ADMIN REC

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NOTICE TO HAMPTON CITIZENS

The U.S. Department of the Navy Announces the Availability of the Administrative Record (AR) File for Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Cheatham Annex Site.

In accordance with the guidelines established for the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program, the Department of the Navy invites public participation and presents the following information regarding the IR Program at Cheatham Annex.

History of Cheatham Annex

The Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Cheatham Annex Site (CAX) is located in Williamsburg, Virginia, northeast of Interstate 64, along the Colonial National Historical Parkway. Between 1916 and 1918, DuPont operated the Penniman Shell Loading Plant, located mainly on the land that CAX currently occupies. This plant employed approximately 10,000 people and produced ammunition to support the Unites States' involvement in World War I. From 1919 through 1942, the land was used primarily for farming. CAX was established in June 1943 as a satellite unit of the Naval Supply Depot to provide bulk storage facilities. CAX is currently used for receiving, storing, packaging and shipping materials to federal facilities on the east coast and to major distribution centers in Europe, and for recreation by military personnel stationed in the Hampton Roads area.

In recent years, CAX operated as an annex of Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC), Norfolk. As of October 1998, CAX began operating under the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Yorktown Virginia. The CAX mission of providing material receiving, storage, packaging, and shipping, as well as recreational services has not changed.

Cheatham Annex Installation Restoration Program

The purpose of the Navy's IR Program is to identify, assess, characterize, and clean up or control contamination from past waste management activities at Navy and Marine Corps facilities. Given the nature and extent of its operations, the Navy has been involved with toxic and hazardous material for several decades. The Department of Defense, as well as general industry, has realized that previously acceptable methods of disposal are no longer sufficient. Actions are being taken through the IR program to clean up Navy sites that may pose a threat to human health or the environment. In 1986, twelve IR sites were identified at Cheatham Annex, four of which were recommended for further study. Of the four sites that were investigated, only three warranted additional investigations, which were performed from 1986 to 1997. Since current environmental regulations differ greatly from those in place in the 1980s, the Navy is working with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to identify, reassess, and clean up these past waste sites.

Independent of the IR Program, VDEQ and USEPA have expressed concerns about the environmental problems that may be posed by the munitions storage and production that took place at the former Penniman Shell Loading Plant. The USEPA is in the process of evaluating the facility for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL).

At Site 1 – Landfill Near Incinerator, the York River is eroding a small portion of the perimeter of the landfill (which contains incinerator ash and miscellaneous solid waste). A small volume of landfill contents has washed onto the beach in this area. In order to solve this erosion problem, a time-critical removal action (TCRA) will be performed in summer/fall 1999. The TCRA will include collecting and disposing of debris from the beach area and installing measures to prevent further erosion. Based on the best available information to date, none of the other sites at CAX pose an imminent or substantial health risk or danger. Current Navy waste management operations comply with all federal, state, and U.S. Navy regulations to ensure safe operation and disposal.

For additional information on the Navy's IR Program at CAX, please contact Mr. Bob Schirmer, P.E. at (757) 322 - 4751.

Location of the Administrative Record File for Cheatham Annex

A collection of documents related to the CAX IR Program is available as the Administrative Record for public review at:

Newport News Public Library (Virgil I. Grissom Branch)
366 DeShazzor Drive
Newport News, VA 23608
(757) 886 - 7896

Restoration Advisory Board Committee

Quarterly Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings for Naval Weapons Station Yorktown are held at the Charles E. Brown Community Building. The RAB consists of community members who wish to be a part of the information exchange which takes place through the IR process. Interested parties should contact one of the two points of contact listed below.

Mr. Jeffrey Harlow, Code 09217
Environmental Directorate
Yorktown, Virginia 23691 - 0160
Telephone: (757) 887 - 4775, Extension 29
email: harlowjc@nwsy.navy.mil

Commanding Officer, NWS Yorktown
Attention: Ms. Kay Phillips, Code 00P
Public Affairs Officer
P.O. Drawer 160
Yorktown, VA 23691 - 0160
Telephone: (757) 887 - 4939/4965
email: phillipskm@nwsy.navy.mil