



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

## ***Media Advisory***

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

**SUFFOLK, Va.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) continues ordnance and environmental investigations and remediation at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) site in Suffolk, under the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program.

**Munitions Response Efforts** – The Corps will begin investigation efforts at the Nansemond River beachfront after December. The Corps contractor, Zapata Engineering, will excavate three discarded military munitions pits along the beach. In addition, they will conduct a surface clearance around the retaining wall out to the Mean Low water elevation line. The field crew will continue the process of testing for the possibility of ordnance and chemical issues by excavating three trenches from the retaining wall back to undisturbed soil. During this time the Corps will continue to have another crew performing munitions screening work in the Main Burning Ground area on GE property.

Munitions response efforts began in earnest at the former depot in 2000 and are expected to continue through September 2008. Over the last 5 years, the Corps has removed 2,575 discarded munitions items, 8,874 pounds of bulk explosives, and 3.4 million pounds of debris and contaminated soil.

**Environmental Response Efforts** –The Corps has completed field work for a site groundwater model. This computer model provides information on groundwater flow under the 975-acre site. This model provides the project team information about groundwater flow direction and velocity in the upper and lower aquifer and is already being used to determine optimal groundwater monitoring well locations at the environmental study sites. Currently, the Corps is aware of three sites at the former depot that have potentially problematic levels of contaminants in the groundwater (the TNT area, the Arsenic Investigation Area, and the Renovation Plant Area). These sites are already served with city drinking

water lines. The Corps will discuss the status of these three sites at the next FNOD Restoration Advisory Board meeting on Dec. 1.

**Next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting** -- The next FNOD Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting 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.

**SPECIAL NOTE TO MEDIA:** On Friday, December 2, the Corps will host an FNOD site tour for the Restoration Advisory Board members and interested members of the media from 9:45 a.m. until noon. A separate media advisory will be sent to you with complete details. For more information, please contact Gerald Rogers at (757) 201-7606.

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