

Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)

4555 Overlook Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20375
Congressional District
EPA ID#: DC8170024311
Last Updated: 12/29/08

Current Progress at the Site

This facility is a medium priority RCRA corrective action site. On August 19, 2003, the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) agreed to participate in the EPA Region III's Facility Lead Corrective Action program. The terms of this participation are outlined in a Facility Lead Agreement (see EPA Region III Corrective Action Web Site).

In February 2004, in fulfillment of the Facility Lead Agreement, NRL submitted a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Workplan to DC-DOH and EPA

In January 2005, in coordination with DC's RCRA program, EPA transmitted comments to NRL on the general Workplan.

Thereafter, EPA, the District of Columbia (DC) Department of the Environment (DOE), and the NRL had multiple meetings and discussions to resolve outstanding issues.

In April 2007, NRL submitted a summary of their evaluation of 62 solid waste management units and 67 areas of concern, four (4) reports of investigations of releases, and a human health environmental indicator evaluation indicating human exposures are under control.

In August 2007, NRL submitted an evaluation of groundwater migration indicating groundwater migration is under control and acknowledging investigations need to be completed.

In September 2007, EPA transmitted comments to NRL on their April and August submissions.

In October 2007, NRL submitted a Vapor Intrusion / Evaluation Report addressing several Solid Waste Management Units.

In November 2007, EPA and NRL met to discuss EPA's comments.

In January 2008, NRL submitted a preliminary response to EPA's comments.

In February 2008, NRL and EPA met to discuss NRL's preliminary comment response.

In late April 2008, NRL submitted a Facility Assessment Workplan and provided EPA with an opportunity to comment on the Workplan . The Workplan addressed investigating hydrogeologic conditions throughout the Facility, fill along the Facility's western border, and soil and/or materials at twelve (12) Facility locations.

In May 2008, EPA transmitted comments on the Workplan to NRL and inspected areas at the Facility.

In June and during the Summer 2008, NRL implemented field work. Prior to the field work implementation, the US Army Corps of Engineers oversaw the field work set up and reviewed procedures with the Facility contractors.

Locations where munitions formerly were managed will be evaluated in the Military Munitions Response Program. During 2008, the MMRP completed contractual arrangements for the work at NRL. NRL plans to begin discussions on the MMRP in 2009.

Site Description

The NRL Facility is a research facility located on approximately 131 acres on the eastern bank of the Potomac River, in Southwest Washington, D.C. The Facility, established in 1923, is the Department of the Navy's corporate laboratory and principal in-house component in the Office of Naval Research's efforts to meet its science and technology responsibilities. The Facility consists of 87 numbered buildings and structures. Most of the buildings are used for research and there are no manufacturing processes conducted on site.

A portion of the property was formerly owned and operated as an Annex of the Naval Gun Factory and was used principally for storage of materials from operations being conducted at the Washington Navy Yard.

Cleanup Indicators

Under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), EPA has set national goals to address RCRA Corrective Action facilities by the year 2008. EPA is evaluating two key indicators for each facility: Current Human Exposures Under Control and Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control. This facility is one of EPA Region III's medium priority facilities and falls under this initiative. The current evaluation of Environmental Indicators for this facility is as follows:

Human Exposures Controlled Determination: Additional information is needed to determine whether Human Exposures are controlled.

Release to Groundwater Controlled Determination: Additional information is needed to determine whether Groundwater Releases are controlled.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at the facility are being conducted through a Facility Lead Agreement under the direction of EPA with support and assistance from the DC-DOE.

Institutional Controls

The need for institutional controls will be evaluated.

Government Contacts

EPA Project Manager
Ms. Diane Schott – 3LC20
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Phone: (215) 814-3430
Fax: (215) 814-3113
Email: schott.diane@epa.gov

Ms. Mary Begin
Hazardous Materials Branch
Department of the Environment
District of Columbia
51 N Street, N.E., 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 481-3838
Fax: (202) 535-1386
E-mail: mary.begin@dc.gov

For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm

Facility Contact

Mrs. Kathryn A. Edwards
Supervisor, Explosives Safety & Environmental Section
Naval Research Laboratory Code 3542/6
4555 Overlook Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20375-5330
Phone: (202) 404-4461/ (202) 767-2232
Email: kathryn.edwards@nrl.navy.mil

Mr. Joe K. Pawlovich
Head, Safety Branch

Naval Research Laboratory Code 3540
4555 Overlook Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20375-5330
Phone: (202) 767-2232
Email: joe.pawlovich@nrl.navy.mil