

# Davisville Review

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## The Story at NCBC Davisville

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Environmental  
Design, Inc.  
with  
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the Navy

The Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) was placed on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989 because of contamination issues associated with past activities of the Navy at the base. At federal facilities, the NPL designation mandates that the Department of the Navy initiate an Installation Restoration (IR) Program, which is the equivalent of EPA's Superfund process. Review items within the jurisdiction of the RI Department of Environmental Management are investigated under a separate Compliance Program.

The Superfund process evaluates contaminants and potential risks to human health and the environment. Remedial actions required to eliminate risks are then implemented based upon the planned use of the site.

Evaluations are carried out for each of the IR sites under investigation. Since some sites have similar contamination issues and concerns, they are evaluated together. However, each site may be at a different

stage in the Superfund process, and different media (soils & water) at the same site may be evaluated separately.

The illustration on page 2 shows the former Naval base and designated IR review sites. Various stages of investigation are shown, and they change over time as the Department of the Navy and its consultants progress through the process.

Unraveling the Superfund process is complicated because of the complexity of this site. The RI Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. received a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to assist the public in understanding the results presented by the Navy, and to provide comment and participate in the decision making process. The TAG technical advisor, Resource Controls, has completed an overall review of the project history to date. A summary of their findings is presented graphically on page 2.

## TAG Activities

The first workshop conducted by the RC&D and the TAG consultants was well received. Concerned citizens attending the June 25th workshop were pleased to have an opportunity to present their views on NCBC Davisville. The TAG consultants presented an overview of the site and Superfund process. Questions of workshop participants were answered throughout this period and additional comments were recorded. A response summary will be prepared by the TAG team to address issues voiced.

The July 10th site tour allowed participants to view conditions of IR sites at NCBC Davisville. Phil Otis, Remedial Project Manager for the Department of the Navy, offered detailed review of the IR sites visited and addressed questions raised by participants. Many people attending the tour remained for the RAB (Restoration Advisory Board) meeting conducted by the Department of the Navy afterwards. The

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Department of the Navy and its consultants addressed public comment and questions throughout the open meeting.

Overall, more than 40 area residents and concerned citizens participated in the workshop and site tour. The RC&D and TAG advisors will continue to provide events which will allow for public participation. Refer to page 3 for upcoming events and your opportunity to comment in the review.

