SUBASE RAB News

Fall/Winter 2010-11

News Flash!

Subase has set up a public website and Facebook page. The quarterly RAB newsletter and other pertinent IR program announcements will be posted on these sites. In addition to the EPA and NAVFAC IR program informational sites this is just another way to stay plugged into the Subase IR program. Links provided below.

Area A Wetlands Remedial Action- Getting Ready

The Navy, USEPA and CTDEP are moving ahead to clean up the Area A wetland. A second Phragmites mowing funded by the Navy's Natural Resources program was completed in December 2010. This opens the site for a Pre-Design Investigation scheduled for this spring. The Navy will sample sediments in the wetland and refine the boundaries of the approximately 1 acre of contaminated sediment located in the extreme northwestern corner of the 20 acre wetland. Excavation and removal of the contaminated sediments is scheduled for summer 2012 when working condition in the wetlands should be at their driest.

Area A Wetland after Phragmites mowing

Lower Base Update

The Lower Base includes seven zones that are currently under investigation. These zones are collectively referred to as Operable Unit (OU) 4, and are at the Feasibility Study (FS) phase. During the FS, potential cleanup alternatives for each zone are identified. This past summer the Navy collected additional soil and groundwater data in lower base to better define the concerns in these zones and help identify the best cleanup alternatives to consider in the FS.

The FS phase is expected to be completed this summer. Following this phase, the Navy in partnership with USEPA and CTDEP will select the preferred cleanup alternative for each zone and present those alternatives to the public. The public will be notified via local newspapers when the plan is ready, and will be provided 30 days for review. During the review period, the Navy will hold a public meeting to discuss the plan. The Navy will respond to all public comments received during the 30 day review period including any submitted during the public meeting. The selected cleanup alternative for each zone will be based on public input and documented in the OU 4 Record of Decision due next winter.

Did You Know?

The submarine fleet at SUBASENLON underwent a dramatic transformation after World War II. For a time in the late 1940's more than 54 diesel submarines were mothballed along the northern waterfront of the base. Their machinery was coated with rust-preventing compounds and their deck guns covered by plastic envelopes. Propellers were removed and placed on deck and dehumidifiers were installed below decks and the submarines were kept sealed. However, these submarines were doomed not by rust but rather by obsolescence. With the emergence of nuclear age, Admiral Nimitz was quick to see the future. In December 1947 he sent a memo to the Dept. of the Navy for transmittal to the Dept of Defense. The memo stated in part: "The most secure means of carrying out an offensive submarine mission against the enemy is by the use of a true submarine, that is one that can operate submerged for very long periods of time… It is important that the Navy initiate action with view to prompt development, design, and construction of a nuclear-powered submarine." From this point on submarine development focused almost exclusively on nuclear propulsion.

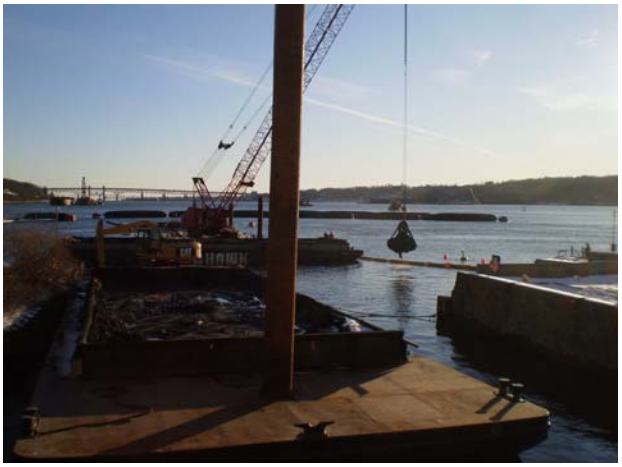
Community Involvement Plan update

The update of the Subase Community Involvement Plan (CIP) has worked its way through Navy, EPA and CTDEP review and is being readied for prime time. The IR team hopes to present the draft final plan during a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting tentatively planned for late April. The CIP update is focused on making sure that the public at large is informed and involved in the IR program as it enters its final stages. Focus will be aimed towards making improvements to information distribution with special emphasis on using emerging electronic media like websites and Facebook to make contact with the community.

Pier 1 Sediment Removal Update

The Navy conducted sediment removal actions in the Pier 1 inner and outer areas early last year (see below). The purpose of these actions was to remove sediment that posed a potential risk to the ecosystem. This work was carried out using mechanical (bucket) dredging techniques. While the majority of the contaminated sediment in the inner and outer areas was successfully removed (approximately 10,000 cubic yards), the presence of former marine railway structures prevented removal of all contaminated sediment from the inner area. Based on a recent Navy survey, approximately 400 cubic yards of sediment remains to be removed from the inner area.

The Navy proposes hydraulic (vacuum) dredging techniques to go after the remaining contaminated sediment in the inner area. The Navy is currently working on the design and work plan. Fieldwork associated with this last phase of the Pier 1 removal action is expected to be conducted at the end of this calendar year.



View of Pier 1 Outer Area dredging activities with clamshell - January 6, 2010 (Photo credit: Tetra Tech EC)

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EPA SUBASE IR Website:

www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/newlondon

SUBASE Website:

https://www.cnic.navy.mil/NewLondon/index.htm

Subase Facebook Page:

http://www.facebook.com/NavalSubmarineBaseNewLondon

Naval Facilities Mid-Atlantic Installation Restoration Program (IRP) public website:

https://portal.navfac.navy.mil/portal/page/portal/navfac/navfac_ww_pp/navfac_hq_pp/navfac_env_pp/env_restoration_installations/lant/midlant/new_london/welcome

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