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INTERNET NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "SHIPYARD RESTORATION PANEL EXAMINES
ENVIRONMENTAL TROUBLE SPOTS" NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
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Shipyard restoration panel examines environmental trouble spots

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS

Democrat Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH — The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Restoration Advisory Board met in the city Thursday to discuss environmental trouble spots being remedied at the yard.

Navy and shipyard officials were joined by representatives from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Environmental Protection Agency, Seacoast Anti-Pollution League, the city of Portsmouth and the town of Kittery, Maine, for Thursday night's meeting at the Courtyard Marriott in Portsmouth.

Navy Remedial Project Manager Fred Evans advised the Restoration Advisory Board that recent monitoring in the Piscataqua River off the shipyard's Topeka Pier area has yielded increased levels of certain contaminants.

The Navy is recommending a remedial investigation work plan in the area, Evans said, because the offshore monitoring station in that particular area has been "showing an increasing trend for lead, zinc, and especially copper, which may be associated with Topeka Pier."

The Restoration Advisory Board gave its consensus to move forward with Topeka Pier as the next shipyard site to be addressed in the process.

"We've seen a very steep increase in copper levels ... We don't see those trends anywhere else," Evans said.

Evans said the site will be evaluated to determine whether there is cause to expect any adverse impact on human health and/or the environment. The remedial investigation of the site is expected to begin this fall, based on availability of Navy funding.

"If we see imminent risk to human health or the environment we need to get out there and clean it up," Evans said.

Prior to the Topeka Pier discussion, the Restoration Advisory Board focused on the Jamaica Island Landfill — the largest shipyard site

Club News	being remedied under CERCLA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, most commonly known as Superfund.
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Wish Lists	Earlier this year, a monthlong period of public comment on the Navy's proposed mediation of the site was held and comments were accepted in writing and at a public hearing.
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Feedback	"We have submitted some comments, but found the record of decision is basically what we're looking for," said Meghan Cassidy of the Environmental Protection Agency.

One issue the Navy and environmental agencies plan to work on is creating more effective communication of the process to the general public, as several comments received indicated confusion over the informational process.

The Restoration Advisory Board also heard status reports on several smaller-scale clean-up initiatives at the shipyard and discussed prioritizing work for the coming year. The board agreed the Topeka Pier site should be the first priority at this time.

The board will hold its next meeting in June.

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