



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Norfolk District

Media Advisory

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RAB members, property owners to tour FNOD site

SUFFOLK, Va. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) will conduct a tour of the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) site in Suffolk, under the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program on Dec. 2, 2005, beginning at 9:45 a.m. The tour is for Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members and site property owners. Media are welcome to attend site tour (please see attached tour agenda). Tour will begin at the Tidewater Community College Manning Building parking lot.

The FNOD site tour will feature a demonstration of the mechanical sifter in operation, as well as key project updates and operations planned for 2006. Most of the Corps' munitions response efforts have focused on the GE Main Burning Ground/Welner Drive area. This 32-acre site is the largest known munitions site at FNOD and was used by the military between 1942 and the late 1950s, first as a burning ground, then as a waste disposal area. The vast amounts of debris at the site have made the munitions investigation very time consuming. As a result, the Corps began using a mechanical sifter on site on Sept. 6. The mechanical sifter has allowed the team to sift through the debris at twice the speed of the previous manual sifting rate. The crew hopes to increase the sifting speed by four times the manual rate once they become more proficient with the equipment. "We're making exceptional progress in the GE Main Burning Ground now that the sifter is being used," says Corps Project Manager, George Mears.

Media will also have the opportunity to interview RAB members, property owners attending site tour and Corps, EPA and VDEQ project members.

The site tour will follow the FNOD Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting which will be held on Thursday, December 1, at 6:30 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. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Meeting topics will include:

- 2006 Plan of Action including a summary of the work plans, field work and results anticipated
- Environmental Studies Updates
 - Track K Dump Area Proposed Plan Public Meeting Update
 - Marine Corps Power Generation Plant Update
 - Pesticide Drum Area Update
 - James River Beachfront Update
 - Arsenic Investigation Update
 - Renovation Plant Update
 - TNT Area Groundwater Update
- Munitions Response Updates

Background on the Restoration Advisory Board -- The Restoration Advisory Board was established in 1997. It is a communications forum that enables the public to provide input on cleanup efforts to the Corps and state and federal environmental regulators. It is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders including community members, local business representatives, local and state officials, a TCC representative, other property owners and environmental staff from the Corps, VDEQ and the EPA. For more information please check out the project website at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Nansemond/welcome.html> or contact Adriane James, FUDs Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (757) 201-7701.

For more information on Dec. 2 FNOD site tour, please contact Gerald Rogers at (757) 201-7606.

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