

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Norfolk District

RESTORATION *News*

Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Project Update • Volume 6 • October 2001

James River Beachfront Gets Makeover



Before

In early July, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began removing debris and associated soil from a 700-foot section along the south bank of the James River. To date, the Corps has removed approximately 1,000 tons of material consisting of metal debris, bricks, concrete, pipes, wood, and other building materials.

During the removal, the Corps used an EM-61 magnetometer to ensure no metal objects were buried on the beachfront. The EM-61 was pulled over every square foot of the beachfront, so that the Corps could make sure all buried items were investigated.



After

Thirty-four pieces of ordnance were removed and tested for explosives. None of the pieces contained any explosive material. Most confirmation soil samples, which were taken during the excavation, were at or below EPA screening levels. Confirmation samples above screening levels were excavated to remove the remaining risk.

A revetment wall was added to the beachfront to stabilize the shoreline and prevent further erosion. The revetment wall consists of a geotextile layer, which is a non-porous sheeting containing small and large stones that serves as a barrier to the sand. The wall was completed at the end of September.

Future work includes development of two reports: a closure report that will document the removal action; and a Record of Decision that will summarize what other restoration activities are needed.

Corps Hosts Public Meeting at TCC

The Army Corps will host its second public meeting this year at the Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus in the Manning Building on November 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. The purpose of the public meeting is to provide an update to the community about FNOD restoration efforts since the February 2001 public meeting and to present the Interim Proposed Plan for Land Use Controls for the site. This proposed plan was jointly developed by the Corps, EPA, VDEQ, the City of Suffolk, and local landowners.

Land use controls are used to manage residual risk related to ordnance and explosives hazards at sites like FNOD. They include any type of physical, legal, or administrative mechanism that restricts the use of, or limits access to, real property to prevent or reduce risks to human health and the environment. **See story about the Interim Proposed Plan on page 2.**

Excavators use an EM-61 to scan the beachfront for any buried objects.

Army Corps to Present Proposed Plan for Land Use Controls

The Corps will present an Interim Proposed Plan for Land Use Controls at FNOD at a public meeting held at Tidewater Community College on November 1, 2001.

Land Use Controls are any type of physical, legal, or administrative mechanism that restricts the use of, or limits access to, real property to reduce risks to human health and the environment.

Land use controls are being proposed to address safety concerns associated with Ordnance and Explosive (OE) hazards at the site. Based on historical records review and geophysical studies, 4 types of potential OE sites have been identified at FNOD and will be addressed by the Interim Proposed Plan including: pits and trenches, blowout areas, explosive washout areas, and former disposal areas. The Corps will present a map of the potentially affected OE sites at the public meeting.

The Proposed Plan for Land Use Controls will not affect the entire 975-acre site. It will address OE sites that have been identified where removal actions have not yet been completed, OE sites where removal actions are underway, and OE sites where removal actions have been completed but where all risk could not be eliminated.

The Corps established a work group in November 2000 to assist in the development of the proposed plan. Input from local, state, and federal levels was essential to establish an effective plan for the site.

Work Group Members

- Mr. James H. Bennett**
Dominion Land
- Ms. Suzan Bulbulkaya**
VDEQ
- Mr. John Carter III**
SAIC
- Mr. Steven Cline**
GE
- Mr. Kevin Farren**
SYSCO Corporation
- Mr. Timothy Fink**
TCC
- Mr. Paul E. Fisher**
City of Suffolk
- Ms. Cheryl Fromme**
USACE, Norfolk
- Mr. Patrick Genzler**
Virginia Community College System
- Mr. Ken Hafner**
USACE, Norfolk
- Mr. Tom O'Grady**
City of Suffolk
- Mr. Don Perry**
Continental Property
- Ms. Amanda Ralph**
SAIC
- Mr. C. Edward Roettger Jr.**
Attorney, City of Suffolk
- Mr. Joe Skibinski**
SAIC
- Mr. Robert Thompson**
U.S. EPA
- Mr. E. Brett Waller**
VDOT
- Mr. Ed Wallingford**
VDOT

Land use controls will not replace OE removal efforts. OE removal actions are expected to continue for the next 30 months at the site. The Proposed Plan is considered "interim" and if accepted will be in effect until all removal actions are completed. Following the removal actions, the project team, with public input, will determine if the land use controls in the Interim Proposed Plan will be a part of a long-term risk management plan for FNOD.

The proposed plan is a document that recommends a cleanup alternative or "remedy" to protect human health and the environment. It describes how land use controls will be implemented, monitored, enforced, and maintained in these areas at FNOD. The proposed plan is an essential part of the cleanup process identified by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). (See the project website for a full explanation of the CERCLA process being followed at FNOD.)

The proposed plan for FNOD consists of a variety of land use controls including educational programs, institutional controls, and engineering controls.



Educational programs are intended to inform landowners and the community about land use controls, how to identify hazards at a site, and what to do if OE is encountered.

Engineering controls are the primary means of mitigating risk at sites. They are engineered remedies that contain or reduce OE hazards or include the installation of physical barriers that limit access to property. Examples include: slurry walls, landfill caps, fences, and signs.

See LUC's, continued on page 3

Ordnance and Explosives at FNOD

LUC's, *continued from page 3*

Institutional Controls are a legal or government controlled mechanism that limits access to or use of real property. They can be enforced by the property owner or by the government, such as a zoning restriction.

Different land use controls may apply to different OE sites. The Interim Proposed Plan for FNOD is innovative because it outlines the appropriate land use control for sites based on their characteristics and criteria making the process more efficient than having a separate plan for each type of site. This is the first time that this type of plan is being used in EPA Region 3.

As an added layer of protection, the Corps has been coordinating with Miss Utility to provide information about FNOD areas where OE hazards may exist. This will enable Miss Utility to notify future landowners about OE areas and the land use controls for those areas. This is a new approach being used to reinforce land use controls.

The Proposed Plan provides the public with an opportunity to comment on and participate in the selection of the remedy **before** the final decisions have been made. The Interim Proposed Plan can be obtained from the project website on or around November 1st at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Nansemond/welcome.html>. The public comment period for the Interim Proposed Plan is November 1, 2001 through December 1, 2001. Your feedback will help USACE formulate long-term cleanup plans for FNOD. Following the public comment period, the Corps must respond to all formal comments and resolve all issues raised by state and federal regulators.

The removal of ordnance is a major part of the work being done at FNOD. At the James River Beachfront, for example, 35 170 mm projectiles and one 7 ¾ inch projectile have been found and been proven to be free of explosives. But what exactly is ordnance? And what should you do if you come across it?

OE (Ordnance and Explosives) – Ammunition, ammunition components, chemical or biological warfare material or explosives that have been abandoned, expelled from demolition pits or burning pads, lost, discarded, buried or fired.

UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) – A subset of OE that includes military munitions that have been primed, fuzed, armed or otherwise prepared for action, and have been fired, dropped, launched, projected, or placed in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to the public, operations, or material and remain unexploded either by malfunction, design, or any other cause.



Example of a 170 mm Projectile.

What if You find OE/UXO?

If you ever come across something you suspect as being Unexploded Ordnance follow these four simple rules:

- Do not touch anything you suspect as being OE/UXO.
- Do not attempt to move or disturb the item.
- Note the location.
- Call local law enforcement to report the item and its location.

You can reach Chief Wilson of the Suffolk Police Department at 757-923-2350.

Project Updates

Landowners

A new office building has just opened its doors in the Bridgeway Commerce Park. The building currently has two tenants, Affina, a call-center leasing 39,400 square feet and General Dynamics which leases 10,233 square feet. There is still 75,000 feet of space available for lease by Continental Bridgeway One Associates.

Pit 18

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed environmental cleanup efforts at Pit 18 located near the entrance of Tidewater Community College. A new contractor, Zapata Engineering, began mobilizing to complete the work in Pit 18 in September. The cleanup process for

Pit 18 affected the main road leading into the college, but the Corps developed a plan that allowed for the least amount of disruption to students, faculty and visitors at TCC by doing the majority of the work on the weekends. Findings of the cleanup will be posted on the project web site.

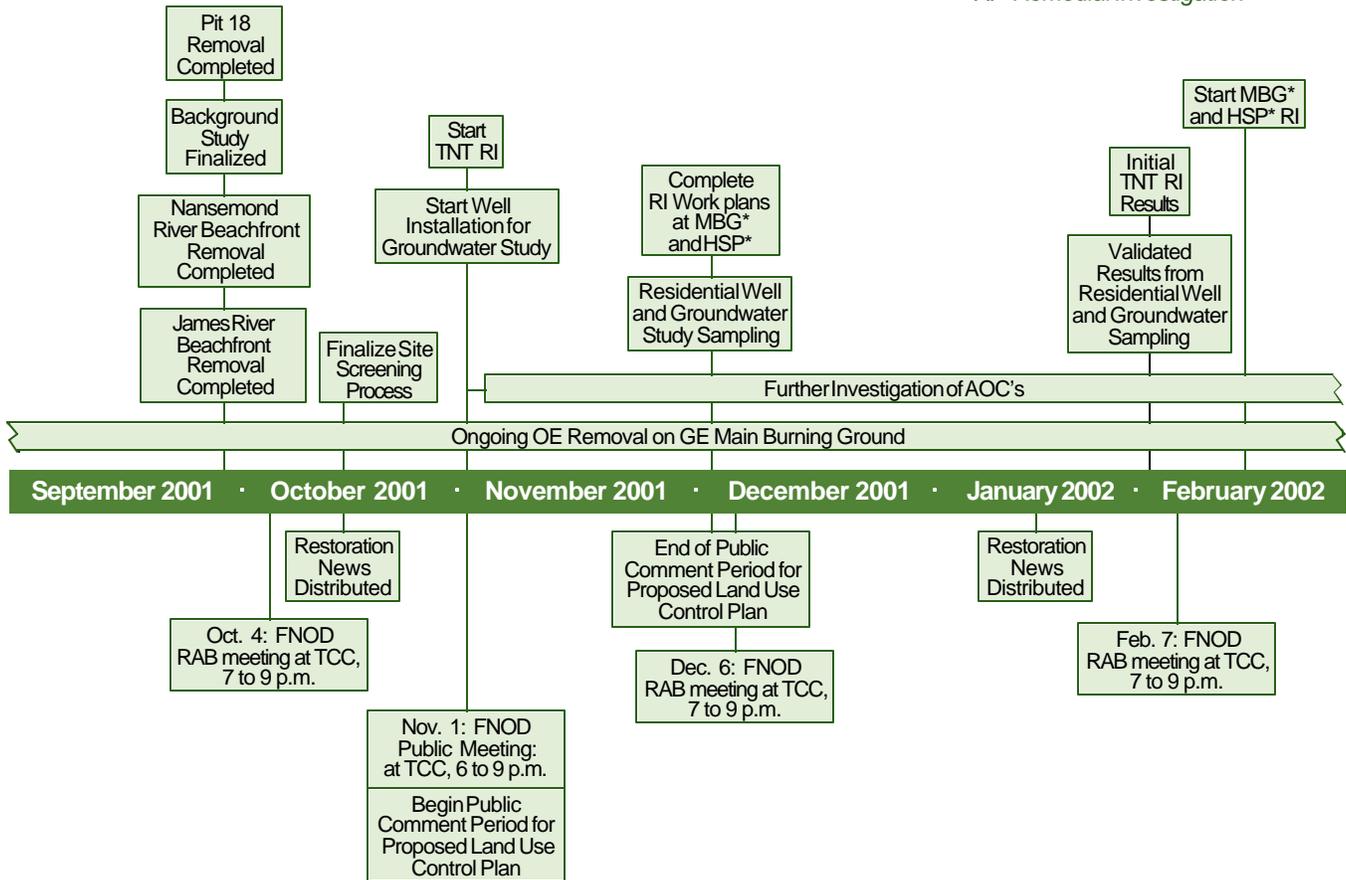
Residential Well Sampling

The testing of residential wells originally scheduled for August has been rescheduled for December. The sampling effort will include 6 wells at TCC and 4 wells in the Respass Beach area. Validated results from this effort are expected in February 2002.

Project Timeline

Technical Milestones

* MBG - Main Burning Ground
 * HSP - Horse Shoe Pond
 * RI - Remedial Investigation



Public Involvement/Project Updates



**US Army Corps
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Norfolk District

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**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Norfolk District

**The Former Nansemond
Ordnance Depot Project**

Public Meeting

~
November 1, 2001
6 to 9 p.m.

Tidewater Community College
Portsmouth Campus

~
The Manning Building
7300 College Avenue
Suffolk, VA

Directions: From I-664 South,
take the VA-135 North / College
Drive exit, number 8A, and
merge onto College Drive.
Follow the signs to TCC and the
Manning Building

Public Meeting

The Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) Project

Date

November 1, 2001, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location

The Manning Building, 7300 College Avenue, Room 103

Purpose

To provide a project update to the community and initiate public review and comment on the Interim Proposed Plan for Land Use Controls at FNOD

Topics

- **Interim Proposed Plan for Land Use Controls**
- James River Beachfront Removal Efforts
- Nansemond River Beachfront Removal Efforts
- Ordnance and Explosives Safety

Session Agenda

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Exhibit Displays / Open House
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Presentations and Question and Answer Period

Agency Participation

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)

Public Comment Period

The public comment period for the Interim Proposed plan for Land Use Controls at FNOD will begin on November 1, 2001 with the public meeting and end on December 1, 2001. Copies of the Interim Proposed Plan can be obtained from the project website at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Nansemond/welcome.html>. Public comments should be submitted to Ken Hafner at Kenneth.W.Hafner@usace.army.mil.

Contact Information

Sandra Chaloux
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CEC, Inc.
Phone: (800) 232-7074

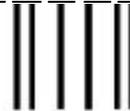
Ken Hafner
FUDS Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Phone: (757) 441-7507

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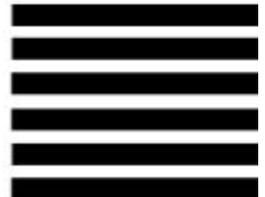
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What is a RAB?

In 1997, the Corps established a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the FNOD project. The RAB is comprised of a diverse array of stakeholders that consists of the U.S. Army Corps' Project Manager, an EPA representative, a Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) representative, current landowners, and members of the local community. RAB meetings are a communications forum enabling the public to provide input on cleanup efforts.

All RAB meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in receiving project updates and RAB meeting information can be added to the mailing list by filling out and returning the postage paid information request card below. For more information about the RAB, please call Sandra Chaloux, RAB support contractor, at (800) 232-7074, or Bea Rogers, Community Co-Chair at (757) 484-6001.

RAB MEMBER LIST

Ken Hafner

USACE, Project Manager/Gov't Co-Chair

Bea Rogers

Community Co-Chair

James Bennett

Alternative Co-Chair

Rob Thomson

EPA

Dave Saunders

Bennett's Creek

Tom O'Grady

City of Suffolk

Stephen Cline

GE

Fred Bright

Nansemond Tribal Association

Cherie Walton

Reactives Management

Bruce Johnson

Respass Beach

Dave Taylor

Suffolk Fire Department

Eric Salopek

VDEQ

Ed Wallingford

VDOT

Tim Fink

TCC

Thomas Decker

Burbage Grant

Ted Sherman

Continental Properties

RAB Meeting Schedule

RAB meetings are held the first Thursday of the even months (February, April, June, August, October, and December) at Tidewater Community College, Portsmouth Campus, Manning Building, Room 103 from 7 to 9 p.m.

For More Information:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

Ken Hafner, Project Manager / Government Co-Chair

PPMD

803 Front Street

Norfolk, VA 23510-1096

Phone: (757) 441-7507

Email: 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

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 continue receiving *Restoration News*.

I'd like to receive RAB meeting summaries and notices.

I'd like to be taken off the mailing list.

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

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Affiliation _____ Phone _____