

NPL Site Narrative for Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center

DAVISVILLE NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Conditions at proposal (July 14, 1989): The Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) is 18 miles south of Providence in North Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island. The area is primarily single-family residential. A military installation since World War II, the site assumed its current name in 1951. Its primary mission is to provide mobilization support to Naval construction forces.

NCBC consists of four areas: the Main Center located on Narragansett Bay; West Davisville Storage area located 3 miles west of the Main Center; Camp Fogarty, a former training center located 4 miles west of the Main Center; and the decommissioned Naval Air Station Quonset Point to the south of the Main Center, which was given to the Rhode Island Port Authority in 1974. The Navy has disposed of wastes in all four areas.

NCBC is participating in the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), established in 1978. Under this program, the Department of Defense seeks to identify, investigate, and clean up contamination from hazardous materials. Under IRP, the Navy has identified at least 24 areas potentially containing hazardous substances. The Navy's investigations are focusing primarily on two areas: the Allen Harbor Landfill in the Main Center, which received solvents, paint thinners, degreasers, PCBs from transformers, sewage sludge, and contaminated fuel oil during 1946-72; and the Calf Pasture Landfill, which received "decontaminating agents" and various other contaminants.

Several of the 24 potentially contaminated areas are no longer owned by the Navy and are being investigated by the Army Corps of Engineers' former facility program. The primary area the Corps is investigating is the Camp Avenue Landfill, which is part of the decommissioned Naval Air Station Quonset Point. During 1943-53, the landfill accepted drums of wastes, battery casings, and other wastes.

Ground water is shallow (2-4 feet in some areas) and soils permeable, conditions that facilitate movement of contaminants into ground water. An estimated 27,000 people obtain drinking water from public wells within 3 miles of hazardous substances on NCBC.

IRP studies conducted in 1986 identified lead, cadmium, silver, mercury, and chromium in soil from the shoreline and sediments of Allen Harbor, which is a small inlet from Narragansett Bay. Clams are harvested from Allen Harbor. A fresh water wetland is adjacent to the Camp Avenue Landfill.

Status (November 21, 1989): A remedial investigation is underway to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site. A draft report on the work is scheduled to be completed in mid-1990.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be

found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.