

Washington Navy Yard

EPA Region 3

District of Columbia

EPA ID# DC9170024310

Last Update:

July 1999

Congressional District

Other Names: None

Current Site Status

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)

The Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) between the Navy Yard, District of Columbia, and EPA was signed on June 30, 1999. The agreement closes out the RCRA 7003 order at the Navy Yard, and makes EPA's Superfund Program the lead regulator. The FFA took only six months to negotiate, even though this is the first National Priorities List (NPL) site in the District and the first FFA that they have been a party to.

Site Description

The site, located at 901 M Street, SE, is bordered by the Anacostia River to the south, by the Southeast Federal Center to the west, and by public housing to the north. The Southeast Federal Center is not included as part of the Washington

Navy Yard site.

The Navy Yard is designated as a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) gaining facility because employees have already begun moving into the facility. In January, 1997, the Navy completed a BRAC Construction Environmental Investigation on the affected buildings. The investigation analyzed samples taken from soils, groundwater, and inside buildings. The BRAC buildings have also gone through a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and the Navy Environmental Section has provided recommendations to their design agents on precautions that must be taken to ensure that the buildings are safe for occupancy. The view of the Navy is that there are no areas of concern located in the BRAC areas, except for site 6, the incinerator area, which was handled as a removal action during the Summer of 1998.

EPA Region III issued a RCRA 7003 order (effective July 16, 1997) that required the Navy to perform the removals as interim measures (under Superfund procedures), perform further studies, and clean up the site based on the results of the studies. The RCRA 7003 order remained in effect until EPA and the Department of the Navy signed a final Superfund Interagency Agreement on June 30, 1999. The Navy has supported the listing of the site on the NPL, and EPA Region III received a letter from former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry dated November 1, 1996, which also supported the NPL listing of the Washington Navy Yard.

The Sierra Club and Anacostia Watershed Society have been working with the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, the Navy, and EPA to develop a supplemental environmental project that would benefit the community. Local community concern is focused on pollution in the Anacostia River. EPA Region III is also working to identify non-Federal facilities that may be contributing to pollution in the Anacostia River.

Site Responsibility

The United States Navy

NPL Listing History

Proposed Date: 03/06/1998.

Public comment period closed 05/05/1998.

NPL Listing Date: 07/28/1998

Threats and Contaminants

The principal contaminants at the site are Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), a combination of heavy metals such as lead, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and dioxins.

Cleanup Progress

Contacts

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