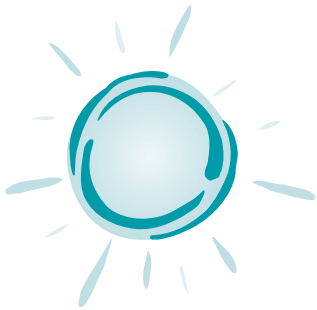


BRAC Talk

▲ Environmental Base Realignment and Closure News ▲

✿ Spring 2000 ✿



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Warminster sampling results

By Lonnie Monaco

Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster, Pennsylvania

BRAC IV 1995

Operational Closure 31 March 1997

Disposal/Reuse ROD Issued November 1998

Final Transfer September 2000

Editor's note: This is a follow-up to the article "Cleanup team shows it metal at the former NAWC Warminster", BRAC Talk Summer 1999, page 3.

Crushed drums and drum fragments were found during removal of contaminated soil from Area A at the former Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC), Warminster, Pennsylvania. Monitoring wells containing the highest levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) found on the base were only several feet from these drums. Two glass bottles sitting in plastic buckets containing an amber colored liquid were also found.

You probably have been wondering if the sample results established a link between the contents of the drums or the glass bottles and the TCE in the groundwater.

We treated all the material (drums, buckets, bottles and soil) as if we had found the source of the TCE groundwater. Excavated material was checked with a photo ionization detector (PID). The viscous fluid seen in some of the drums was checked with a flame ionization detector (FID). FID readings indicated elevated but relatively low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The drums, buckets and bottles were separated from the soil, then covered until the sample results were received. Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation also collected samples of a gray-blue sludge seen in the excavation. The sampling was done to properly classify the waste, which was a prerequisite in determining the proper disposal method.

To confirm that the Navy had removed all the contaminated soil, Tetra Tech NUS, one

of Northern Division's CLEAN contractors, conducted post-removal sampling and full suite analysis of the material remaining along the sides and bottom of the excavation. Waste classification data indicated that the drum contents from the original excavation (when we first discovered the drums) were hazardous for TCLP cadmium. This means that cadmium, a heavy metal, was leaching out of the soil and posing a potential threat to anyone coming in contact with the soil. The bottles contained carbon tetrachloride, a dry cleaning agent. The drums, buckets, and bottles, along with the soil excavated with them, were disposed of at a hazardous landfill.

continued on page 2



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"Warminster sampling results" *continued from page 1*

Sampling results from the drum contents and material taken from the second excavation indicated that the material was non-hazardous. It was disposed of as such. Results from the analysis performed on the gray-blue sludge indicated that the material was non-hazardous.

Confirmation samples collected by Tetra Tech NUS showed no exceedances; therefore, no further excavation was needed.

The bottom line is that we still haven't found the source of the TCE, and we may never do so. TCE is called a DNAPL (dense nonaqueous phase liquid) – it's heavier than water. The geology of the subsurface, which is fractured bedrock, allows such material to move away from the source and down through the cracks in the rock until it encounters impervious material, such as solid rock or a clay layer. If the drums were the source of the TCE, we should have found much higher concentrations than we did. The fact that they were crushed or that we found only drum fragments indicates that little if any material from them

contributed to the TCE contamination in the groundwater. In all probability, the drums were empty, or nearly so, before being buried. The search for the source of TCE is done, at least for now. The contaminated groundwater is being extracted and treated, but without finding and removing the source, the process may take decades, if not centuries. But potential impacts to the environment and to human health are being aggressively dealt with. An interim remedy currently minimizes migration of contaminated groundwater offbase. Groundwater trying to leave is captured and treated. The final remedy will remediate groundwater at the site.

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We're always looking for *BRAC Talk* articles

BRAC Talk shares information on environmental cleanups at major Navy bases closed under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act.

Our audience includes the Navy BRAC Environmental community, DoD, EPA, Restoration Advisory Boards, and Local Redevelopment/Reuse Authorities.

Article submission dates for the next 4 issues are:

Issue	Articles Due	Distribution
Summer 2000	21 Apr 2000	30 Jun 2000
Fall 2000	21 Jul 2000	30 Sep 2000
Winter 2000	15 Oct 2000	30 Dec 2000
Spring 2000	29 Jan 2001	31 Mar 2001



Submit articles, or ideas for articles to:
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Mare Island receives award



Dignitaries of the City of Vallejo accepted the 1999 California Cities Helen Putnam Award for Excellence. The League of California Cities selected the city for this prestigious award in recognition of the public/private partnerships bringing about Mare Island's conversion from military to civilian use (Mare Island Naval Shipyard, BRAC III 1993). Award recipients displayed their awards on October 10-12 1999 at the League of California Cities Annual Conference in San Jose California.

"It's really a culmination of all the efforts of everybody that's worked on this program since 1993," said Gil Hollingsworth, Mare Island Conversion Program Manager. "We're starting to see results from all our programs."

Three years after Mare Island's closure was announced, Hollingsworth was responsible for getting XKT Engineering, Inc. to move on base in 1996. The company began the manufacture of steel building blocks for the renovation of San Francisco International Airport. The infusion of cash got things going. Since then, the city's leasing program continued to add companies as new tenants to Mare Island. Today, 41 businesses call Mare Island home.

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BRAC Talking

By Joyce Patterson



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Past issues of **BRAC Talk** are available at: <http://www.naufac.navy.mil/brc/links/navalst.htm>

Surfing

Check out these new web pages.

Chief of Naval Operations

Environmental Protection Safety & Occupational Health N45
<http://web.dandp.com/n45/index.html>

Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center

Environmental Restoration and BRAC
<http://erb.nfesc.navy.mil>

Updated CD available

Environmental Solutions, Version 3 of Naval Facilities Engineering Command's Environmental Restoration Interactive CD, is now available. Let me know if you'd like a copy and I'll mail you one.

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BRAC Installation web sites

Pacific Division

BRAC Restoration Fact Sheets
 Agana NAS, Guam
 Midway NAF

<http://www.efdpac.navfac.navy.mil/divisions/environmental/brac.htm>

Southwest Division Environmental Internet

Click on Restoration Advisory Boards

El Toro MCAS, CA
 Long Beach Naval Complex, CA
 Salton Sea Test Base, CA
 San Diego NTC, CA
 Tustin MCAS, CA

<http://www.efdsw.navfac.navy.mil/Pages/Envrnmntl.htm>

Southern Division Intranet

Disposal schedules for SOUTHDIV BRAC sites

<http://204.4.86.119/disposal>

Non-Navy Sites

Adak NAF, AK
 Alameda NAS, CA
 Annapolis NSWC, MD
 El Toro MCAS, CA
 Guam
 Long Beach NSY, CA
 Mare Island NSY, CA
 Mare Island NSY, CA
 Memphis NSA, TN
 Moffett Field, CA
 Orlando NTC, FL
 Philadelphia NSY, PA

<http://www.adakisland.com/>
<http://www.ci.alameda.ca.us/bragnet/>
<http://www.davidtaylorannapolis.com>
<http://eltoroairport.org/index.html>
<http://www.guam.net/gov/brac/>
<http://home.att.net/~drydock-1/index.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Boardwalk/5147>
<http://209.21.13.19/mareisland/>
http://www.zaptek.com/millington/base_reuse.html
<http://george.arc.nasa.gov/jf/mfa/>
http://cityinter.ci.orlando.fl.us/departments/planning_and_development/ntc.html
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