



NEWS RELEASE

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Navy Conducts Air Sampling Outreach to Bethpage Residents

BETHPAGE, NY., Feb. 17, 2009— Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) will be placing portable carbon air filtration units in the homes of several residents who live across from the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP), after recent indoor air sampling indicated the presence of trichloroethylene (TCE). The Navy is working in close cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to quickly implement controls to permanently reduce the source of vapors entering homes to protect long-term health and well-being of Bethpage residents.

NAVFAC and NYSDOH staff jointly notified the residents on February 11, regarding the indoor air sample results from initial samples taken in January.

The Navy's sampling is being conducted as part of the ongoing environmental investigation at the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) in Bethpage to determine if volatile chemicals historically used by Northrop Grumman Corporation (NGC) at NWIRP could have migrated off-site and entered the indoor air of these homes through a process known as "vapor intrusion." Indoor air sampling was performed after elevated concentrations of TCE were found in soil vapor samples collected along the fence line at NWIRP Bethpage Site 1 (former Drum Marshalling Area). Both Navy and NGC are addressing different areas of past contamination, with Navy leading efforts for this site. The former NWIRP (government owned and contractor operated) was established in the 1940s and operated by Northrop-Grumman to build Navy aircraft until the 1990s.

Measurements in some of the homes were higher than NYSDOH guidelines. The NYSDOH guideline was set many times lower than the levels that have caused health effects. The Navy is working with NYSDEC and NYSDOH to determine the most effective measures to quickly reduce the vapor levels in the homes as well as permanently reduce the source of the vapors to ensure the protection of Bethpage residents.

"The Navy is acting quickly to reduce TCE vapor levels in these homes," said Lora Fly, environmental remedial project manager. "We are committed to keeping the community apprised of our ongoing progress."

The Navy will place portable carbon air filtration units in the affected homes and place temporary sealed covers over openings in basement floors. These filtration units will be installed this week with follow-on testing to be taken 48 hours later to ensure their effectiveness.

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NAVFAC Indoor Air Sampling 2-2-2

The Navy is also planning on contacting several additional residents in the vicinity with an offer to sample their indoor air quality. As a precaution, these homeowners will be offered portable carbon air filtration units for their homes until the indoor air results are received.

Additionally, the Navy will offer residents the installation of a sub-slab depressurization system in the homes that have elevated concentrations of TCE below their foundations. These systems can be installed within two to three months and will help to prevent vapors from entering the homes (similar to radon systems). The long-term remedial action to address the source of the TCE will be a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system. The design of the SVE system on NWIRP is underway and construction is anticipated to be awarded in June 2009. It will take six to eight months to be installed and begin operations.

In 2006, New York State Department of Health issued guidance for evaluating potential “vapor intrusion” at environmental restoration sites. The Navy has conducted a number of meetings to inform the public on its continuing investigation of Site 1 on NWIRP to determine potential impacts to human health, safety and the environment.

A public website, located at <http://nwirpbethpage.navy-env.com/>, is available to provide up-to-date information on the Navy’s soil vapor investigation efforts at NWIRP.

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The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) manages the planning, design, construction, contingency engineering, real estate, environmental, and public works support for U.S. Department of Navy (DoN) shore facilities around the world. We provide DoN forces with the operating, expeditionary, support and training bases they need. NAVFAC is a global organization with an annual volume of business in excess of \$13 billion. As a major Navy Systems Command and an integral member of the Navy and Marine Corps team, NAVFAC delivers timely and effective facilities engineering solutions worldwide.