



Navy Environmental Restoration Program Update National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Crows Landing Flight Facility

[Former Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Crows Landing]

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to provide an update on the status of the Navy's environmental restoration program projects at the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility (the Facility), formerly known as the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF), Crows Landing in Stanislaus County, California. This Fact Sheet describes the work that was accomplished during late December 2001 through March 2002.

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program:

Corrective actions were conducted at Tank Sites CL-1, CL-2, and CL-3 (known as UST Cluster 1) with oversight by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region. A portable soil vapor extraction (SVE) treatment unit continued to remove petroleum from the soil at UST Cluster 1.

The groundwater beneath UST Cluster 1 is impacted with petroleum hydrocarbons and solvents, and the groundwater plume is being managed as the Administration Area Plume (the Plume) under the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) for Site 17.

Installation Restoration Program:

Site 11

Site 11 (former disposal pits) is located near the center of the Facility, between the two runways. The Navy began preparing responses to review comments received on the revised feasibility study (FS) report from the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region. After the Navy addresses the review comments and

completes the final FS report, a recommended alternative will be identified and described in a Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan will be made available for public comment.

Site 11A

Site 11A includes the original and most recently used sewer systems. Soil samples were collected during December 2001 and January 2002 at the incinerator site, the sludge drying beds, and the southernmost oxidation pond of the most recently used sewage treatment plant.

Site 17

Site 17 includes the demolished hangar area, where former aircraft maintenance hangars were located, and the underlying groundwater plume that is also known as the Administration Area Plume (the Plume), a commingled plume consisting of petroleum hydrocarbons and solvents. Carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, acetone, gasoline, and 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA) have been identified in the Plume. Groundwater extraction activities continued near a former dry well within the UST Cluster 1 facility at the southern section of the Plume and at UST Site 117 near the eastern section of the Plume. Extracted groundwater is transported off-site to a treatment facility.

The Navy began drilling two deep borings in the vicinity of the Plume in early March 2002 in order to better define subsurface conditions. One deep boring is located south-southwest (upgradient) of the Plume and one deep boring is located north-northeast (downgradient) of the Plume. Both borings are located beyond the boundaries of contaminated groundwater. A sonic drilling method is being used in order to advance the deep borings. This method provides continuous, relatively undisturbed core samples and generates relatively small volumes of soil cuttings or waste.

Sonic drilling employs an inertially activated drill head which generates high-frequency vibrations at the drill bit to produce a resultant cutting action to drive the casing into the soil. This cutting action forces a continuous core of the soil into the sample barrel inside of the drill casing. The drill casing is continuously advanced by adding ten-foot sections, and cores are retrieved in ten-foot to twenty-foot long continuous cores.

Detailed logs of subsurface materials will be prepared based upon observations of the core samples, and the conceptual model of the site will be refined based upon the new field information. Silt and clay are believed to be present in the subsurface soils beneath much of the western section of the San Joaquin Valley including the Facility.

Photographs 1, 2, and 3 show the drilling activities and sections of the core.

Photograph 1. Sonic drilling activities.
Date of Photograph: March 2002



Photograph 2. Continuous core sample of a clayey soil from depth of approximately 217 feet below ground surface.
Date of Photograph: March 2002



Photograph 3. Cobbles in sand and gravel in the core sample from 207 feet below ground surface.
Date of Photograph: March 2002.



Routine groundwater monitoring activities were conducted in February 2002. Planning for additional groundwater monitoring wells commenced in December 2001, and eight (8) monitoring wells were constructed during February 2002.

Historical Background

The former NALF Crows Landing was commissioned in May 1943 and has served primarily as an auxiliary airfield for operations from Naval Air Station, Moffett Field. The Navy closed the Facility in 1994 in accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act. The Facility was transferred to NASA on July 1, 1994. In October 1999, NASA was authorized by legislative act of the 106th Congress of the United States of America to transfer the facility to Stanislaus County. On April 10, 2001, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors adopted the Crows Landing Flight Facility Reuse Plan. Phase 1 of the Reuse Plan maintains the status quo, with ongoing environmental remediation, agricultural production, and planning. Phase 2 of the Reuse Plan adds general aviation uses to those listed as Phase 1. The Reuse Plan was approved following adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Navy is responsible for the restoration of contaminated sites that were the result of historical Navy operations at the Facility. The Navy is the lead agency for the implementation of the environmental restoration program, and regulatory oversight is provided by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, the California Department of Toxic

Substances Control, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Navy will provide periodic updates to the community through these Fact Sheets. The most current project correspondence, plans, reports, and other documents are available for inspection by the public at the local information repository at the Patterson Branch Library. If you have comments or questions pertaining to the Navy's projects, please send them to Ms. Marianna Potacka, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190.

Environmental Restoration Program Mailing List Update Form

To better serve the community regarding the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program projects at the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility, we are continuing to update our mailing list. If you would like to receive copies of fact sheets and proposed plans, please complete the form and return to the following address:

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
BRAC Programs
Code 06CC.LMH (Lynn Marie Hornecker)
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92132-5190

Or Fax the form to Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command at (619) 532-0780.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information pertaining to specific projects, please contact:

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Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Administrative Record documents are available at the Information Repository at the Stanislaus County Library, Patterson Branch in Patterson. The Information Repository also includes an index of all documents contained within the CERCLA Administrative Record. Remedial investigation reports, underground storage tank (UST) reports, and other documentation pertaining to the Navy's environmental restoration program are maintained in the CERCLA Administrative Record at Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command in San Diego. For assistance with the CERCLA Administrative Record or requests for copies of documents contained within the CERCLA Administrative Record, please contact the records manager, Ms. Diane Silva, at (619) 532-3676.

<p>Mailing List Update Form – Please provide all information:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Organization: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City: _____</p> <p>State: _____</p> <p>Zip Code: _____</p> <p>Telephone (optional): _____</p> <p>E-mail (optional): _____</p>

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