



# US Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

## *Media Advisory*

Contact: Diana Bailey or Gerald Rogers  
Phone: (757) 441-7606

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 20, 2004  
04-03

---

### **Project Update: Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot**

**Suffolk, VA** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is continuing ordnance and environmental investigations at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot site under the Formerly Used Defense Site Program. The following is a summary of the latest developments.

#### **Offshore Area**

The Corps is currently drafting a Record of Decision for no further action in the Offshore Area. The Corps received no comments during a public comment period that ran from December 4, 2003 through January 4, 2004. A public meeting was held on December 4 to discuss the studies and the Corps' finding that there is no risk to human health or the environment in the Offshore Area from the former depot. The study, conducted by SAIC, indicated that contaminants originating from the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) are not present in the offshore sediments at concentrations that would pose a risk to marine life, animals, or humans. The study included three miles of river from the James River near the I-664 bridge to the Nansemond River near the GE facility from the Mean Low Water line out as far as 1 nautical mile from shore. The Corps tested river sediments for FNOD-related contaminants of concern such as explosives (such as TNT), metals (such as Lead and Arsenic), Pesticides (such as Dieldrin), and Volatile Organic Compounds (such as TCE – a contaminant associated with solvents).

#### **Main Burning Ground Area**

In December during ordnance and explosive (OE) investigation efforts at the Main Burning Ground site on GE property, the Corps unearthed approximately 20 World War II era gas masks

filters. These filters are being tested to determine how to properly dispose of them. To date, approximately 464 OE items, 122,626 lbs of OE scrap, 733,402 lbs of non-OE related scrap, and construction debris have been recovered at this site since the Corps initiated its investigations there in 1996. The vast majority of OE items and scrap recovered from the site have been inert. Recovered scrap has been shipped offsite to a scrap dealer for disposal.

### **TNT Area**

The Corps has completed the interim cover for a 1-acre section of the TNT Area near the entrance to the Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus. The cover consists of a geofabric liner material and 6-inches of clean topsoil. The purpose of the interim cover is to prevent people from coming into contact with or inhaling dust from the contaminated soil until the final investigation and cleanup can be completed at the site. The covered soil contains elevated concentrations of Lead and TNT that was below the surface prior to the Corps' OE removal efforts at the site in July 2003. The Corps consulted with EPA and VDEQ to determine how to address the soil cleanup until the Corps can complete a comprehensive soil and groundwater investigation of the site and determine the best long-term cleanup strategy. The Corps has notified TCC and the area soccer league and is coordinating site maintenance activities with the college to minimize disturbance of the soil.

### **Next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting**

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) project will hold its next meeting on Thursday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Bon Secours Health Center at Harbour View located at 5818 Harbour View Boulevard in Suffolk in the second floor conference room. RAB meetings are open to the public. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Meeting Topics will include:

- TNT area update
- OE Removal update
- Land Use Controls Agreements with the City & affected Landowners
- Landowner Updates
- ATSDR Public Health Assessment Update

### **Background on the Restoration Advisory Board**

The Restoration Advisory Board, established in 1997, is a communications forum that enables the public to provide input on cleanup efforts. It is comprised of a diverse array of stakeholders

including community members, local business representatives, local and state officials, a TCC representative and environmental staff from the Corps, VDEQ and EPA.

### **Background on the Project**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Norfolk District is continuing its environmental investigations and cleanup activities in the vicinity of TCC’s Portsmouth campus as part of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) program following EPA’s Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) guidelines.

For more information please contact David Wagle, FNOD Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (757) 441-7507.

# # #