

NUSC DISPOSAL AREA

Fact Sheet Update (January 2000)



INTRODUCTION

The Naval Underwater Systems Center (NUSC) Disposal Area (Installation Restoration Program Site 8) is scheduled to undergo a Study Area Screening Evaluation (SASE). SASEs are studies preliminary to a remedial investigation (RI); an SASE determines whether chemical contaminants exist that could potentially harm people or the environment. If so, the Navy will prepare an RI. This fact sheet summarizes the SASE draft final work plan.

NUSC DISPOSAL AREA SITE HISTORY

The NUSC (now called the Naval Underwater Warfare Center) (NUWC) Disposal Area is a 1-acre site located in the northern portion of NUWC, adjacent to the Wanumetonomy Golf Course. A pond and a low-lying wet area lay to the northwest; a stream south of the site flows to the pond. The pond discharges to an unnamed brook that discharges to Narragansett Bay. Aerial photographs taken over the last few decades reveal indications of filling activities in three separate areas; each will be investigated as part of the SASE.



PREVIOUS STUDIES AT NUSC DISPOSAL AREA

The NUSC Disposal Area was included in the Initial Assessment Study (IAS) (1983) because the site was used to dispose of scrap lumber, tires, wire, cable, and empty paint cans. The IAS concluded that although surface water drained to the pond, no further action was required because the site contained only inert materials. However, after NETC was added to the National Priorities List and CERCLA procedures were adopted, NETC prepared an SASE work plan (1992). The project did not proceed at that time because funds were needed to address contamination at NETC's higher priority sites.

WORK PLAN ELEMENTS

This work plan specifies the tasks necessary to conduct the SASE. Deliverables include the SASE report, a determination of chemicals of potential concern, an ecological assessment, and supporting documents such as maps, results from laboratory analysis of samples, and information documenting the major field work tasks. The field work has been divided into three phases. Details of later activities will be based on the results of the earlier tasks.

Phase I

Reconnaissance Survey and Record Search

This task includes a site walkover to familiarize the team members with the area, and a new records search to enhance understanding of the site's history. Personnel will be interviewed who may have information about the disposal area.

Soil Gas Survey

Thirty passive soil gas samples will be collected from areas above the water table to determine the presence of volatile organic compounds and semi-volatile organic compounds. The results will help determine the locations of the test pits that will be excavated in Phase II.

Phase II

Test Pit Excavation and Sample Collection

Thirteen test pits will be excavated both to acquire shallow soil samples and to observe what materials may be present below the surface. At least three samples will be collected from each pit. Because streams and the pond are nearby, erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed to protect waterways and wetlands during this task. Excavated material (except for obvious forms of contamination) will be used as backfill. These activities will be documented by videotaping and photographs.