear a presentation on the planned pre-design investigation for Operable Unit 3 (OU3), the Jamaica Island Landfill (JILF).

The Navy and RAB seek ways to improve communication

Based on the public concerns and response at the OU3 Public Meeting held in January, the Navy and the RAB explored ways to improve the lines of communication between the Navy, the RAB, and the community. Based on this discussion, strategies to improve communication were developed. Among these, the Navy will provide the community more advance notice of upcoming meetings. Additionally, document readability for non-technical people will be improved if reviewed by the Technical Assistance Group (TAG) and the RAB. For highly technical documents, the Navy will also provide Fact Sheets (with input from the TAG and RAB), and attach copies to the documents provided in the information repositories. The Navy also agreed to provide more in-depth responses to the formal comments received from the public.

Investigation to Support the Design of the Remedy at OU3 is Drafted

The Navy plans to conduct an investigation to collect information required to design the hazardous waste landfill cover at OU3, the Jamaica Island Landfill (JILF). The draft work plan to conduct the investigation, which is called a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was presented to the RAB. Formal comments were due on July 6, 2001. Site-specific information to be collected includes the physical properties of the soil and landfill materials, detailed surface features of the land and adjacent underwater areas, the horizontal extent of the landfill, detailed groundwater flow patterns, the condition of existing shoreline erosion controls, and a measure of the methane gas generation, if any. This information will be gathered using surveys of the land and underwater surfaces, test pit excavations across the assumed landfill limits; laboratory testing of soil samples for physical properties; Cone Penetration Testing, a procedure to collect soil and fill physical property information on-site without collecting soil samples; and installation of piezometers (to measure groundwater levels) on- and off-shore. The feasibility of constructing wetlands in Jamaica Cove will also be evaluated. The final QAPP will be issued August 3, 2001. The underwater (hydrographic) survey has been completed and the topographical survey is planned for July, 2001. Remaining field work is scheduled for August 6 - September 12, 2001. The Data Package will be ready in November, and the draft (preliminary level) Design will be available in December, 2001.

Questions?

If you would like more information, please contact:

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If you know anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list to receive these RAB updates and Installation Restoration fact sheets, please contact the Public Affairs Office at the address and telephone number listed above. **The next RAB meeting will be held on September 13, 2001 at the Courtyard Marriott.**