



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

Media Advisory

Contact: Diana Bailey or Gerald Rogers
Phone: (757) 441-7673/7606

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 9, 2004

Project Update: Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot First Record of Decision Signed for Offshore Area

Suffolk, VA – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces its first Record of Decision (ROD) for environmental restoration efforts at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot. This action removes segments of the James and Nansemond rivers, located offshore of the former depot, from the list of sites/areas potentially affected by the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot, and states that no further action is required. The formal decision document was signed May 24 by the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with the written concurrence of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. It is available for public review on the Army Corps project web site at:

www.nao.usace.army.mil/projects/nansemond/documents.html.

The Offshore Area includes three miles of river from the James River near the I-664 Monitor-Merrimac Bridge to the Nansemond River near the GE facility from the Mean Low Water line (approximately 200 feet from shore) to one nautical mile from shore. The Corps received no comments on their proposed plan during a public comment period that ran from Dec. 4, 2003 through Jan. 4, 2004. A public meeting was held on Dec. 4, 2003 to discuss the studies and the findings. 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 health risk to marine life, animals, or humans. The Corps tested river sediments for FNOD-related contaminants of concern including 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).

Background on the Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Norfolk District continues 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, contact David Wagle, FNOD Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (757) 441-7507.

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