

NCBC GULFPORT

Restoration Advisory Board Newsletter

January 2025

Next Restoration Advisory Board Meeting - February 2025

The next NCBC Gulfport Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 11, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm** at the Isiah Fredericks Community Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. The Environmental Restoration Program scientists and engineers will be available to discuss the content directly with the RAB members and interested community members using display boards and handouts. Participation in these discussions is strongly encouraged.

Where

Isiah Fredericks Community Center
3312 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Gulfport, MS 39501

When

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
6:00 – 7:30 PM

Arrive any time between 6:00 and 7:30 PM to discuss topics with project scientists and engineers.

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Environmental Restoration Program scientists and engineers will be available to answer questions on the following NCBC Gulfport program areas:

Fire Fighting Training Area (Site 6)

In 1991, three feet of petroleum product was detected in a monitoring well at Site 6. Since that time, two different groundwater treatment systems were used, removing approximately 7,300 gallons of petroleum product. Over time, product recovery declined and in 2006, the Navy shut down the system. However, the legacy groundwater monitoring program indicated petroleum contaminants were persistent.

In response, the Navy implemented additional measures, including active treatment that employs injecting an oxygen-releasing material to help break down the remaining contaminants. A soil investigation is planned for 2025 to show boundaries of soil contamination at Site 6.

Site 6 is also a part of the Long-Term Monitoring and Land Use Control Inspection Program and future PFAS Study areas; long-term response actions will be discussed separately under that program area.

Former Dioxin Storage Area (Site 8)

Site 8 was formerly a storage site for Herbicide Orange. Herbicide Orange was known to contain dioxins. Multiple cleanup actions occurred at the main part of the site between the 1980s and the mid-2000s, and the site is now capped and monitored to prevent exposure to dioxins. There are multiple areas with active projects as described below:

Off-Base Area

This is an off-base area in a heavily wooded location to the north of 28th street comprised of low drainage potential where surface water once containing sediments entrained with dioxin was released from the base. Between 2004 and 2007, impacted sediments were removed. Currently, groundwater monitoring indicates declining dioxin concentrations.

Dredge Spoil Area

This is a new area associated with Site 8 and is comprised of a grass covered triangle shaped field surrounded by Canal #1 to the north and east. This area was once used as a borrow pit for soil and was later filled in with dredged materials from drainage ditches on and around Site 8. Subsequent studies found that these dredged materials contained low levels of dioxin. The Navy and its contractors are in the planning process to fully assess this site. If dioxin concentrations exceed the Site 8 cleanup goals for dioxin, the Navy will recommend cleanup actions in this area.

Site 8A Spill Response

In March 2024 approximately 1,800 gallons of diesel fuel associated with the microgrid system (solar panels) was discharged into a nearby storm drain. The base responded promptly with emergency response contractors to contain the spill and prevent a release off base. The Navy mobilized members of their Navy On-Scene Coordinator program for Navy Region Southeast from Jacksonville, Florida, to oversee and lead the remedial activities and site restoration. Since the spill the Navy has employed mitigating controls including monthly sampling and sediment traps. The response actions have contained impacts to within the area immediately adjacent to Site 8A. Site 8 is also a part of the Long-Term Monitoring and Land Use Control Inspection Program discussed in the next section.

Long-Term Monitoring and LUC Inspection Program

(Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11)

Ten sites have undergone investigation and remedial actions, and will continue to receive long-term monitoring and inspections. Most of these sites are landfills from historical activities at the base; the installation's commitment to protecting human health and the environment is demonstrated through long-term monitoring of remedial actions like landfill caps. Inspections visually assess these sites to ensure there are no land use changes that may impact protectiveness. Sites 6 and 7 are monitored quarterly and the remaining sites are sampled on an annual or semi-annual basis.

PFAS Remedial Investigation (Study Area 1)

PFAS are considered emerging chemicals of environmental concern. These chemicals can be found in many household items and were also used in fire-fighting activities. PFAS are manufactured chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain and water-repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large quantities that have been manufactured and used by international consumers and industry, as well as the military. Once these compounds are released to the environment, they break down very slowly.

The Navy has already assessed all sites on the base for possible presence of PFAS and have identified 18 sites where these chemicals were previously used, disposed of, or stored. The sites have been prioritized and split into three different areas: Study Area 1, Study Area 2, and Study Area 3. The sites were grouped into these areas based on priority, proximity to one another, and their hydraulic and geologic conditions. The Navy and its contractors are currently planning investigation activities at Study Area 1. Fieldwork is planned to start in early 2025.