

GOULD ISLAND BUILDING 32 Fact Sheet Update (January 2002)

INTRODUCTION

The Gould Island Electroplating Shop and Building 32 (IRP Study Area 17) is scheduled to undergo Study Area Screening Evaluation (SASE).

SITE HISTORY

Study Area 17 occupies three small rooms in the southwest corner of Building 32 at the northeast end of Gould Island. Gould Island lies between Aquidneck and Conanicut Islands, about 1.5 miles from the NSN shoreline. Electroplating and degreasing operations were performed in Building 32 during the mid-1940s, when it was used to service and store torpedoes.



PREVIOUS STUDIES

Study Area 17 was included in the Initial Assessment Study (1983). The report suggested that operation rinse water was disposed directly into the bay so that contaminated sediments might be present off shore.

A confirmation Study (1986) reported that sediment samples revealed slightly elevated concentrations of cyanide and copper. Mussels collected from the area of the rinse water out-fall contained elevated levels of copper.

A Waste Inventory and Sampling Report (1992) characterized waste materials present in Building 32: Liquid samples were collected from the Electroplating Shop area, revealing elevated levels of cadmium and organic chemicals. As a result, in 1992, the Navy initiated a removal action to dispose of liquid and semi-liquid wastes from the plating shop area.



An SASE work plan was issued in 1992 but the project did not proceed at that time because funds were needed to address contamination at higher priority NETC sites.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In 1997, the Navy performed UST removal and closure actions near Building 32. In an agreement with the EPA and RIDEM, the Navy conducted the first phase of the SASE on all of Building 32. This study found low concentrations of degreasing and fuel-related contaminants in the soils under the building.

Building 32 was demolished in 2001, along with other unused buildings at Gould Island due to the deteriorated condition of the structure and the potential safety threat it caused.

NEXT STEPS

PCB removal actions under TSCA are currently planned for 2002. The Navy will conduct a remedial investigation at the former Building 32 location to determine if the contaminants that are present at the site could pose a threat to human and ecological receptors.



