

Davisville Review

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We Need to Know the Facts!

The second Public Workshop was conducted on September 22 by the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) team. Concerned citizens provided substantive comment and identified the "need to know" issues. What is going on now, what is left on previously, how clean is it, and why is the clean-up taking so long? These topics were among the many discussed at the Workshop.

The Department of the Navy and its contractors are conducting the studies at NCBC Davisville under the watchful eye of regulatory agencies. Both the Environmental Protection

Agency and the Department of Environmental Management have regulatory authority over various aspects of the site clean-up.

The Superfund process imposes the investigation of all possible known threats to human health and the environment. The Navy has been directed by the regulators to conduct more testing where additional study has been warranted to characterize the contamination.

It should be noted that the NCBC Davisville base encompasses 1284 acres. Only 35 acres of the total site

have been affected by contaminants used in historic operations. The primary clean-up efforts at the base are now concentrating on the remedial design and implementation of required action. Remedial actions at the base are anticipated to take another 5-6 years to complete. Long-term monitoring at certain sites will be an on-going process.

You Asked, We Answered

At the June 1997 Public Workshop, residents of North Kingstown shared their concerns regarding past and present activities at NCBC Davisville. The second workshop conducted in September 1997 focused on addressing these issues. A document was prepared and presented to attendees of both workshops that provided answers to the questions that were raised. Anyone interested in obtaining this information can contact the RIRC&D.

SITE UPDATES:

- ◆ Nike - Groundwater investigations continue
- ◆ Allen Harbor Landfill - Remedial design advances
- ◆ Calf Pasture Point - Proposed plan pending outcome of additional investigations

Risk, Plain and Simple

Bob Atwood of Resource Controls took the floor and presented a course in Risk 101. He tackled the difficult subject of risk assessment, putting each step of the complicated review process into simple terms. Enough information was presented to adequately understand the analysis, leaving the details to scientists.

Information produced in the risk assessment will address essential questions concerning public health and the environment. Threats to it will determine reasons for clean-up, how much must be cleaned, and help determine how clean is clean. Risk assessment is an integral part of the Superfund process requiring detailed examination of contaminants of concern at each IR Site.

Key components of risk assessment were identified as risk characterization and risk management. The initial step of data collection identifies the location of contaminants of concern. Exposure pathways (i.e.: inhalation,

dermal, ingestion) and determination of safe chemical levels are examined in the characterization of risk. Ultimately, this information is utilized in the management of risk, allowing decisions to be made determining the level of clean-up required to reduce or control risks. Legal, economic, and social considerations are included in risk management.

It is only after this lengthy review process that the type of action required to protect public health and the environment can be made. In some instances, the results of these investigations will find that no further action is required to control risk. In other cases, contaminant levels must be reduced or eliminated.

An area resident questioned if the Navy was studying a clean-up which was the equivalent of the Love Canal incident. Mr. Atwood explained these were entirely dif-

ferent situations. At Love Canal there was an immediate threat to public health as contaminants were leaking directly into resident's homes causing a significant environmental hazard. The public has no direct contact with contaminants at NCBC Davisville. The focus of contamination concerns has been primarily on subsurface soil and is now centered on deep groundwater in bedrock which the Navy is continuing to investigate under the scrutiny of regulatory agencies.

For More Information Contact:

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DAVISVILLE?

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ◆ 13 November 1997 - The Department of the Navy will conduct a meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Bldg. 404, NCBC Davisville. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in this review meeting.
- ◆ Spring 1998 - 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.



*For More Information call the RIRC&D at 949.4418
or Check the Web Site*

(www.resourcecont

); Click on Client Connections; Click on NCBC-Davisville.

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

LOCATIONS WHERE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO NCBC DAVISVILLE CAN BE REVIEWED:

NORTH KINGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY
100 Boone Street
North Kingstown, RI 02852

HOURS:
Monday through Thurs., 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