

Naval Air Station expects to join Superfund list

By Bill Kaczor
Associated Press

The Pensacola Naval Air Station is expected to be added to the nation's Superfund list of serious hazardous waste sites in the near future, but clean-up and prevention already are under way, a Navy spokesman said Monday.

Fuel oils, paint strippers, pesticides, gasoline, jet fuel, industrial sludges and other wastes have been buried at up to 17

on-base dumps and some have caused groundwater pollution, said Harry White, a civilian spokesman for the base.

However, he added, there has been no pollution of adjacent bayous or Pensacola Bay or drinking water, which is drawn from an aquifer far below the tainted groundwater, White said.

He said base officials decided to announce the likely addition of the air station to the Superfund list although they are uncertain exactly when the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency will make the designation.

"We don't want it to be a shock to the locals," said White.

White has scheduled a news conference Friday to present detailed information on the locations of the sites and what has been buried in each.

Although as many as 17 dumps have been identified, most have been cleaned up or are under control, White said. The pollution is most serious at two sites, one

near the station's golf course and the other at a now-retired landing field, where wastes were buried from the 1930s through the early 1950s.

Federally owned sites were not eligible for the Superfund until 1984, when Congress amended the 1980 law that created the National Priorities List.

The air station established the Navy's first Environmental Compliance Board last year to coordinate clean-up and prevention efforts on the base.

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