



Naval Air Station Pensacola Installation Restoration Program (IRP)

This is the seventh in a series of fact sheets informing interested citizens about the environmental investigations and remedial actions at NAS Pensacola. Other fact sheets will be written at appropriate points in the program and in response to public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the NAS Pensacola Public Affairs Office, 1-904-452-2311.

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FINAL FACT SHEET 9: U.S. Navy Proposed Plan Site 17 (Operable Unit 14) - Naval Air Station Pensacola

INTRODUCTION

The **U.S. Navy**, as the lead agency cleaning up Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, is issuing this **Proposed Plan** for Site 17 (Operable Unit 14), the Transformer Storage **Yard**. The **United States** Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) are the federal and state regulatory agencies charged with overseeing the cleanup. After contaminated soil is removed in one area, the site will not pose any adverse **impacts** to human health or the environment. The removal will be detailed in an addendum to the recently completed **remedial investigation (RI) report**. Based on the study and the removal action, the Navy is proposing the "**No Action Alternative**" for Site 17.

The Navy issues this proposed plan as: 1) part of its public participation program as defined by the Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) section 117(a), and 2) to encourage community involvement in the remedial alternative selection. This plan provides background information on the site, the proposed action for the site, and outlines the public's role in helping the Navy make a final decision.

Words that first appear in bold print are defined in the glossary, starting on page 3.

This plan summarizes information described in the **Final RI Report** and other documents contained in the Administrative Record. The record and **Information Repositories** (containing technical reports and reference documents regarding NAS Pensacola) may be found at the following locations:

NAS Pensacola Library
Building 633
Hours of Operation:
M-F 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

John C. Pace Library
University of West Florida
Hours of Operation:
M-Th 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The U.S. Navy relies on public comments to ensure that the selected alternatives are fully understood and that community concerns have been considered. The **U.S. Navy** will be accepting written comments from December 8, 1997 to January 22, 1998, to encourage public participation in the selection process. The **comment period** includes the opportunity for a public meeting at which the Navy would present the RI report and proposed plan, answer questions, and receive comments from the public. The meeting will be held if there is a timely request from the public to have one. Comments will be summarized and responses provided in the **responsiveness summary** section of the **Record of Decision (ROD)**. Written comments can be sent to the following person, along with any requests for additional information:

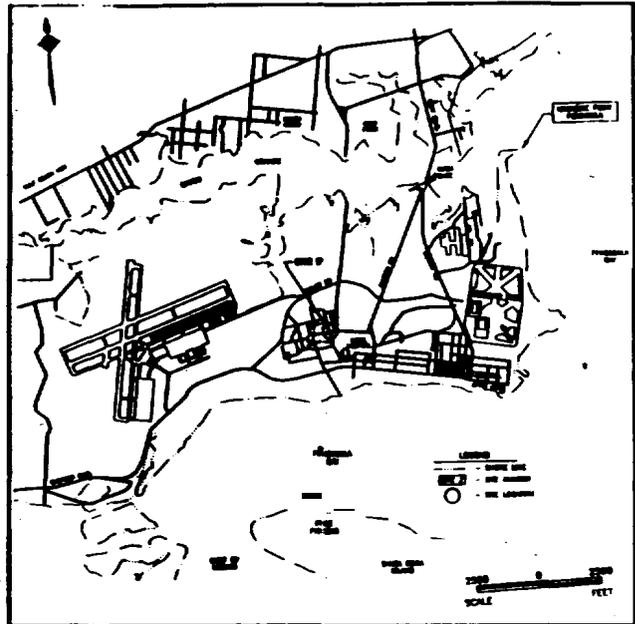
Commanding Officer
NAS Pensacola, Code 00500
Attn: Ron Joyner
190 Radford Blvd
Pensacola, Florida 32508-5217

SITE BACKGROUND

NAS Pensacola was placed on USEPA's National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1989. CERCLA governs cleanup for sites on the NPL. In addition, an environmental permit was issued in 1988 under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. This permit ensures that ongoing activities at the base are environmentally sound and that any spills or leaks of hazardous waste and/or constituents are investigated and cleaned up. The Federal Facilities Agreement, signed in October 1990, outlines NAS Pensacola's regulatory path through these complex federal laws.

Site 17 Description

Site 17 (the Transformer Storage Yard) is an approximately 150-foot by 250-foot area, mostly paved with asphalt. It is divided into three storage yards separated by chain link fencing. These yards are used by various departments of the NAS Pensacola Public Works Center. Until 1976, Site 17 was an open storage area for 200 to 300 transformers, some of which contained PCB-laden oils. PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are man-made chemicals once commonly used in transformers and other electrical equipment. No PCB oils were deliberately disposed on the site. However, many of the transformers stored there may have leaked. A 1983 study noted a black oily substance on the asphalt surface within the transformer storage area. PCBs were found in a sample of the residue. Other chlorinated hydrocarbons were also found in the sample. Site 17 was studied further in 1984, and PCBs were detected in soil samples collected below the pavement.



REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

An RI was completed in 1996 at Site 17 to determine if the PCBs had impacted soil, groundwater, and sediment. The study involved field screening to select locations for monitoring wells and soil borings. Seven soil borings were completed to the water table (approximately 5 feet) and seven temporary monitoring wells were installed to evaluate site conditions. Soil and groundwater samples were collected from these locations, along with a sediment sample from a storm drain near the site. Metals were detected in groundwater but were below background levels. Results show that soil and sediment have been minimally impacted onsite. One soil sample contained PCBs and benzo(a)pyrene at a level above their preliminary remediation goals (PRGs). That area of contamination will be removed. The removal action will be detailed in an addendum to the RI report. For details on the findings, see the RI report in the information repository.

RISK CHARACTERIZATION

Because PCBs are above PRGs only in a small area, the Navy, USEPA, and FDEP decided that a full baseline risk assessment was unnecessary for Site 17. Instead, a risk-threshold evaluation using an area-weighted analysis was performed to assess risk. The analysis assumes people would not be expected to spend all of their time onsite in exactly one spot and that they would be exposed to all surface soil uniformly. The evaluation showed that the overall site PCB exposure is below PRGs. In addition, the PCB levels detected are below the USEPA residential action level of 10 ppm. Even so, the Navy has decided to remove the soil above the PRGs, which will result in the site posing no threat to human health and the environment.

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE

Upon completion of the soil removal, confirmatory sampling, and receiving concurrence from USEPA and Florida, the resulting site conditions will be protective of human health and the environment. Therefore, the recommendation for this site is no action and the evaluation criteria requirements are not applicable. This action will allow for unrestricted future use of the site. Because this remedy does not result in hazardous substances onsite above health-based levels, the five-year review does not apply to this action.

GLOSSARY

This glossary **defines** terms used in this **proposed** plan describing CERCW activities. **The** definitions apply specifically to this proposed plan and may have other meanings when used in different circumstances.

Baseline Risk Assessment: A study conducted as a supplement to a remedial investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination at an NPL site and the risks posed to public health and/or the environment.

Cleanup: Actions taken to deal with a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health and/or the environment.

Comment period: A time for the public to review and comment on various documents and actions taken or proposed. For example, a minimum 45-day comment period will be held to allow community members to review the Administrative Record and comment on the Site 17 Proposed Plan.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): A federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986. The act created a special tax that goes into a trust fund, commonly known as "Superfund," to investigate and clean up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Its 1986 amendment required, for the first time, federal facilities to comply "to the same extent as any nongovernmental agency".

Groundwater: Water beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In sufficient quantities, groundwater may be used for drinking water, irrigation, and other uses.

Hazardous: Any material that poses a threat to health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are materials that are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.

Metals: Metals occur naturally in the earth and are characterized by their luster and ability to conduct heat and electricity. Iron, lead, and nickel are examples of metals. Some metals, such as lead, can have a toxic effect on tissues, while other metals such as iron and zinc are essential to the metabolism of animals and humans.

National Priorities List (NPL): The USEPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial response using money from the trust fund.

Proposed Plan: A public participation requirement of SARA in which the lead agency summarizes for the public the preferred cleanup strategy, and the rationale for the preference, reviews the alternatives presented in the detailed analysis of the RI/FS, and presents any waivers to cleanup standards of Section 121(d)(4) that may be proposed. The plan must actively solicit public review and comment on all alternatives under consideration.

Record of Decision (ROD): A public document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at NPL sites. The Record of Decision is based on information and technical analysis generated during the RI/FS and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS): Investigation and analytical studies usually performed at the same time and together referred to as the "RI/FS." They are intended to: (1) gather data to determine the type and extent of contamination at an NPL site; (2) establish criteria for cleaning up the site; (3) identify and screen cleanup alternatives for remedial action; and (4) analyze in detail the technology, and costs of the alternatives.

Remedial Response: A long-term action that stops or substantially reduces a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that is serious, but does not pose an immediate threat to public health and/or the environment.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): A federal law establishing a regulatory system to track hazardous substances from generation to disposal. RCRA requires safe and secure procedures to be used in treating, transporting, storing, and disposing of hazardous substances. It is designed to prevent new, uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.



MAILING LIST ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

If you would like your name and address placed or corrected on the mailing list for the Installation Restoration Program at NAS Pensacola, please complete this form and return to Ron Joyner, Code 00500, NAS Pensacola, 190 Radford Boulevard, Pensacola, Florida 32508-5217.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

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COMMANDING OFFICER
NAS PENSACOLA, CODE 00500
ATTN: RON JOYNER
190 RADFORD BLVD
PENSACOLA FLORIDA 32508-5217

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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