The Story at NCBC Davisville

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 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.
In the End... The former Navy base has undergone extensive evaluation to date. Areas where there was no contamination present, or remedial activities have already been implemented, are available for reuse. The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation has been successful in drawing businesses to occupy NCBC Davisville. Out of the 29 new tenants in the Industrial Park (Quonset Point/Davisville), 12 are occupying parcels on the Navy land that has been determined suitable for lease or transfer.

Occupancy of the base by businesses has been initiated, even though certain contaminants of concern may be present in the environment after cleanup efforts are completed. Remedial actions are being implemented where appropriate, to make the land suitable for a variety of intended uses.

Due to the nature and extent of contamination in some areas, it is not a feasible to return the land to pristine conditions. This has been a guiding factor in assessing if the intended use of the site will be acceptable, and if any restrictions must be applied. In some instances deed restrictions will be necessary to ensure that remaining contamination will not pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Help us keep you informed and provide answers to your questions by participating in the Superfund process.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **11 September, 1997 - NCBC Davisville SITE TOUR:** 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Limited seating, so please call to register). RAB meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Bldg. 404.

- **22 September, 1997 - The RI Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. and its Technical Assistance Grant consultants will conduct a PUBLIC WORKSHOP at the North Kingstown Free Library from 5:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. (check for schedule of events).

- Look for the release of the Proposed Plan for Calm Pasture Point by the Department of the Navy, which was originally scheduled for release in August. The plan is still under review. An informational meeting and public hearing will follow once the proposed plan has been released.

For More Information call the RIRC&D at 949-4118 or Check the Web Site (www.resourcecontrols.com); Click on Client Connections; Click on NCBC-Davisville.

LOCATIONS WHERE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO NCBC DAVISVILLE CAN BE REVIEWED:

**NORTH KINGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY**  
100 Boone Street  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
HOURS:  
Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**CARETAKER SITE OFFICE**  
NCBC Davisville  
Davisville Road, Building 404, 1st Floor  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
HOURS:  
Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. by appointment  
CONTACT: Mr. Walter Davis @ 401.294.6108 or fax 401.294.2207
Christine Williams
EPA Region 1/ABT
JFK Federal Building
BOSTON MA 02203

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DAVISVILLE?

Don’t worry if you missed the public workshop and site tour. We’ll keep you informed of the latest developments at NCBC Davisville. We are currently planning additional opportunities for you to make comments and have your questions answered. See page 3 for a list of future activities from either the Department of the Navy or the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) team.