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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "HIGH PRAISE FOR HIGH-TECH NAVY YARD LANDFILL PROBE"
NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
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Our View

High praise for high-tech Navy Yard landfill probe

The announcement this week that the Navy will use the Multi-Sensored Towed Array Detection System to scan the Jamaica Island Landfill was hailed by everyone involved as a very positive step at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

The MTADS, which has been used effectively in finding buried military weapons, will collect data from the 25-acre landfill that was once mud flats between Seavey and Jamaica Island.



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

The electromagnetic survey began midweek and was expected to take a few days to complete. Once the data has been collected, it will take another 90 days or so for the data to be studied and a report issued.

While there is a natural tension between the Navy, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the Restoration Advisory Board, the decision to move forward

with this kind of state-of-the-art data collection system seems to serve notice the Navy is serious about the cleanup efforts.

There are about 18 Superfund and toxic waste sites at the shipyard and a study of those sites has been ongoing for

some time. Finding out what is buried at the Jamaica Island location will be a big step forward in the formation of a plan

to begin and eventually accomplish the cleanup.

Documented wastes at the site which was a landfill from

1945 to 1975, include plating sludges that contain chromium, lead and cadmium, asbestos insulation, toxic volatile organic compounds including methylene chloride and toluene, gas cylinders, and lead.

But there are probably many more materials and objects in the landfill yet to be documented and that's what MTADS is all about.

~~Foster's~~ HEALCO
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