

STATUS OF PROPOSED ORDNANCE STORAGE AND TREATMENT FACILITIES

The Department of the Navy is proposing a plan to continue the onsite storage and thermal treatment of *Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC)* recovered from Mare Island sites. The continuation of operations is contingent on regulatory agency approval and community acceptance of the *Engineering Evaluation & Cost Analysis/Removal Action Workplan (EECA/RAW)*, a document that details the proposed activities based on a number of alternatives.

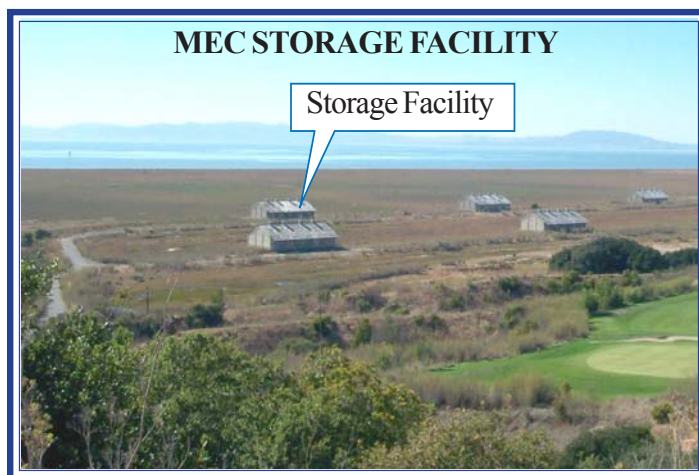
MARE ISLAND ORDNANCE HISTORY

Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) are those munitions that have been discarded, buried or otherwise disposed of on Mare Island as a result of Navy ordnance manufacturing, handling, storage, and disposal activities that were conducted from 1857 through 1972. The Navy has removed much of the Mare Island MEC by completing a series of removal actions that began in 1995. The majority of recovered MEC was small arms ammunition (rifle, pistol, and shotgun cartridges) having no high explosive components. A much smaller number of 20 millimeter (mm) and 40 mm anti aircraft rounds were also removed, along with an even smaller number of larger projectiles.

The thermal treatment of recovered MEC was performed at the MEC Treatment Facility located in a remote area of Mare Island between 1996 and 2000, using the processes of open burning and open detonation to destroy energetic material. The process of open detonation involves placing commercial explosives with the recovered MEC in a pit, covering it with several feet of sand to minimize fragmentation and noise, and then detonating it to destroy all explosive material. The Navy has protected the public from blast and fragmentation hazards and minimized the impact of noise by adhering to stringent safety and operating constraints.

CURRENT STATUS OF MEC FACILITIES

The present MEC Storage Facility will continue to be used to temporarily store recovered MEC, for periods not exceeding 180 days, before treatment. The Navy estimates that only a small quantity of additional MEC material, less than 10% of that already treated, will be recovered in the remaining suspect areas of Mare Island. Several disposal events will be required to treat the small quantity of MEC currently stored since treatment operations were halted in late 2000. It is estimated that a maximum of two additional treatment events per year will be required after these initial events.



PROPOSED MEC TREATMENT OPTIONS

Five potential treatment options were evaluated in the EECA/RAW:

1. No action
2. Transportation for offsite disposal
3. Onsite treatment (blast chamber only)
4. Onsite treatment (open detonation only)
5. Onsite treatment (open detonation/blast chamber combination)

A blast chamber is a large trailer-mounted unit designed to contain the blast, fragments, and gases generated by the detonation of small quantities of explosives. The blast chamber is approved by the Department of Defense and has been successfully used at other sites, including Tourtelot in Benecia, where open detonation is not practicable due to adjacent residential housing. Although presenting the least impact to the environment, the use of a blast chamber is extremely costly when only a few items require treatment.

Options 1 and 2 were eliminated since they are not protective of human health and the environment. Potentially unstable MEC cannot be indefinitely stored and should not be transported over public highways due to safety concerns.

Option 5 was selected from the remaining three options as the optimum blend of effectiveness, implementability, and cost. Continued operation of the treatment and storage facilities will comply with all applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs). The estimated operating timeframe for the MEC storage and treatment facilities is five years.

The blast chamber will be utilized whenever a sufficient quantity of MEC has been accumulated to make its use cost effective. Open detonation, a continuation of past treatment practices, will be utilized for items which exceed the limited capacity of the blast chamber, or when only a small number of items have been accumulated in the allowed storage period. The Navy will take appropriate action to assess and potentially remediate the facilities when their use is no longer required.

The Draft Final EECA/RAW for the Operation of Mare Island Ordnance Storage and Treatment Facilities is currently available for review at the JFK Library, 505 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, California. A presentation is also planned for the February 27, 2003 meeting of the Mare Island Restoration Advisory Board at 7:00 PM in the conference room of the JFK Library.

For additional information, please visit the Mare Island Environmental News website at: <http://www.mareisland.org>

LENNAR UPDATE

Wrap up of 6-month field program in June 2002

Program included:

- Soil and groundwater sampling at hundreds of locations island-wide
- Installation of approximately 30 new monitoring well in the Eastern Early Transfer Parcel
- Implementation and beginning of a long-term groundwater monitoring program for the island

Other Field Work has included:

- Ongoing demolition and specific Interim Removal Actions
- UST investigation

Current activity includes:

- Repair of sewer main at Domestic Sanitary Sewer Pump Station (DOM) 3, adjacent to IR 7/20, for Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District
- Concrete "scabbling" (removal of the upper layer) to remove PCBs at Building 529
- Excavation activities at IR 7/20 and IR 13 will result in the removal of over 1,000 tons of contaminated material
- Planning is underway for another Interim Removal Action at IR 18 in December/January

IR 13 - Former Electrical Substation

- Located at Azuar Drive and 5th Street
- Excavation work will begin next Monday, November 25
- Complete the Navy's excavation of PCB contaminated soil and backfill the excavated pit
- Restoration of the site

IR 18 - Former Base Exchange Gasoline Station

- Work to begin December/January
- Two pump stations and four USTs removed in past actions
- Remove remaining USTs, fuel lines, and petroleum-contaminated soil
- Will also remove approximately 900 tons of greensand

Reports and Decision Documents

- Final approval from DTSC for the Investigation Area (IA) A A3 Remedial Action Plan (RAP)
- This area will now be considered "closed" by the regulators
- Continuing work on Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports (RI/FS) for IA C1, C2, C3, and B
- Currently finalizing the Remedial Investigation of IA H2 and expect the RI report to go to DTSC by the end of the year
- Waiting for DTSC concurrence on a "No Further Action"

The Public and the RAB (Continued from page 1)

The transition of Mare Island has been a model for the rest of the nation. The Mare Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) provides an opportunity for the public to be part of this important moment in history. RAB meetings provide a forum where the community, the Navy, State and Federal regulators, City representatives and master developers can share information and ideas.



WESTON SOLUTIONS UPDATE

On September 20, 2002, Governor Grey Davis signed documents completing the successful Early Transfer of the Western Parcel of the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, CA to the State of California through the State Lands Commission.

Governor Davis' approval of the early transfer approves of the \$55 million agreement with the Navy to complete environmental cleanup on and around the Western Parcel. The planned remediation to be performed by Weston includes:

- Design and construction of a RCRA cap for the Area H-1 landfill,
- Demolition and remediation of the former industrial waste treatment plant,
- Remediation of the oily waste sump and lead battery disposal areas, and other miscellaneous areas within Area H-1,
- Remediation of a former ordnance disposal area (IR-05) near the southern portion of Mare Island, and
- Remediation of the Western Magazine Area.

Notable Highlights:

- Cleanup of the Investigation Area H-1, IR-05 and Western Magazine Areas will ultimately cost \$54 million
- Funding by the Navy is provided annually through FY06.
- Weston will complete the remediation of the treatment plant outfall within the Western Submerged Lands, placement of a two-foot soil cover over portions of the eastern levees of the active dredge ponds, and installation of an engineered foot path for public access.

2003 Cleanup Plans:

- Demolition of aboveground structures associated with the former wastewater treatment plant.
- Preparation of an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for removal actions planned for later in 2003 for the oily sump and lead battery disposal areas within Area H-1.

RAB Meetings are held monthly (usually the last Thursday) at the JFK Library in Vallejo. The public is welcome to attend and express their concerns. Public documents concerning the cleanup and reuse of Mare Island are available in the JFK Library.

Contact Myrna Hayes, Community Co-Chair at 707-557-9816, or Jerry Dunaway, Navy Co-Chair at 707-562-3104 with any questions.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

The Draft Final EEC/RAW for the Operation of Mare Island Ordnance Storage and Treatment Facilities is available for review at:

JFK Library
505 Santa Clara Street
Vallejo, California
Phone (707) 553-5568

A MEC Storage and Treatment presentation is also planned for the January 30, 2003 meeting of the Mare Island Restoration Advisory Board at 7:00 PM in the conference room of the JFK Library.

Please send your comments on the Draft Final EEC/RAW to the following address by February 3, 2003 so that we may include them in our analysis and in the Final EEC/RAW:

Commander
(attn: Jerry Dunaway, Code 06CM.JD)

Southwest Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92132-5190
Phone (619) 532-0975 Fax: (619) 532-0940

After comments on the Draft Final EEC/RAW are received, the Navy will evaluate each comment and provide a written response that will be included in the Final EEC/RAW.

MAILING COUPON

If you would like to be added to the Mare Island mailing list and receive copies of future newsletters and fact sheets, please fill out the coupon below and mail it to:

Commander (attn: Jerry Dunaway, Code 06CM.JD)
Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92132-5190

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There is no need to send in this coupon if you are already on our mailing list. Thank you.

Commander (attn: Jerry Dunaway, Code 06CM.JD)
Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command
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