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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "YARD SAYS WASTE SENT TO LANDFILL NOT HAZARDOUS" NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
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(environmental)

Yard says waste sent to landfill not hazardous

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS
Democrat Staff Writer

KITTERY, Maine — The metal drums discovered in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Jamaica Island landfill in February did not contain hazardous waste.

That was the word from officials Thursday night at the Shipyard Restoration Advisory Board meeting at the Courtyard Marriott in Portsmouth.

"The material was identified as coal tar as you would use for roofing," explained remediation manager Marty Raymond. The material is classified by the government as nonhazardous for disposal purposes.

During the board meeting, Raymond described the 25 test pits dug at the Jamaica Island landfill to locate the drums and any other potentially hazardous waste that might have been buried there between 1945 and 1965.

It was through special magnetic technology, usually used by the federal government to search for unexploded ordnance, that the drums were located beneath the ground at the landfill. However, not all parts of the landfill could be scanned for buried debris, so test pits were also dug in areas not identified as potentially concealing metal waste.

Many different sizes of waste metal were found in test pits, Raymond explained, but the drums themselves were at one site.

"There was nothing else in the hole other than the drums," she said, noting the digging first unearthed a manhole cover. Beneath it, the drums were stacked one upon another.

All the drums were removed from the shipyard and transferred through its hazardous waste transfer facility to a proper landfill in South Carolina.