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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "NAVY WORKS TO BATTLE EROSION" NSY PORTSMOUTH ME  
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# THE LAST WORD

## Navy works to battle erosion

Effort at PNS will take about six weeks, and cost about \$380,000

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Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD — Work to stop soil erosion from a Superfund site will begin in about a week.

Fred Evans, the Navy's remedial project manager, told the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) last night at Days Inn the work at the former Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) will be done by Foster Wheeler Environmental Services of Langhorne, Pa.

He said the work will take about six weeks and cost about \$380,000, not including engineering plans.

Two layers of geotextile liner will be put in place along with a 6-inch layer of small stone, a 12-inch layer of 4- to 6-inch of rock and a layer of 18- to 24-inch of rock, much of the latter coming from the site.

Meghan Cassidy of the United States Environmental Protection Agency said there are concerns about the solution because final plans have not been reviewed.

She said the liner is being studied to see "how is it going to perform in the long term" because EPA wants what is done now to "be part of the permanent plan and not have to be revisited" as the shipyard cleanup continues.

The stirring of the sediment during the work is a concern.

Evans said there isn't much there. What is has been trapped by mussels. But, he said, the concerns will be discussed with the contractor.

The area in question is about two acres of mostly filled land. During 40 years of use, lead and nickel-cadmium-battery elements, motors, typewriters, paper products and scrap metal were stored there.

Ken Plaisted, the co-chairman of the Restoration Advisory Board, which oversees the cleanup of Superfund sites on the yard, said the Navy is "fully responsible" for the problem. Pictures of the area as early as 1993 show "some erosion at that time. Why it was not fixed is not known."

The Navy discovered the eroding soil last summer and notified environmental officials in mid-August. A temporary measure was taken by spreading a mixture of wood fiber, water and seed to keep erosion to a minimum.

The plan was then sent to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for comment, even though the Navy has full authority to make the repair.

The Navy will establish a monitoring plan for the site and for other shoreline areas around Superfund sites. Erosion has been discovered at the Topeka Pier and the Jamaica Island Landfill. Evans said that erosion is "definitely not to the extent of the DRMO (Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office)."