



FACTS ABOUT: NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER CARDEROCK DIVISION

**Maryland Department of the
Environment**

Site Location

The Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division (NSWCCD) is located twelve miles northwest of downtown Washington, D.C., in Montgomery County. The facility covers approximately 184 acres and is bounded to the north by MacArthur Boulevard, to the south by Clara Barton Parkway, to the west by U.S. Park Service property, and to the east by park property and residences. The facility was formerly known as the David Taylor Model Basin.

The Navy uses the facility for surface water and undersea vehicle hull and propulsion research, development, testing, and evaluation in the areas of hydrodynamics, hydroacoustics, structures and materials, hull and propulsion signatures, and vehicle design.

Site History

On July 15, 1937, the U.S. government purchased 137 acres of land for the construction of a model basin for testing naval ship systems. The construction of the initial test basin was completed by June 1939. In the 1940s, the U.S. government expanded the facility and brought the property to its current size. By the 1960s, research activities expanded to several other sites in Idaho, Virginia, and South Carolina.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

Environmental assessments and investigations have been conducted under the Department of Defense Installation Restoration Program (IRP), beginning with a Preliminary Assessment (PA) conducted in 1991. The PA identified nine areas of concern:

- Site 1, Base Landfill
- Site 2, Storage Yard
- Site 3, Scrap Yard
- Site 4, Former Pesticide Shop Leach Field
- Site 5, Sandblast Shed



Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230-1718 | www.mde.maryland.gov
410-537-3000 | 800-633-6101 | TTY Users: 800-735-2258

Lemaster/LRP/January 2017

Site 6, Dielectric Fluid Spill
Site 7, Storm Sewer Outfalls
Site 8, Buildings 13 and 20 Sanitary Sewers
Site 9, Wind Tunnel Exhaust

In 1995, a removal action was conducted at Site 3 to remove soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl compounds (PCBs). Other removal actions occurred at Site 5 (lead and arsenic contaminated soil), Site 8 (mercury contaminated sanitary sewer lines), and Site 9 (petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soil).

A Remedial Investigation (RI) of these nine sites was initiated in 2001. A Record of Decision was issued by the Navy for Sites 1-9 in 2006. The Record of Decision indicated that no further action was required for these sites.

As part of the RI, a records search was conducted that identified a further 16 sites:

Site 10 – Building 18 Former Debris Fill Areas
Site 11 – Building 6 Former USTs
Site 12 – Former Army Camp Sewage Disposal and Magazine
Site 13 – Former Army Camp Gasoline Storage Tank
Site 14 – Outfall #3
Site 15 – Outfall #11
Site 16 – Outfall #14
Site 17 – Former Explosive Storage Area
Site 18 – Building 108 Former Sewage Disposal Plant
Site 19 – Former Outdoor Gun Range
Site 20 – Former Building 153 Electrical Substation
Site 21 – Building 7 Former Paint Booth
Site 22 – Building 18 Basement Sump and Pistol Range
Site 23 – Building 4E Former Septic Tank and Drainage Field
Site 24 – Former Building 186 Gas Tanks
Site 25 – Basewide Potential Transformer Leaks

Removal Actions were conducted at Site 10 (debris and soil), Site 12 (arsenic contaminated soil) and Site 18 (lead contaminated soil from the former pistol range). The final Site Investigation Closeout Report concluded that no further action was required for Sites 10-25.



Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230-1718 | www.mde.maryland.gov
410-537-3000 | 800-633-6101 | TTY Users: 800-735-2258

Lemaster/LRP/January 2017

During a review of records of World War I chemical-weapons testing, a possible test area was identified as the Conduit Road Test Site (CRFT). The records indicated that an Army field test of various protective masks against diphenylchloroarsine (DA) gas may have been conducted near this site. An investigation was conducted by the Navy to evaluate these concerns. The investigation found no conclusive evidence for the exact location of the former CRFT. Representatives of MDE, USEPA, and the NSWCCD community expressed agreement with this assessment.

Current Status

There are currently no IRP activities associated with this facility.

Planned or Potential Future Action

No IRP activities are known to MDE.



Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230-1718 | www.mde.maryland.gov
410-537-3000 | 800-633-6101 | TTY Users: 800-735-2258

Lemaster/LRP/January 2017