



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Norfolk District

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Topic: FY 2006 Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Update

Background/Status: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to make significant progress in its ordnance and environmental investigations and remediation at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) site in Suffolk, Va., which is listed on the EPA's National Priorities List. 2005 proved to be a banner year for the FNOD Project Team, comprised of the Corps, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, with vital support and input from local officials, key stakeholders and community members.

The 2005 clean-up campaign featured:

- Refocused priorities to reflect changing site exposure patterns;
- Significantly improved munitions sweep process with operation of mechanical sifter;
- Concentration on end-game strategies for several key sites;
- New review strategy to speed up site work approval process;
- Packaging multiple site work into one contract; several contractors can now work simultaneously, and;
- Improved public information products to better inform community members, stakeholders.

FY 2006 Key Points:

- There are a total of six EPA-designated Source Areas and 23 other Areas of Concern (AOC) scattered throughout the 975-acre project site. Investigation and evaluation continues at four of the six EPA Source Areas. Five of the 23 AOCs have been fully evaluated and eliminated as potential hazardous sites. Fifteen of the remaining 18 AOCs are currently undergoing various levels of investigation (some nearing completion), and start-up investigations at the remaining three AOCs are expected in FY 07, which begins Oct. 1.
- The Corps' munitions response efforts began in earnest at the former depot in 2000, and are expected to continue through September 2008. As of April 30, the Corps has removed 2,595 discarded munitions items, 8,874 pounds of bulk explosives, 168,115 pounds of munitions debris (inert material), over 1.4 million pounds of non-munitions-related scrap, and over 7.3 million pounds of contaminated soil.
- The ongoing study and clean-up of FNOD is focused toward safety first, but getting former Defense Department property into productive use is important too. Redevelopment of the former depot is continuing at an astounding pace. The third phase of Bridgeway Commerce Park is nearing completion along Harbour View Boulevard; the road network for Bridgeway LP's residential development on what used to be Dominion Lands Property is nearly in place; and transfer of the "triangle property" from TCC/VCCS to the city of Suffolk is slated to occur soon.

General Information:

- **Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Briefing** – The Corps will brief the proposed investigation approach for the J Lake area (AOC-7) of the Tidewater Community College (TCC) property at its June 1 RAB meeting. The Corps will also provide a brief on the Arsenic Investigation Area (AOC-22), adjacent to the GE facility near the Nansemond River at the NW sector of the FNOD project site, during the

meeting's technical update presentations. An update of the upcoming groundwater sampling in the TNT area (Source Area 1), located near the entrance of the TCC Portsmouth campus, will also be presented.

- **J Lake Investigation** – This investigation involves evaluation of ground scars from 1950s-era aerial photographs for potential contaminants, as well as evaluating the condition of the lake itself for any impacts associated with undocumented but possible Defense Department disposal practices. The Corps is currently conducting a Site Investigation which will determine presence or absence of any hazardous substance at the site, to include things that might have been discarded into the lake.
- **Arsenic Investigation** – The Corps is developing a work plan to investigate arsenic that has been detected in a couple of groundwater monitoring wells located between the Horseshoe Pond and the GE warehouse building. Only one of these wells produced samples containing a significant level of dissolved phase arsenic (26 ug/l); however, the investigation is trying to determine whether there is a source of contamination nearby or whether the result is related to naturally occurring environmental conditions at the northwest corner of the GE property. Currently, there is insufficient data to evaluate the absence or presence of such a source; the Corps is developing a work plan to further investigate this area. Initially, the project team plans to install and sample five new monitoring wells, in addition to collecting surface and subsurface soil samples throughout an expanded area, centering on the identified “hot” well.
- **The TNT Area** – Data from the Corps’ TNT area groundwater sampling effort will be used to determine an appropriate remedial alternative for the site. Fortunately, the TNT concentrations in the groundwater have been declining significantly over time through natural degradation. The Corps is set to evaluate two potential remedial alternatives for this site: in-situ biodegradation through natural processes and in-situ chemical oxidation through augmentation of nutrients to accelerate natural degradation processes. The Corps will also evaluate methods of remediation for the contaminated soil at the TNT area.
- **Main Burning Ground** – In 2005, the Corps focused most of its munitions response efforts at FNOD in the Main Burning Ground area on GE property and in the adjacent Tidewater Community College parcel north of Welner Drive. In 2005 the Corps removed 36 discarded military munitions items, 2,959 pounds of munitions debris (inert material), and 157,511 pounds of non-munitions-related scrap. The Corps will continue its munitions investigation at the GE Main Burning Ground, where there are 17, 100-foot by 100-foot site grids remaining to investigate as of May 25.
- **Nansemond River Beachfront** – The Corps is finalizing plans to conduct a munitions investigation at the Nansemond River Beachfront. Plans call for a field crew to excavate three pits that may contain discarded military munitions, conduct a surface clearance out to mean low water, and behind the retaining wall, excavate three trenches back to virgin soil to conduct soil characterization.

For More Information: Contact FNOD Program Manager, Adriane James, at 757-201-7701, or FNOD Project Manager, George Mears, at 757-201-7181.