Navy Progress In Addressing Sediment Issues

Dr. James Wright
Director of Environmental Programs
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Washington, D.C.

Why the Navy Emphasis on Policy, Guidance, and Training

- Recognized that significant resources were being expended on evaluating sediments, but
  - data were not being used in decision making
  - regulators and Navy could not agree on magnitude of site risk and appropriate action
  - uncertainty in remedy effectiveness remained
  - conduct of risk assessments were not consistent among sites or different locations
  - site investigations were not resulting in site closures

Areas of Current Progress

- **Navy Sediment Policy** – emphasizes innovation in assessing site risk, contaminant fate and transport, risk reduction, habitat protection, and remedy selection. Policy to be issued in Sept 01
- **Navy Sediment Guidance** – focuses on implementable, efficacious, cost-effective remedial technologies which minimize unnecessary impact to the ecosystem. Available Sept 01

Current Progress (Continued)

- **Navy Sediment Workgroup –** addresses technical issues relating to sediment risk assessment, risk management, and risk remediation to assist Navy RPMs.
- **ONR Sediment Research –** conducting basic research on a variety of sediment issues.
  - Biodegradation rates, sediment geo-chemistry, dynamics, flux and toxicity.
  - NAVFAC personnel assist in evaluating remediation tools under consideration.

Current Progress (Continued)

- Collaboration With Public and Private Sediment Technical Groups to stay abreast of current state of the science.
- Navy Sediment and Water COPC Screening Guidance – identifies selected sediment screening benchmarks and promotes consistency in the screening process across facilities.
- Navy Ecological Risk Assessment Policy – Three-tiered process designed to enhance EPA ERA Guidance. Issued April 1999.

Other Supporting Progress

- **Navy Guidance for Site Institutional Controls** – defining enforceable Land Use Controls to curtail contaminant exposure pathways and to make practical site risk reduction.
- **Navy Remedial Project Manager Training** – training courses on project management, HHRA, data quality objectives, negotiation procedures, and ERA guidance. Currently available and offered through CECOS.

Other Supporting Progress (Continued)

- Navy Ecological Monitoring Sub-group – support to an EPA lead group on Ecological Monitoring.
- Natural Resource Injury Sub-group – established to implement the DoD policy on Natural Resource Injury.

Other Supporting Progress (Continued)

- **Navy Background Policy** – policy for handling background concentrations of chemicals in media, including sediment, in the risk assessment process.