



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Norfolk District

# RESTORATION *News*

Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot Project Update • Volume 8 • September 2002

## Army Corps Continues OE Efforts at TCC

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discovered several half-ounce bags of TNT, a number of small chunks of crystalline TNT totaling almost 108 pounds, and 13 adapter boosters adjacent to Pit 18 while continuing the last phase of the time-critical ordnance and explosives (OE) removal actions near the entrance of the Tidewater Community College (TCC) Portsmouth Campus.

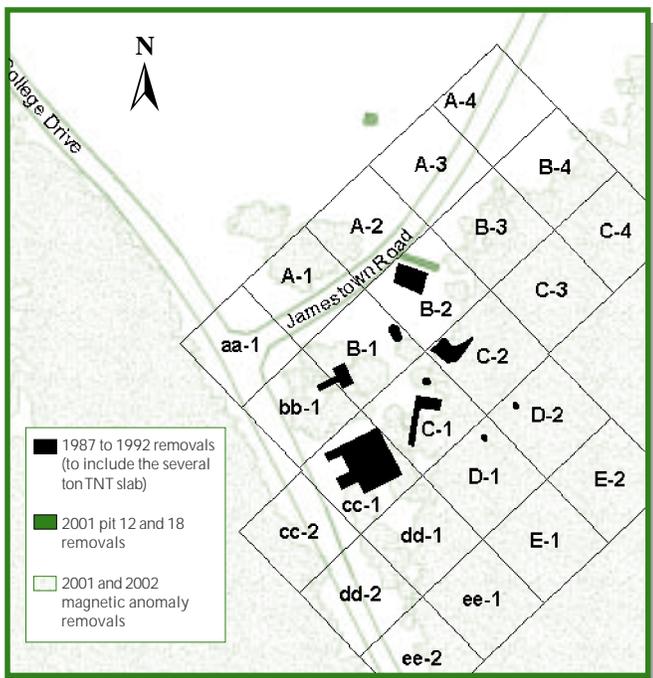
As a safety precaution, the Corps expanded their investigation to include approximately twenty-four 100-by-100 foot grids. As a result, the OE investigation has taken longer to complete than anticipated. The Corps expects to complete the OE efforts at TCC by the end of this year. As of mid-August, 15 of the 24 grids were completed. Only six of the investigation grids have contained any OE.

The project team now believes that the recent OE findings near Pit 18 are part of the TNT disposal area that was originally discovered in 1987. Several

removal actions and studies have been completed in the TNT area over the years. The solid black areas on the project map represent removals that occurred between 1987 and 1992. The two solid green areas represent the pit removals that occurred in 2001, and the grids represent the current work.

“Once we complete the OE work here, our biggest challenge will be to address the

*continued on page 2*



OE Investigation at TCC

*Mark Your Calendar...*

### Restoration Advisory Board Meetings



October 3, 2002  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

December 5, 2002  
8 p.m. – 9 p.m.

All are Welcome!

### Public Meeting



December 5, 2002  
6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.

Come and join us on December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Corps' proposed plan for the Impregnite Kit Area. Oral and written comments about the proposed plan will be accepted at the meeting. (See insert for more information)

**Location for all meetings:**  
Bon Secours Health Center at  
Harbour View, 5818 Harbour  
View Boulevard (Suffolk)

### Inside...

- Groundwater Study .....2
- OE Efforts at a Glance .....2
- Project Updates .....3
- Project Timeline .....4
- Proposed Plan/  
Public Meeting .....Insert
- RAB News .....Insert

# Corps Begins Groundwater Study at FNOD

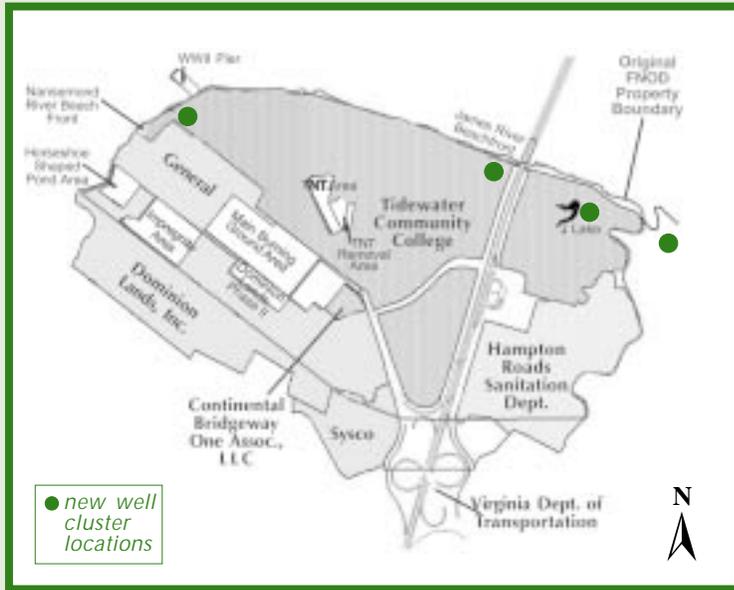
In August, the Corps launched a groundwater study at FNOD by installing seven new monitoring wells in four key perimeter locations around the site. Three well clusters, consisting of one shallow well and one deep well, were

installed. One cluster is located on the TCC campus near the Nansemond River beachfront. The second has been installed immediately east of J-Lake and the third has been installed on the Respass Beach side of Streeter Creek. In addition, one

shallow well has been installed near the James River area where removal efforts took place last year.

Information gathered from these wells along with existing groundwater data will assist the Corps in evaluating area groundwater flow in both the upper unconfined Columbia aquifer and the lower Yorktown-Eastover aquifer and will help the Corps prioritize cleanup efforts. The Corps will use existing and new groundwater data to generate a 3D computer model (also referred to as a conceptual site model) to give the project team a better understanding of the hydrogeology and groundwater characteristics of the site.

The first round of sampling at these new wells will be completed in September. Lab analysis will be completed in October and data validation will be completed in November. In December & January, the project team will then prepare the draft report, which will be reviewed by the Corps, EPA, and VDEQ in February. The Corps expects that the final report containing the sampling results will be completed in March. ■



New monitoring well locations

## Corps Continues OE Efforts, continued from page 1

TNT-contaminated soil and groundwater in this area,” says Project Manager Ken Hafner. “Our project team is currently developing a work plan for a field investigation (also known as a Remedial Investigation) that will help the team to determine the nature and extent of the soil and groundwater contamination at the site. We hope to be out in the field conducting the soil and groundwater sampling in early 2003.” ■

## OE Efforts at a Glance

To date, the Corps has cleared 44.5 acres at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) for ordnance and explosives and has an estimated 21.5 acres left to investigate. Based on geophysical studies and historical record reviews, only 66.1 acres, or less than 7% of the former depot property, require actual OE clearance. The following is a summary of the status of OE removal efforts on each property.

*Dominion Lands* - The Corps has completed OE investigation and clearance activities on 24.5 acres of current and previously owned Dominion Lands property.

*TCC Portsmouth Campus*— The Corps is currently conducting OE work near the entrance of TCC on the south side of Jamestown Road. There are approximately 5.5 acres of concern, with 3.6 acres remaining to be investigated. The Corps anticipates completing the OE work at TCC by December 2002.

*GE*—OE work is continuing on GE property. The Corps has cleared approximately half of the 36 acres of concern with 18 acres remaining to be investigated. The Corps anticipates OE investigations to take several more years to complete because the remaining work at GE is expected to be more difficult than the work already completed. ■

# Project Updates

## Residential Well Sampling

Lab results indicate that no FNOD-related contaminants were present in the residential samples taken at Respass Beach. The results were part of the third round of residential well testing completed by the Corps of Engineers in April. These findings are consistent with those of the two previous sampling events in Respass Beach.

Eight samples were collected and tested for FNOD-related contaminants and for water quality constituents such as Fluoride, Nitrite/Nitrate, and Total Coliform. The samples were sent to three labs for analysis – the primary lab, a quality control lab, and a local lab for coliform testing.

Fluoride, which is naturally occurring in groundwater in Suffolk, was present in four of the samples above recommended levels. Nitrate (which is commonly associated with fertilizers) was detected in five wells, with one value exceeding the maximum contaminant level for drinking water. One of the wells indicated the presence of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) above the EPA Tap Water Risk Based Concentration (RBC) level. MTBE has been used since the 1980s as an additive for unleaded gasoline to achieve more efficient burning. Given that FNOD was deactivated in 1960, the Corps, EPA, and VDEQ do not believe that FNOD is the source of the MTBE.

The Army Corps sent certified letters to homeowners who participated in the sampling effort to explain the results. The Corps also presented the

results of the sampling effort at the June 7 Restoration Advisory Board meeting. A final report on the residential well sampling efforts in Respass Beach will be available for public review on the Army Corps FNOD project web site in October 2002.

Because the water quality concerns are considered to be unrelated to FNOD, VDEQ has taken the lead in investigating these issues.

### VDEQ's Efforts

On June 4, 2002, VDEQ Tidewater Regional Office staff collected samples from five area residences. MTBE was detected in one well. VDEQ offered alternate water supplies to the affected residence. The VDEQ Tidewater Regional Office staff has proposed that Respass Beach be adopted into the VDEQ State Lead program for further investigation.

Mr. Eric J. Salopek, the VDEQ Remedial Project Manager assigned to FNOD, stated at the last RAB meeting that the apparent localized presence of MTBE within the Respass Beach community is the state's primary concern. For more information on VDEQ's efforts, contact Eric Salopek at (804) 698-4427. ■

## Land Use Control Implementation Plan

The Corps is moving forward with the Land Use Control Implementation Plan. This plan describes the safety precautions that will be implemented at designated ordnance and explosive work sites before, during, and after cleanup. The primary safety precautions being implemented include:

- Community education
- Landowner, occupant, and contractor notification before, during and after OE removal efforts
- Construction support and restricted access where OE work is ongoing or anticipated.

The Corps received comments from a variety of stakeholders during the public comment period including: the EPA, VDEQ, VDOT, Virginia Community College System – TCC, and the City of Suffolk. These comments have been incorporated into the Corps' Final Interim Plan that was completed in August. "We are now negotiating an agreement with the City to implement their portions of the plan. We hope to wrap this up by the end of September," said Rick Aiken, U.S. Army Corps contractor, at the last Restoration Advisory Board meeting. The Corps will then initiate agreements with landowners. ■

### Web Site Links

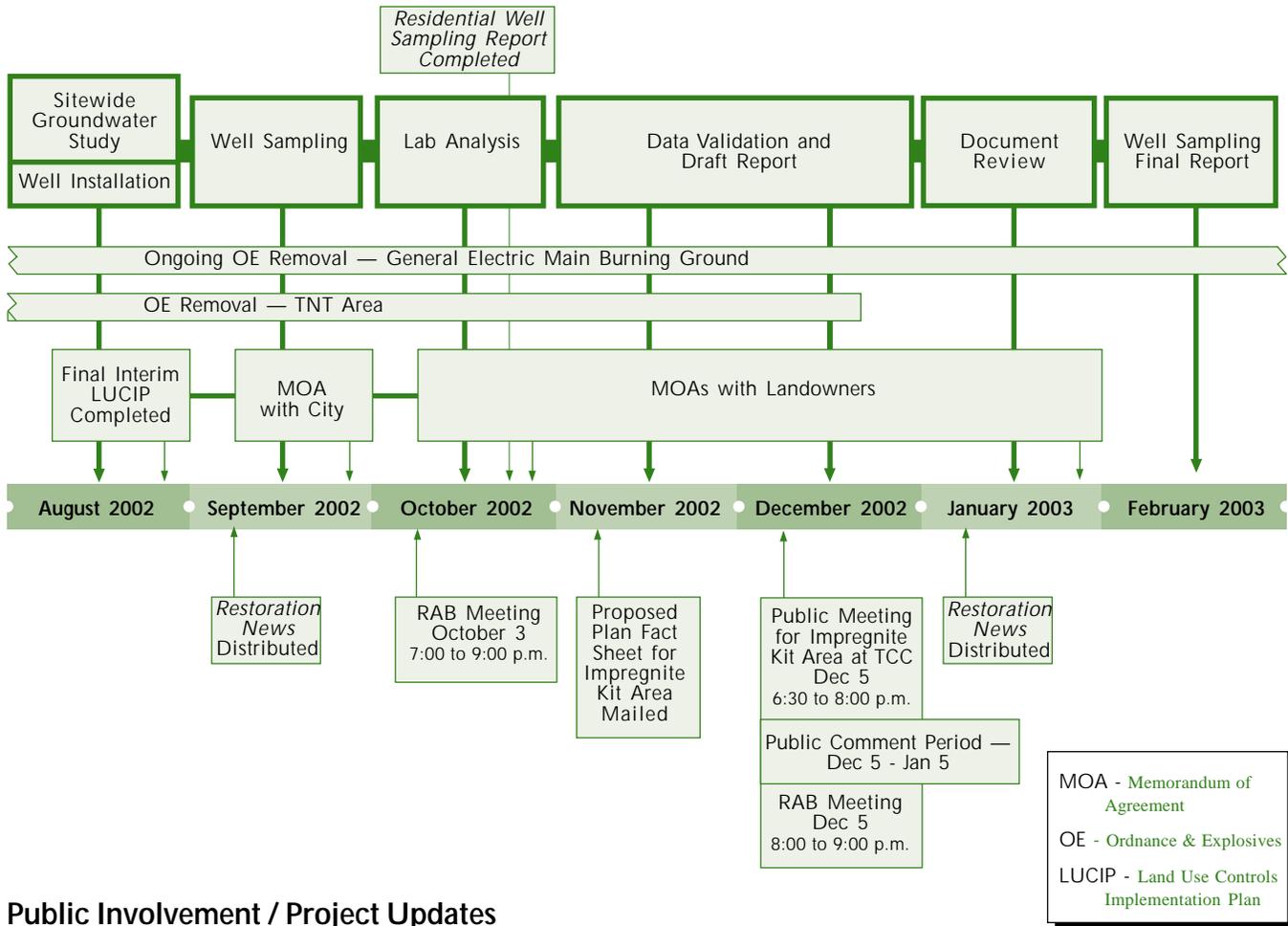
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FNOD Project Web Site:  
<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/projects/nansemond/welcome.html>

Environmental Protection Agency:  
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/VA/nansemond/index.htm>

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ):  
<http://www.deq.state.va.us>

# FNOD Project Timeline

## Technical Milestones



## Public Involvement / Project Updates



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Norfolk District  
c/o CEC, Inc.  
1041 Sterling Road, Suite 106  
Herndon, VA 20170

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**U.S. Army Corps  
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Norfolk District

The Former Nansemond  
Ordnance Depot Project

## Public Meeting

~  
December 5, 2002  
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Bon Secours Health Center  
at Harbour View

~  
5818 Harbour View Boulevard  
Suffolk, Virginia

### Session Agenda

6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. –  
Exhibit Displays / Open House

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. –  
Presentations and Question and  
Answer Period

## Proposed Plan for Impregnite Kit Area

The .25-acre site referred to as the Impregnite Kit Area is located southwest of the GE plant on Dominion Lands property. It is the first of the six “source areas” to be addressed by the Army Corps in response to EPA’s inclusion of FNOD on its National Priorities List.

The Corps is proposing no further action at the Impregnite Kit Area. The public is encouraged to review and comment on the proposed plan for the site, which is available for public review on the project website at (<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/projects/nansemond/welcome.html>) and in the Administrative Record located at the Tidewater Community College (TCC), Portsmouth Campus library. The proposed plan includes site background information, a summary of the findings from previous environmental investigation and soil excavation activities, a summary of the site risks, and the rationale behind the preferred remedy. The Corps’ proposed plan may be modified based on new information and/or public comments.

### Public Comment Period

A 30-day public comment period for this Proposed Plan will begin on

December 5, 2002, and end on January 5, 2003. Written public comments should be submitted to: [Kenneth.W.Hafner@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kenneth.W.Hafner@usace.army.mil)

### What’s Next?

Following the public comment period, the Corps will prepare a *responsiveness summary* to address significant comments or new data received during the public comment period. The *responsiveness summary* will be available for public review on the project website and at the information repository at TCC Portsmouth Campus library on January 15, 2003. Once the remedy is agreed on, the Corps will prepare a Record of Decision that will document the plan for the site and place a public notice in the *Virginian Pilot* newspaper.

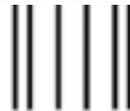
EPA will then initiate the delisting of the Impregnite Kit Area from EPA’s National Priorities List. This could take an additional six months to a year following a signed Record of Decision. EPA, the Corps, VDEQ and Dominion Lands Inc. are currently reviewing the site closure process to determine if there are any opportunities to streamline the delisting of the Impregnite Kit Area.

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# Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) News

## New Meeting Location

Bon Secours Medical Center at 5818 Harbour View Boulevard (Suffolk).  
See the FNOD project web site for directions.

## New RAB Email List

The Corps is now developing a list of interested parties who want to receive RAB meeting information via email versus regular mail. If you would like to begin receiving RAB meeting notices via email...please forward your email address to Sandra Chaloux ([s.chaloux@ce-com.com](mailto:s.chaloux@ce-com.com)).

## New RAB Member Opportunities

The Corps welcomes more community involvement. If you are interested in receiving information about joining the RAB, please contact Sandra Chaloux at ([s.chaloux@ce-com.com](mailto:s.chaloux@ce-com.com)) or 800-232-7074.

All RAB meetings are open to the public!

## RAB MEMBER LIST

<b>Ken Hafner</b> USACE, Project Manager/ Gov't Co-Chair	<b>Tim Fink</b> TCC
<b>Bea Rogers</b> Community Co-Chair	<b>Bruce Johnson</b> Respass Beach
<b>Dave Taylor</b> Suffolk Fire Dept. Alternative Co-Chair	<b>Tom O'Grady</b> City of Suffolk
<b>James Bennett</b> Dominion Lands	<b>Eric Salopek</b> VDEQ
<b>Fred Copeland</b> General Electric	<b>Dave Saunders</b> Bennett's Creek
<b>Russ Dudley</b> VDOT	<b>Rob Thomson</b> EPA
	<b>Cherie Walton</b> Reactives Management

## RAB Meeting Dates:

### 2002

October 3, 2002  
December 5, 2002

### 2003

February 6, 2003      August 7, 2003  
April 3, 2003      October 2, 2003  
June 5, 2003      December 4, 2003

## For More Information:

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District  
Ken Hafner, Project Manager / Government Co-Chair  
803 Front Street, PPMD  
Norfolk, VA 23510-1096  
Phone: (757) 441-7507  
Email: [kenneth.w.hafner@usace.army.mil](mailto:kenneth.w.hafner@usace.army.mil)

### CEC, Inc.

Sandra Chaloux, Contractor Support  
1041 Sterling Road, Suite 106  
Herndon, VA 20170  
Phone: (800) 232-7074  
Email: [s.chaloux@ce-com.com](mailto:s.chaloux@ce-com.com)

### Information Repository

Tidewater Community College Library  
7000 College Drive  
Portsmouth, VA 23703  
Phone: (757) 822-2130  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday

### Project Website

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Nansemond/welcome.html>

## Reply Card

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District  
The Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Project

- I'd like to receive information about joining the RAB.
- I'd like to receive RAB meeting information by \_\_\_\_\_ email or by \_\_\_\_\_ regular mail.
- I'd like to be removed from the mailing list.

Topics I'd like to see in future issues of *Restoration News*:

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_