



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Norfolk District

RESTORATION *News*

Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Project Update

Volume 4

February 2001

Public Information Session

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is hosting a public information session about the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot project on 6 February 2001, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Manning Building at the Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus.

The public information session will include exhibits and displays covering:

- The restoration plan for the Nansemond and James River beachfront areas
- The ecological baseline survey.
- The ongoing ordnance removal efforts.
- Other past and future work at the site.

A brief presentation about the project will be given at 6:00 p.m. "This is a great opportunity to introduce the project and the Restoration Advisory Board to Tidewater Community College students and local residents. I hope area residents and students will participate in the public information session and will stay for the RAB meeting immediately following," says Ken Hafner, USACE FUDS project manager.

The public information session will also offer the community an opportunity to meet one-on-one with project personnel, Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, and federal and state agency representatives. Agencies represented will include the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps or USACE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ), and the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

The Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) RAB meeting will follow the 6 February 2001 public information session. The RAB will meet from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in room 103 of the Manning Building. The meetings are open to the public. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The RAB is a communications forum enabling the public to provide input on cleanup efforts. It is comprised of a diverse array of stakeholders, including community members, local business representatives, local and state officials, a TCC representative, and environmental staff from the Corps, VDEQ, and EPA. The RAB meets on the first Tuesday of even months (February, April, June, August, October, December) from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the Manning Building.

The USACE Norfolk District is conducting environmental investigations and cleanup activities in the vicinity of the TCC Portsmouth Campus as a part of the Formerly Used Defense Site program. Site activities are supervised by the EPA and follow Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) guidelines, or Superfund, due to the site's National Priorities List (NPL) status.

Good News Stories

- ★ The Corps completed the cleanup effort on the Dominion Lands Property at the Impregnite Kit area. This 7-acre site was a disposal area for impregnite kits, which contained a petroleum jelly-like substance and a white powder material used on clothing to protect soldiers from chemical warfare agents. The cleanup resulted in the removal of this area from NPL status.
- ★ The Corps completed a magnetometry study in five areas of FNOD as part of a time-critical removal action under an interagency agreement between the Corps and EPA to investigate, find, and remove any ordnance or explosive safety hazards that might exist at the site.
- ★ Corps contractor UXB International completed magnetometry and removal of ordnance related items and scrap to clear a parcel of Dominion Lands property.
- ★ Dominion Lands received a "comfort letter" from EPA addressing the cleared land and enhancing the company's ability to sell a section of the Bridgeway Commerce Park located on former depot land.
- ★ Dominion Lands sold a tract of land in Bridgeway Commerce Park to Sysco, a large food distributor, in May 2000.
- ★ Dominion Lands sold the 13.5-acre cleared parcel to Continental Properties in December 2000. Continental began clearing for a 125,000 square-foot single story office complex called Bridgeway Technology Center One to be completed in May/June 2001.
- ★ Thomas Decker (a Burbage Grant resident) and Fred Bright (representative of the Nansemond Tribal Association) joined the RAB in October 2000.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

for the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Project

February 6, 2001

Tidewater Community College • Portsmouth Campus

The Manning Building Lobby

7300 College Avenue, Suffolk, VA

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Some examples of ordnance found at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot

Site History

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the executing agency for the Department of Defense to address environmental restoration at formerly used defense sites. The Norfolk District began work at the former Nansemond Ordnance Depot in 1987 when TNT was found near the entrance of the Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus.

In the early 1900s, much of the land south of the James River and between the Nansemond River and Streeter Creek was wooded or used for agriculture. Over a 43-year period starting in 1917, the Nansemond Ordnance Depot (at first called Pig Point Ordnance Depot) occupied 975 acres of this area in Suffolk, VA. The primary purpose of FNOD was munitions storage, processing and distribution. FNOD was operational during both world wars, then the site was transferred to the Department of the Navy and became the Marine Corps Supply Forwarding Annex in 1950. The site was declared excess by the government in 1960.

The Beasley Foundation Boys Academy acquired the entire 975-acre site in July 1960 and the Virginia Department of Highways was given a right-of-way easement on a portion of the land. The Beasley Foundation conveyed 207 acres to Virginia Power (now Dominion Lands) later that month. In October 1965, the Academy conveyed 104.05 acres to General Electric Company. In April 1966, the county of Nansemond acquired a 4.70-acre road right-of-way. In May 1968, the Beasley Foundation gave their remaining property to the newly created Virginia Community College System for the first of three Tidewater Community College campuses. In January 1977, 79.95 acres on the south-eastern corner were conveyed to the Hampton Roads Sanitation District. In November 2000, Continental Properties purchased 13.5 acres from Dominion Lands along College Drive.

Today the site is occupied by the Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus, Dominion Land Management (Bridgeway Commerce Park), General Electric, Sysco Corporation, Columbia Gas, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, Continental Properties, and the Virginia Department of Transportation. The TCC Portsmouth Campus currently occupies 579.6 acres of the FNOD site, which is now divided by Interstate 664, constructed in 1992.

On July 22, 1999, FNOD was added to the NPL by the EPA. The Corps, EPA, and VDEQ have been working together to develop a site management plan, a site screening process, and a process to address scoping and other cleanup issues.

Highlights from 2000

- The Corps sent a *Restoration News* project newsletter to approximately 2,000 nearby residents.
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife collected mussel samples in Streeter Creek, the James River, and the Nansemond River for an ecological assessment of potential impact from the FNOD site.
- The Corps hosted a Public Information Session at TCC in April 2000 to discuss the proposed removal action plan for the James River beachfront.
- The Corps conducted a background study in spring 2000. They submitted the draft report to the regulatory agencies for comment in November 2000.
- Remedial Investigations were completed for the James River beachfront and initiated for the Main Burning Ground/Steamout Pond and Horseshoe Pond.
- SAIC completed the first phase of the offshore environmental impact analysis in May 2000. This study included geophysical profiling underwater along 3 miles of shoreline from I-664 to the Horseshoe Pond and sediment samples.
- In July 2000, Ken Hafner and Keri Robertson became the new Norfolk District USACE FNOD project team and began working with the RAB in August 2000.
- The Corps completed an archaeological survey of the James River beachfront in order to determine whether or not there were additional archaeological resources associated with the human remains found at the beachfront in 1998, or other significant archaeological resources present nearby. The draft summary of the field results were given to the Department of Historic Resources and the Nansemond Tribal Association for comments.



Scrap metal debris on the James River Beachfront

- VDEQ completed sampling of the ponds at TCC in August 2000. Results are preliminary, further information will be available at the February 6th Public Information Session.
- The Corps completed magnetometry studies at the TNT removal area, the former athletic fields, the renovation plant area,

Continued from Page 2

L11, L12, and E410 areas to search for and remove potential ordnance items.

- The Corps held the first Institutional Control Work Group meeting in November 2000. This work group will establish suitable institutional controls or safety precautions for potential ordnance hazards to satisfy Corps and EPA requirements.
- New aerial photos were produced for the project by a Corps contractor.
- The Corps spent approximately \$4 million on the FNOD project in 2000. Expenditures included: offshore investigation, \$650,000; magnetometry study, \$500,000; ordnance removal, \$750,000.

Update on NPL Source Areas

NPL source areas are the specific areas that are included on the NPL. A description and update on the five areas follows:

TNT Removal Area

This site is located at the entrance to TCC Portsmouth Campus. TNT was found at the site in 1987. The Corps has removed 2.5 tons of crystalline TNT, 20 tons of TNT- and lead-contaminated soil, three 25,000-gallon underground storage tanks, and 19 live British 3-inch rounds. Remedial Investigations at this site have included soil and groundwater sampling, and further investigation will be done by the Corps this year. The Corps is addressing comments on the draft work plan.

James River Beachfront Area

This is a 3-acre area along the bank of the James River on TCC property west of the I-664 bridge. This apparent disposal area was used at a time when the shoreline was located more than 200-foot north of the current beachfront. Continued erosion has uncovered metal, construction, and ordnance-related debris. The Corps recommended plan involves removing debris above the mean-low water, using magnetometry to ensure that all debris has been removed, regrading of the slope from the water up to the bluff, and installation of rip-rap to prevent further erosion. The Corps has begun coordination with VDOT so the final rip-rap replacement will be sufficient to prevent erosion up to the I-664 bridge. The work is planned to start in June 2001, and take approximately 120 days.

In May 1998, human bones were observed near a road cut to the James River beachfront. Preliminary evidence indicated they were Native American. The results of the archaeological survey and additional examination of the burial are required to make the final determination. The Corps has been consulting with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the Nansemond Tribal Association to determine an appropriate course of action to address the remains.

Horseshoe Pond Area

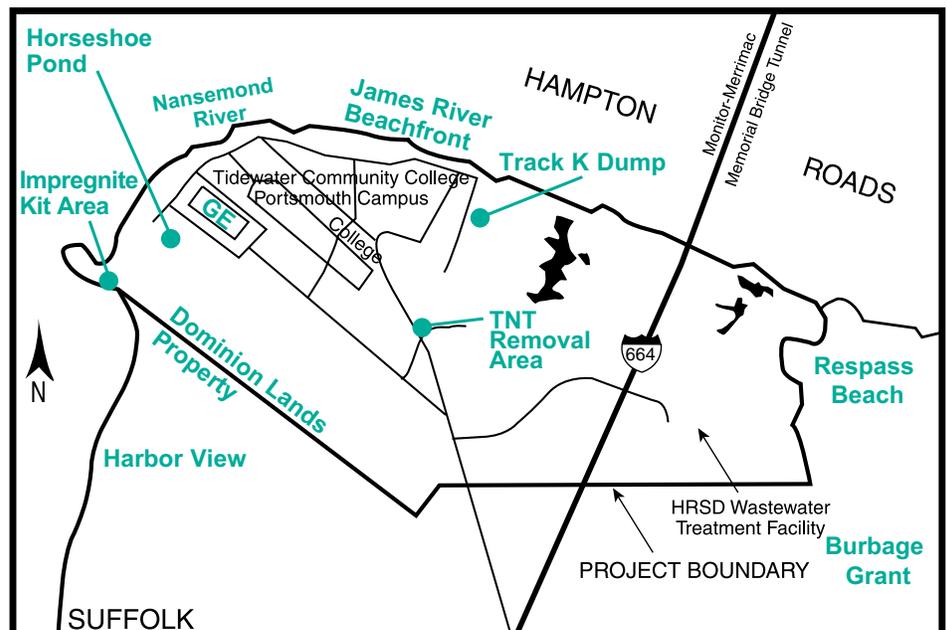
The Horseshoe Pond is located west of the General Electric building. The Corps completed the first phase of the Remedial Investigation at this site in spring of 2000, and took soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater samples. The Corps conducted a magnetometry study near the pond as well. Initial results have been submitted in draft form to the regulatory agencies as Phase I, and Phase II is being scoped to fill in data gaps. Results are preliminary, further information will be available at the February 6th Public Information Meeting.

Main Burning Ground & Steam-Out Pond

This area is located along the south side of Park Drive on GE property. The Steam-Out pond is located in the middle of the Main Burning Ground. Aerial photographs during depot operations show ground scarring in the area, and there are remains of ordnance that was burned or otherwise deposited in the area. The Corps installed 8 shallow and 7 deep monitoring wells as a part of the Remedial Investigation and soil and groundwater samples were collected in January 2000. Ordnance clearance is currently underway. Results are preliminary, and further information will be available at the February 6th Public Information Meeting.

Track K Dump

The Track K Dump is approximately 250 feet by 100 feet in size and is located west of South Road on TCC property. It contains approximately 8,000 tires. On one end of the tire pile is an approximate 12-foot by 12-foot area that contains paint cans. EPA has determined that the tires began accumulating in the area after DoD ownership ended. The Corps has agreed to remove the tires and paint cans and has obtained a contract for the removal. The Corps will submit removal and sampling plans to the regulatory agencies for approval early in 2001. The removal action should take two weeks to complete once the contractor is mobilized.



Area map of the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Project Boundary

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