



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Norfolk District

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JANUARY 2007



Mark Your
Calendar...

Former Nansmond
Ordnance Depot
Restoration Advisory
Board Meetings

March 1, 2007
June 6, 2007
September 6, 2007
December 6, 2007
Time:
6:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Location:
Bon Secours Health Center
at Harbour View
5818 Harbour View Boulevard
(Suffolk)

2006: The Year in Review

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) has continued munitions investigations and environmental studies at the Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) in northern Suffolk. The Corps spent \$1.63 million on environmental studies and \$1.3 million on munitions investigations at the site this year. According to George Mears, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FNOD project manager, "We hope to complete munitions response and environmental studies at FNOD by 2011, with actual munitions removal efforts possibly being completed as early as 2009. This is assuming that no new surprises are discovered at the sites we are still investigating. As the Nansmond River Beachfront area has taught us, such an assumption may be an unwarranted stretch, but we remain positive." The following are some of the highlights from 2006.

Highlights: Environmental Studies

The Corps is in the Remedial Investigation (RI) stage of environmental studies at four of the six Source Areas identified by EPA in its 1999 National Priority Listing of FNOD. The Corps is also evaluating and conducting site investigations at 23 other Areas of Concern.

Track K Dump and Tire Pile (Source Area 6)—The Corps hosted a public meeting on February 2, 2006, to discuss the Proposed Plan of no further action at this site. The Corps and EPA received no public comments. EPA and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality have endorsed the Corps' Proposed Plan for this site. The Corps is expecting final regulatory approval on the Record of Decision within the next two months.

Continued on page 2



Public meeting

"Let every individual and institution now think and act as a responsible trustee of Earth, seeking choices in ecology, economics and ethics that will provide a sustainable future, eliminate pollution, poverty and violence, awaken the wonder of life and foster peaceful progress in the human adventure."

— John McConnell, founder of
International Earth Day

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Pesticide Drum Area today

Pesticide Drum Area—In 2006, the Corps completed a Remedial Investigation report for this site, which has been submitted to regulators for review. This report includes the findings of a human health risk assessment and screening-level ecological risk assessment based on soil sampling data from 1998, 2002, and 2004. The results of these studies indicate that trace levels of dieldrin and dioxin/furans in the soil do not pose a significant risk to human health or the local ecosystem. Groundwater will be addressed separately and use will be restricted on this site until it can be cleared.

No further action is anticipated for the area. The Corps will host a public meeting early next year to discuss this recommendation following final regulatory approval of the Remedial Investigation report and the preparation of a Proposed Plan for this site.

TNT Area—The Corps completed groundwater sampling efforts at the TNT area in June 2006. The team has been monitoring groundwater and soils at the site for the presence of breakdown products of TNT in order to determine whether TNT is degrading naturally at the site and if so, how rapidly. The Corps is also investigating the presence of metals and other compounds. In 2006, the highest TNT level detected in groundwater was 88.5 parts per billion (ppb) and the highest DNT level detected was 4.4 ppb. (DNT is a breakdown compound of TNT.) The Maximum Contaminant Levels established by EPA are 21 ppb for TNT and 7.8 ppb for DNT. The Corps is working on a draft TNT Area RI report that summarizes the nature and extent of contaminants at this site.

Once the Corps finalizes the draft RI report, the project team will begin a Feasibility Study (FS) to evaluate alternatives to address the contaminants in the soil and groundwater. The Corps expects to complete the FS and reach a conclusion as to the best approach for addressing the site in 2008. There are no current users of groundwater in this area as all potable water is supplied to Tidewater Community College and surrounding areas by municipal sources.

J Lake Investigation—The Corps is conducting a site investigation of J Lake, located in the northeast corner of FNOD on TCC property. The project team has reviewed aerial photographs of the site dating back to 1948. Ground scars (indicating ground disturbance) appeared in the photos of the site in 1958. There are debris piles around the lake. The Corps will investigate these areas, as well as the anomalies that were identified in the lake during a 2003 geophysical study. The Corps began field sampling efforts at J Lake in June and is testing surface water, lake sediment, fish



J Lake

tissue, groundwater, animal tissue, and sediment pore water for metals, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), and explosives.

Arsenic Investigation—In July, the Corps began soil and groundwater sampling efforts to investigate arsenic that has been detected in several groundwater monitoring wells located between the Horseshoe Pond and the former GE warehouse building (now owned by Ashley Capital). Only one of these wells produced samples containing a significant level of dissolved phase arsenic (26 ppb). The purpose of the investigation is to determine whether there is a source of contamination there or whether the result is related to naturally occurring environmental conditions. The project team has installed and is sampling five new groundwater monitoring wells, in addition to collecting surface and subsurface soil samples throughout an expanded area around the identified “hot” well.



RAB at arsenic investigation area

Special Thanks Go To...



Rick Aiken, of J.M. Waller & Associates. Rick has provided outstanding project and program management support to the Army Corps Norfolk District Formerly Used Defense Site Program, FNOD project team, and Restoration Advisory Board since 2000. Thanks, Rick, for all your help and insight over the years, and best of luck in your new endeavors.

J. Kevin Mattonen has resigned from the Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot Restoration Advisory Board. Kevin is now the director for aviation training for Camber Corporation in California. Kevin joined the board in April 2004 and served as a representative from the Bennett’s Creek/Cedar Crest Hall community. Kevin’s wonderful sense of humor and astute observations will be missed by all.

Adriane James
USACE Gov't Co-Chair
757-201-7701

Bea Rogers
Community Co-Chair
757-484-6001

Bruce Johnson
Respass Beach
757-686-9129

Dave Saunders
Bennett's Creek
757-484-4514

Rob Thomson
EPA
215-814-3357

Stephen Mihalko
VDEQ
804-698-4202

John Bucklin
Remediation Leader
GE Transportation
513-552-3331

Tim Fink
TCC
757-822-1177

Kevin Hegg
Ashley Capital
734-957-1000

Mike Ispert
VDOT
804-786-5588

Kemp Littlefield
Lockheed Martin
757-936-9507

Tom O'Grady
City of Suffolk
757-923-3620

Cherie Walton
Reactivities
Management
757-436-1033

Bob Williams
Dominion Resource
Services, Inc.
804-273-2994

Munitions Response Highlights

Seven areas at FNOD contain or are suspected of containing military munitions and explosives of concern.

Main Burning Ground—The Corps continued munitions response efforts at the Main Burning Ground this year. Ten 100-foot by 100-foot investigation grids are left to investigate at this site. The mechanical sifter has drastically reduced the amount of time it takes the crew to sift through the debris at this site. "The sifter is allowing us to finish up the munitions investigation three years ahead of the manual sifting timeline and we will save \$4.5 million dollars as a result," says Corps Project Manager George Mears.

Nansemond River Beachfront—At the end of July, the Corps completed its initial munitions characterization work at the Nansemond River Beachfront. This effort involved the excavation of three disposal pits and three 100-foot by 5-foot trenches. Hundreds of expended fuze boosters were found during the surface sweep. The munitions crew also found expended fuze boosters in Pits 1 and 2 and multiple munitions items in all three trenches, such as Civil War era grapeshot, expended fuze adapter/boosters, World War I era French and British nose fuzes, and bulk explosives. The Corps will resume munitions investigation activities at the Nansemond River Beachfront next fall following the completion of the munitions work at the Main Burning Ground.



Bulk explosives found at Nansemond River Beachfront

The Corps will also perform munitions investigations at the following sites beginning in 2007:

- Renovation Plant area
- North Athletic Field
- TCC and J Lakes

Munitions Removal Statistics for FNOD for 2006:

Main Burning Ground

- Discarded Military Munitions – 57 items:
 - 6 20mm projectiles
 - 29 20mm projectiles with fuzes
 - 1 40mm projectile fuze
 - 4 40mm projectile
 - 1 60mm mortar with fuze
 - 1 MK V fuze
 - 3 grenade fuzes with detonators
 - 10 full 50 cal rounds
 - 1 45 cal round
 - 1 3" projectile
- Munitions Debris – 16,249 lbs
- Scrap – 63,518 lbs

Nansemond River Beachfront

- Discarded Military Munitions – 30 items:
 - 10 Boosters with explosives
 - 18 Livens fuzes
 - 2 primers
- Bulk Explosives – 27 lbs
- Munitions Debris – 523.5 lbs
- Scrap – 2,305 lbs

2007 Plan of Action

Environmental Studies

- Complete Track K dump No Further Action Record of Decision
- Complete the James River beachfront Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, Proposed Plan, and public meeting
- Complete Horseshoe Pond Remedial Investigation
- Complete Pesticide Drum Area Proposed Plan, public meeting, and No Further Action Record of Decision

Munitions Response

- Complete munitions work at the Main Burning Ground
- Perform shore stabilization and munitions removal at the Nansemond River Beachfront
- Characterize J-Lake and TCC Lake submerged anomalies



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
FNOD Project Manager
George Mears ME, MBA
757-201-7181
george.h.mears@usace.army.mil

FNOD Project Web Site:
<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/fnod>

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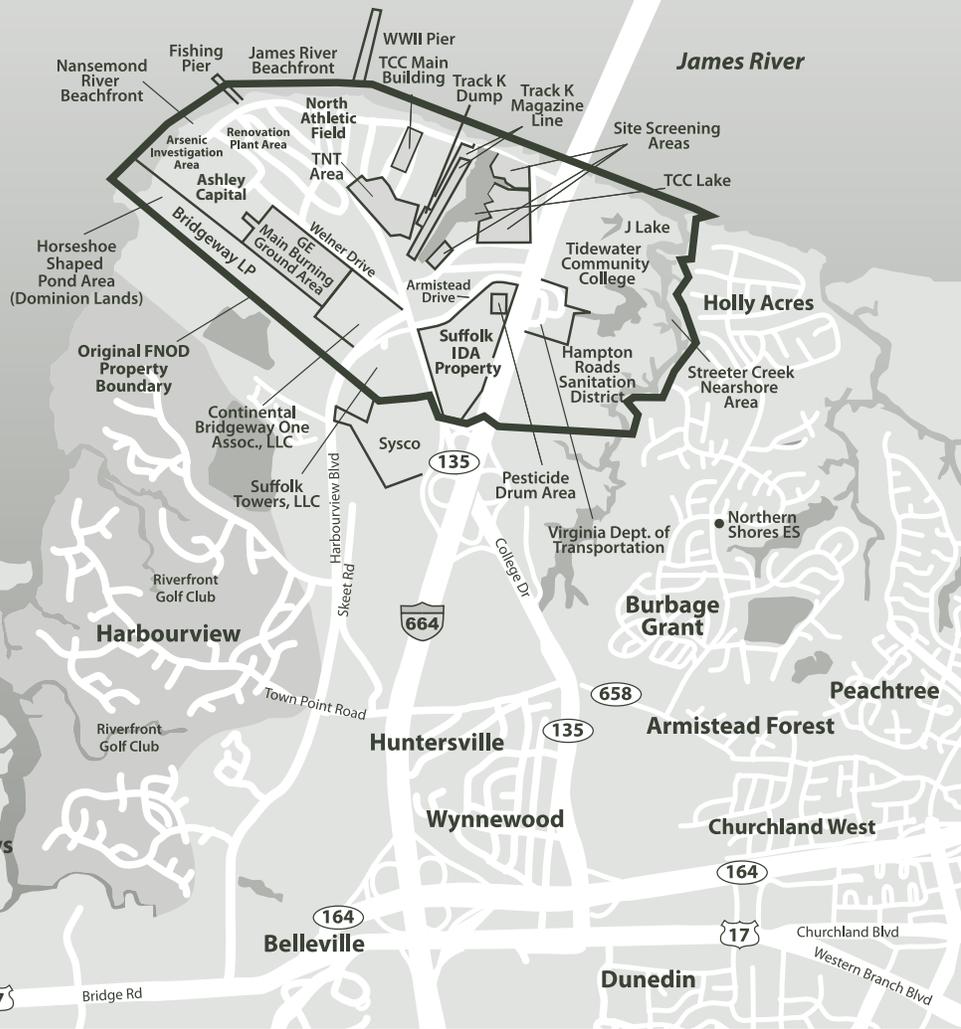
Send address corrections and all correspondence to:
Sandra Chaloux, CEC, Inc., Restoration News, 42014 Kudu Ct., Aldie, VA 20105
Phone: 800-232-7074, ext. 15 E-mail: s.chaloux@ce-com.com

Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Project Update

Important News About Your Community



The Restoration Advisory Board is seeking new community members. For more information, please contact Sandra Chaloux at 800-232-7074, or s.chaloux@ce-com.com



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