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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, "LANDFILL CLEANUP PLAN SPARKS PROTESTS" NSY  
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# Landfill cleanup plan sparks protests

Local residents say Navy plans for Jamaica Island do not address buried toxins, tidal migration

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**PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD** — About 30 people showed up at a public hearing Thursday night to say the Navy's proposal to clean up the Jamaica Island Landfill is unacceptable.

"We have come here again and have asked the Navy to clean up the mess they made 30 years ago," said Lisa Comeau, a Kittery resident. "I'm here tonight to specifically demand of you to stop dragging your feet and clean up your mess. It's not rocket science, it's common sense, it's decency."

The Navy is investigating cleanup remedies for the landfill, which was formerly tidal mudflats and is now a landfill area of 25 acres at the shipyard.

The mudflats were filled between 1945 and 1978 with construction rubble, trash, asbestos, incinerator ash, spent sand-blast grit, dredge spoils, general refuse, waste paint and solvents.

The Navy's cleanup plan includes the installation of a hazardous waste cover over the landfill.

Representatives from the Navy, the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Maine Department of Environ-

mental Protection were present to hear the suggestions.

Many local residents told the representatives they are concerned about dioxin, a carcinogenic chemical said to be buried in the landfill, and also that the Navy's plan does not address the tidal migration issue.

"The cap will address rain and snow, but not tidal flow," said Brian Stern, a Dover resident.

Johanna Lyons, a representative of the Restoration Advisory Board, spoke for the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League.

"Our view is that the cap alone is an unfit option, Lyons said, "that a barrier is neces-

sary to address tidal migration of toxins from the landfill, that serious unanswered questions about threats to human health and the ecosystem remain, and that the Navy needs to take immediate steps to put adequate protections in place."

David Hills of Durham added, "You could surprise all of us and tell your agencies that the feedback really touched you."

A 30-day public comment period continues until March 1.

Written comments are encouraged and can be sent to Alan Robinson, Public Affairs Office, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, NH 03804-5000.