

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Installation Restoration Program Site 1 – Wastewater Settling Pond Non-Time-Critical Removal Action



Fact Sheet

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, California

April 1999



INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Navy (Navy) is inviting the public to comment on a proposed cleanup to excavate and remove soils near 6th Street and Case Road inside WPNSTA Seal Beach. These soils are contaminated with metals (antimony, arsenic, chromium, copper, selenium, and lead), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and a pesticide (dieldrin). The document available for public review is entitled, Draft Action Memorandum/Remedial Action Plan.

The California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is also requesting public comment on a document which evaluates the environmental and public health impacts from this proposed removal. This document, known as a Proposed Negative Declaration, states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on public health or the environment.

This proposed cleanup is part of the Installation Restoration Program being administered by Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (SWDIV). The purpose of this program is to identify, assess, characterize and cleanup or control contamination from past hazardous waste disposal operations and hazardous material spills at military installations.

SITE BACKGROUND

The WPNSTA Seal Beach is located within the City of Seal Beach, approximately 26 miles southeast of Los Angeles. Site 1 is an approximately 3-acre area located near 6th Street and Case Road inside WPNSTA Seal Beach. It consists of a triangular depression (Wastewater Settling Pond), bordered by the raised beds of railroad tracks and the surrounding streets, and an area of contaminated soil outside the tracks. See map on page 4.

From 1945 to 1971, liquid wastes from metal cleaning activities in nearby Building 71 were gravity-fed through a 6-inch-diameter pipe to the depression at Site 1, forming a pond. During the mid 1940s through the early 1960s, a brass projectile cleaning operation in Building 71 discharged spent acid from a dip tank into the pond. About 200 gallons per month of chromic acid were reportedly drained into this pond during this period.

In 1967, a series of five 500-gallon dip tanks were installed in Building 71. From 1967 through 1968, the tanks were used for cleaning and pickling projectile shipping container lids. The cleaning process consisted of dipping a basket of container lids into the series of five tanks in the following order: 1) boiling water, 2) a mild alkali solution, 3) rinsewater, 4) chromic acid, and 5) rinsewater. All five tanks emptied into a common drain line that discharged to the pond.

An estimated total of 52,000 gallons of alkali solution and 12,000 gallons of chromic acid were discharged to the pond, reportedly filling it to an average depth of approximately 4 feet. By

1971, these discharges stopped, and, since then, the site is dry except for seasonal rainfall ponding.

COMMENT PERIOD AND COMMUNITY MEETING

A public comment period is being held from April 30, 1999 to May 29, 1999, on the Draft Action Memo/Remedial Action Plan. A community meeting, designed to provide you with additional information on this proposed clean up, is scheduled for May 18, 1999, at 6:30 p.m. in Building 110, at the Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach. Written comments can be submitted to Navy personnel listed on page 3 of this fact sheet, or submitted verbally at the community meeting.

Additionally, DTSC invites comments on the Proposed Negative Declaration from April 30, 1999 to May 29, 1999. Please submit comments to the DTSC's representative listed on page 3.



PREVIOUS SITE INVESTIGATIONS

Several investigations were conducted at the site between 1985 and 1998. The findings confirmed the presence of contaminated soil in concentrations above the standards set by US EPA and State of California. The soil is

contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a pesticide (dieldrin), and metals (antimony, arsenic, chromium, copper, selenium, and lead). Groundwater monitoring data show no contamination in groundwater.

To assist in determining the cleanup levels, an ecological risk assessment (EcoRA) was conducted in 1998. This document, reviewed and approved by regulatory agencies, establishes the cleanup levels that are protective to wildlife.



REMOVAL ACTIONS

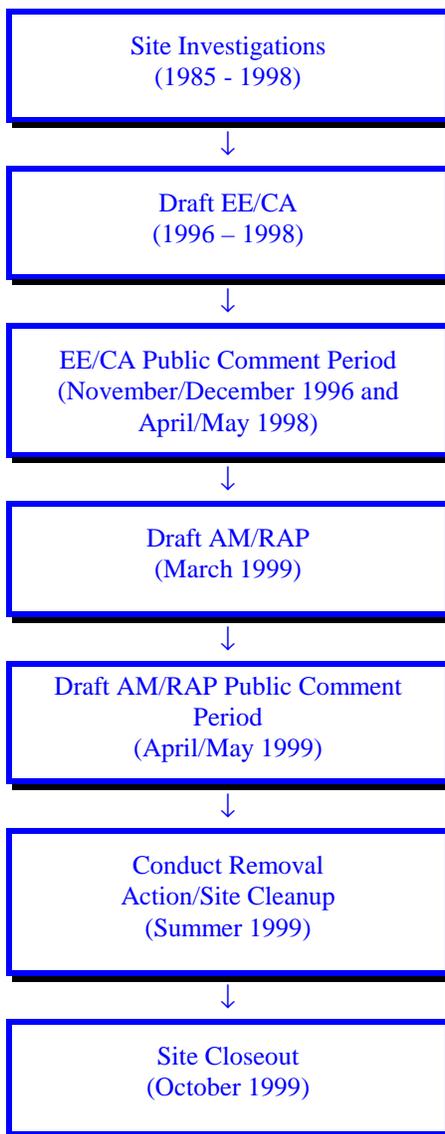
There are various types of removal actions outlined in the laws and statutes. Because the conditions at Site 1 do not present an immediate threat to human health and the environment, a non-time critical removal action was selected. This type of removal is documented through an Engineering Evaluation/ Cost Analysis (EE/CA).

The EE/CA provides information on the source, nature, and extent of contamination, and risks present at the site. It also identifies the basic objective of the removal action and analyzes the effectiveness, implementability, and cost of various alternatives that may be used to satisfy these objectives.

In 1996, a Draft EE/CA recommended soil recycling (treating and moving soils from Site 1 to a closed station landfill at Site 7) for the contaminated Site 1 soils. Following the close of the public comment period held from November 22, 1996 to December 23, 1996, for this Draft EE/CA, a treatability study of the soil recycling and solidification/stabilization process indicated that copper concentrations in the soils could not be reduced easily to required levels. Consequently, the removal alternative for Site 1 was

reevaluated and the excavation and offsite disposal alternative became the recommended cleanup alternative in a second draft EE/CA. This draft document was circulated for public review from April 30 to May 29, 1998. The final EE/CA was published July 13, 1998. This Draft Action Memorandum/Remedial Action Plan (AM/RAP) has been prepared to document the Navy's proposed decision on the recommended alternative.

NON-TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL ACTION PROCESS



IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF REMOVAL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Six removal action alternatives were evaluated for Site 1 in the EE/CA. These were selected based on site characteristics and the chemicals of concern.

- Alternative 1 - No Action;
- Alternative 2 - Capping;
- Alternative 3 - Soil Consolidation with Capping;
- Alternative 4 - *In-Situ* Stabilization;
- Alternative 5 - Excavation and Offsite Disposal;
- Alternative 6 - Soil Recycling.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Of the six alternatives evaluated in the EE/CA, the Navy recommended Alternative 5 because it best meets the removal action objectives and regulatory requirements.

Alternative 5 consists of excavating, transporting, and disposing of contaminated soil to an offsite landfill and backfilling the excavation with clean, imported fill material to its original grade. This excavation and offsite disposal alternative would remove the risk posed by Site 1.

ACTION MEMORANDUM/ REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

The Draft AM/RAP further evaluates the proposed cleanup action using information from the EcoRA and EE/CA. Based upon this evaluation, the Navy's and the regulatory agencies' proposed cleanup alternative is excavation and disposal at a permitted off-station landfill.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The draft documents (Draft AM/RAP and the Proposed Negative Declaration) are available for your review at the following Information Repositories. These repositories also contain background information on the Installation Restoration Program's investigation, planned response actions at other sites, and public involvement activities. The repositories are located at:

- 1) Seal Beach Public Library,
Mary Wilson Branch,
707 Electric Avenue,
Seal Beach, CA
(562) 431-3584
- 2) WPNSTA Seal Beach,
Bldg 110
For Access Contact:
Mr. Rob Robinson
(562) 626-6069

An Administrative Record (AR), which contains all the documents developed to date for the IR Program at WPNSTA Seal Beach, is located at SWDIV, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego. For access, please contact Diane Silva, AR Coordinator, and (619) 532-1144.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

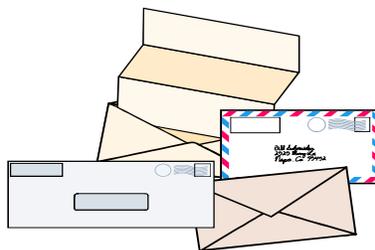
A community-based Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was formed at WPNSTA Seal Beach in response to President Clinton's Executive Order calling for greater public involvement in the environmental investigation and

cleanup of military bases. RAB members review and comment on environmental documents (such as the EE/CA and AM/RAP for Site 1), attend meetings, and act as a liaison between the facility's environmental program and the community.

The RAB for the WPNSTA Seal Beach was established in January 1995, and typically meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend these meetings.

For more information about the RAB, contact Mr. Mario Voce, Community Co-Chair at (562) 431-4760.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

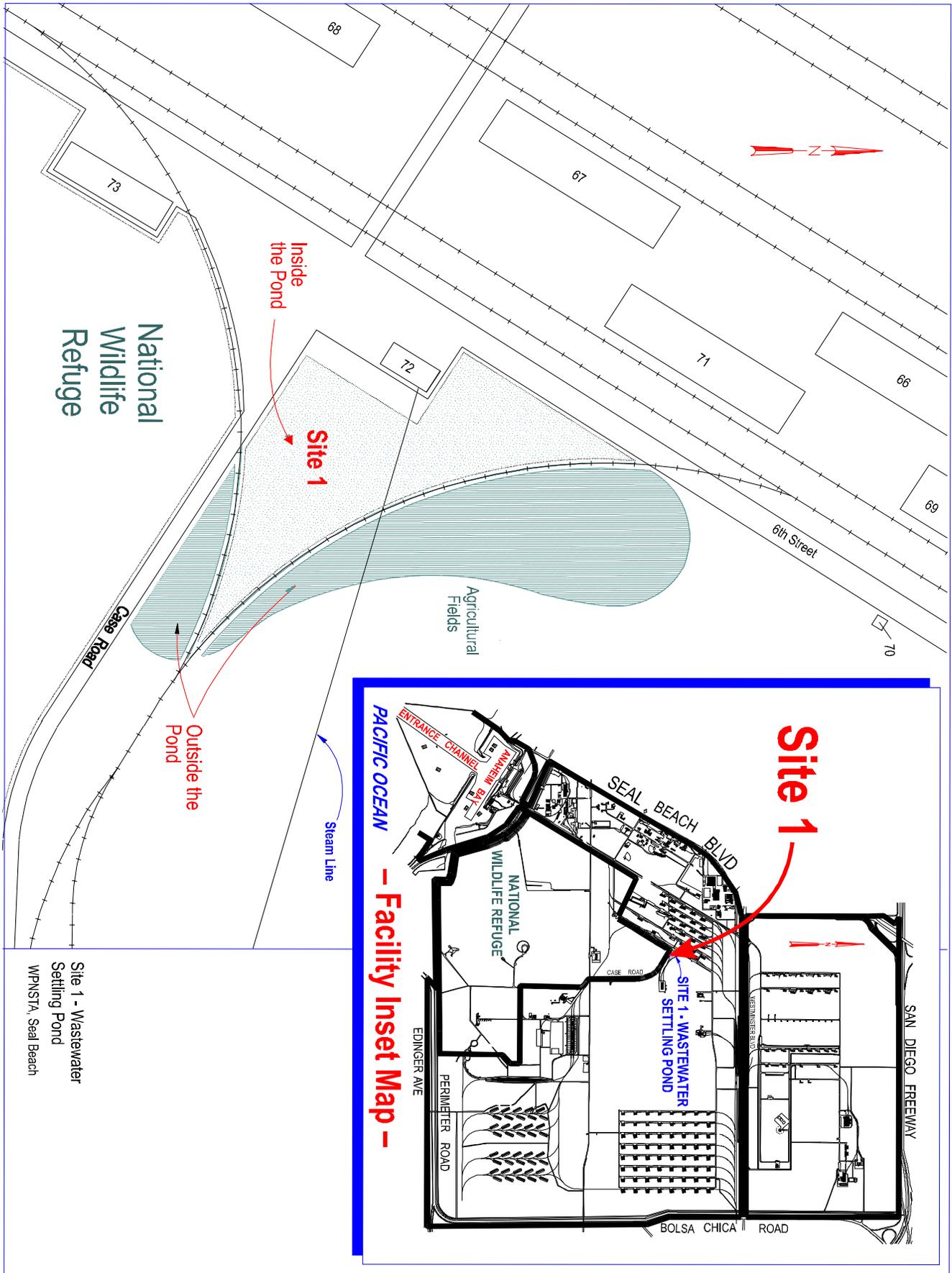
The following individuals may be contacted for further information:

- Mr. Rob Robinson WPNSTA Seal Beach Environmental Engineer and RAB Navy Co-Chair (562) 626-6069
- Mr. Dave Baillie WPNSTA Seal Beach Environmental Director (562) 626-6068
- Mr. Gregg Smith WPNSTA Seal Beach Public Affairs Officer (562) 626-7215
- Mr. Andrew Dick, SWDIV Remedial Project Manager (619) 532-1153
- Mr. Rafat Abbasi, P.E., DTSC Project Manager (714) 484-5449
- Ms. Marsha Mingay, DTSC Public Participation Specialist (714) 484-5416

SUBMITTING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please submit written comments on the Draft Action Memorandum/Remedial Action Plan to: Rob Robinson, WPNSTA, Building 110, Seal Beach, 800 Seal Beach Blvd., Seal Beach, California, 90740-5000. Comments can also be submitted verbally or in writing during the community meeting being held on May 18, 1999, at 6:30 p.m. in Building 110.

Written comments on the Proposed Negative Declaration should be sent to Mr. Rafat Abbasi, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California 90630.



Site 1 - Wastewater
Settling Pond
WPNSTA, Seal Beach

Facility Inset Map

Place
Stamp
Here

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach
Commanding Officer
Attn: Rob Robinson, Code: 043
800 Seal Beach Boulevard
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5000



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