

**NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER
CARDEROCK DIVISION-ANNAPOLIS DETACHMENT
Annapolis, Maryland**

Site Location

The Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Carderock Division - Annapolis Detachment is located in Anne Arundel County. The facility is comprised of two distinct areas: the 66-acre Annapolis portion and the 24-acre Bay Head Annex. The Annapolis portion is located on the Annapolis Naval Station, which is on the northeastern shore of the Severn River. The Bay Head Annex is located north of Route 50 about three miles northeast of the Annapolis Naval Station.

Site History

The Navy established the Naval Engineering Experiment Station on the Annapolis property in 1903. In 1967, the facility became a detachment of the David Taylor Model Basin (DTMB), which has its primary command in Montgomery County. In 1992, the DTMB was designated the NSWC Carderock Division and the Annapolis Detachment was renamed to reflect the NSWC command reorganization. The Annapolis Detachment operated several research and development laboratories, which were assigned projects that included fire suppression research and operations to support the Montgomery County facility.

The Bay Head Annex was originally a Nike missile launch facility operated by the Army from 1955 until 1969. The property was transferred to the Navy in the early 1970s, and it was subsequently put into operation as an annex of the Annapolis Detachment. While the annex was in operation, the Navy conducted burning tests to evaluate the combustion properties and byproducts of materials used on Naval vessels.

In 1995, federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) legislation designated the NSWC Carderock Division – Annapolis Detachment, including the Bay Head Annex, for base closure. The Navy terminated its operations at the Annapolis Detachment in 1998. The remainder of the Annapolis Naval Station, which surrounds the Annapolis portion of this BRAC property, remains active. Anne Arundel County signed a lease for portions of the buildings on the Annapolis BRAC property in 1998, and it has expressed interest in obtaining the BRAC property from the Navy.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) have assigned project managers to work with the Navy to address environmental concerns at the facility. In addition, the Navy has established a Restoration Advisory Board to solicit community input into the investigation process. This RAB has been dissolved due to the completion of environmental investigations at NSWC Carderock Division-Annapolis Detachment and the Bay Head Annex.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

As required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the Navy is evaluating the environmental conditions of the property prior to its transfer under BRAC. The Navy's preliminary evaluations are summarized in the documents

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Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS), NSWC, Carderock Division-Annapolis Detachment, December 1996 and EBS, NSWC Carderock Division-Annapolis Detachment, Bay Head Annex, January 1997. These documents identify the potential for contamination of soil and groundwater by heavy metals, chlorinated solvents, pesticides and petroleum hydrocarbons at both areas. The Navy summarized these concerns in the February 1997 EBS, Area of Concern Evaluation Report, NSWC, Carderock Division-Annapolis Detachment and Bay Head Annex.

The Navy is conducting further evaluation of the BRAC property to determine whether the potential contamination issues discussed above are, in fact, impacting the environmental media associated with these properties. In February 1999, the Navy submitted to EPA and MDE a pre-final EBS, Phase II Report of Results, Carderock Division-Annapolis Detachment. This report summarizes the soil sampling conducted in 1998 at several areas of concern at the Annapolis BRAC property, but neglected the evaluation of groundwater and the Severn River. The concerns that were identified in the Phase II EBS include trichloroethene and BTEX constituents in subsurface soil borings and PCBs and mercury in surface soil.

As a result of these concerns, the Navy initiated a Site Investigation to determine if surface soils, groundwater or the Severn River have been impacted by past activities on the Annapolis BRAC property. This document, the Draft Site Investigation, NSWC Carderock Division-Annapolis Detachment, was delivered to the EPA and MDE in November 1999. It confirmed that little or no impact to the surface soil, groundwater or the Severn River has occurred.

In response to the areas of concern identified in the 1997 EBS, a Remedial Investigation targeting the Bay Head Road Annex was undertaken in 1999. This document, the Remedial Investigation, NSWC Carderock Division-Annapolis Detachment, Bay Head Road Annex, IR Program Site 1, identified two potential source areas: an evaporation pond near a former burn pad and an area of surface soil contaminated with pesticides. After a human health and ecological risk assessment was completed, it was determined that these two areas did not pose an unacceptable risk to either human health or the environment for the current and future use scenarios associated with the site.

In mid 2000, the Navy produced two Proposed Plans, one for the NSWC Annapolis site and one for the Bay Head Road Annex. These plans stated that due to the lack of environmental contamination at either site, no remedial action would be needed. After the required public comment period, the Navy finalized both of the Proposed Plans and began drafting Records of Decision for both sites. The Navy signed these Records of Decision, stating that both parcels were acceptable for continued recreational, commercial and industrial use, in March 2001.

Current Status

Anne Arundel County has expressed an interest in obtaining both properties from the Navy. The Navy plans to transfer both properties to Anne Arundel County after all environmental documentation has been completed. This transfer is scheduled for the spring of 2002.

Planned or Potential Future Action

None

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Last Update: