

# CONCORD

# NAVAL WEAPONS STATION

E n v i r o n m e n t a l F a c t S h e e t

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, ENGINEERING FIELD ACTIVITY WEST | JANUARY 2003

## INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet provides an update on activities at the Concord Naval Weapons Station (NWS Concord), including the status of the Tidal Area Landfill, the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), the update of the Community Relations Plan and ongoing investigations throughout the base.

The Navy encourages public participation in the cleanup process at the base and has provided a number of ways to learn more about site activities. Details are on the back page of this fact sheet.

The 5,200 acre Inland Area is located south of the Tidal Area and includes various facilities for munitions storage and inspections as well as maintenance, administration, public works, supply, and housing. Wildlife preservation areas in the Inland Area include a 3,500 acre Tule Elk refuge and two Golden Eagle nest reserves. In addition, much of the Inland Area is leased to local ranchers for cattle grazing. Currently, the Navy does not actively use the majority of the Inland Area; however, the area remains important to our national defense and will be reactivated if required in the future.

## CLEANUP PROGRAM

A cleanup program is currently underway to identify and eliminate or minimize environmental contamination that may have resulted from previous Navy operations at NWS Concord. In the past, some hazardous waste disposal practices resulted in the release of pollutants into surrounding soil and groundwater. The environmental investigations are being carried out under the Navy's cleanup program to address the requirements in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA; also known as "Superfund").

In December 1994, NWS Concord was placed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List, because some of the land acquired by the Navy in the late 1960s and early 1970s was contaminated by the previous owners. This land, located within the Tidal Area, is referred to as the Litigation Area, see page 2. The National Priorities List is an inventory of sites that the U.S. EPA has identified that require investigation and possible long-term environmental cleanup.

The environmental team carrying out the cleanup program at NWS Concord includes representatives from the Navy, the U.S. EPA, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and other federal and state agencies. The environmental team is actively working to ensure a healthy environment for Concord and the surrounding community.



## Site Description

NWS Concord is a naval munitions storage and transshipment facility which is divided into two parts, a Tidal Area and Inland Area. The Tidal Area is comprised of approximately 6,077 acres of land adjacent to Suisun Bay and includes 1,571 acres of land on six islands in Suisun Bay. The Tidal Area is principally used for receiving, inspecting, and storing munitions transported to and from off-site locations. In 1999, responsibility for port operations in the Tidal Area was transferred to the Army's Military Traffic Management Command.

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Gregg Smith (Navy Public Affairs)

## Contact Information

If you have any questions about the cleanup program or are interested in applying for RAB membership please call the Navy Public Affairs Officer, Gregg Smith at (562) 626-7215.

Some documents are also available at the Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach website located at <http://www.sbeach.navy.mil>.

Monday: 12:00-9:00 p.m.  
Tuesday and Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 12:00-9:00 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

## Library Hours

Concord Public Library  
2900 Salvia St, Concord, CA 94519  
Phone: (925) 646-5455

Information repositories have been established to provide public access to technical reports and other installation Restoration program information. Documents, RAB meeting minutes, newsletters, public meeting announcements, and other items are available for review at:

**GREGG SMITH**  
NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
800 SEAL BEACH BLVD.  
SEAL BEACH, CA 90740-5000

The public also has an important role in the success of the cleanup program. Citizens representing diverse interests of the surrounding communities have joined together to form a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB reviews the Navy's cleanup plans and reports, providing valuable input to the cleanup team. For more information on the RAB, see page 7.

#### **Navy Installation Restoration (IR) Program Goal**

*"The goal of the Navy's IR program is to reduce, in a cost effective manner, the risk to human health and the environment from hazardous substance contamination resulting from past Navy activities."*

—Navy/Marine Corps Installation Restoration Manual

The IR program follows the step-by-step cleanup process outlined in Figure 1 (Page 4). So far, the Navy has spent \$40.8 million for environmental cleanup at NWS Concord. An estimated \$22.6 million will be required to complete the effort. Currently, there are 22 active sites in the environmental cleanup program. An additional 15 sites have either been cleaned up or did not require further action. Table 1 (Page 5) briefly describes each site, the types of waste present, and actions taken to date.

#### **TIDAL AREA SITES**

The Tidal Area has wetland and terrestrial habitat that support a variety of wetland and upland species such as the California black rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, and gray fox. Some of the sites currently undergoing environmental investigation in the Tidal Area include a former disposal area for refuse (known as the Tidal Area Landfill), property purchased by the Navy as a buffer zone that was later found to be contaminated (now known as the Litigation Area), and a group of sites collectively known as the Tidal Area sites.

#### **Tidal Area Landfill (Site 1)**

The Tidal Area Landfill covers approximately 13 acres and is estimated to contain approximately 33,000 tons of waste. From approximately 1944 to 1979, the landfill served as the primary disposal area for NWS Concord for garbage from the base and surrounding communities. Chemicals detected at the landfill include petroleum, paint-related chemicals, pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

In 1983, the Navy conducted an initial study to characterize the contamination of the Tidal Area Landfill. Once the landfill was studied, the Navy put a plan together to test the soil and groundwater. From 1995 through 1997 the Navy sampled the Tidal Area Landfill and developed a plan to cleanup the site. In 1999 the Navy issued a proposed plan and held a public meeting to get the communities' feedback on the cleanup approach. Currently the Navy is discussing and finalizing the Tidal Area Landfill Record of Decision and will begin a groundwater study in 2003. The Navy, in consultation with the regulatory agencies, EPA, DTSC, and RWCQB, has determined the preferred alternative should be an engineered native soil cap. A separate study has been designated to assess groundwater issues at the landfill.

#### **Future Document Review and Public Comment Opportunities on the Tidal Area Landfill**

The Navy has prepared a Record of Decision, which outlines the proposed approach for capping the landfill. The final Record of Decision for the landfill is under discussion between the Navy and regulatory agencies. A landfill cap design document is planned for release following the Record of Decision signature. A separate study to address groundwater issues at the site will get underway this year. Remedial decisions reached from this study will be documented in a groundwater ROD.

#### **Litigation Area (Sites 3, 4, 5, 6, 25, 26, 28)**

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Navy purchased several parcels of land to use as a buffer zone for munitions loading operations in the Tidal Area. Eight of those parcels, which cover a total of approximately 307 acres, were subsequently found to contain metals contamination from waste disposal activities of the prior owners and historic spills from neighboring chemical companies. These parcels are now referred to as the Litigation Area and were grouped into four remedial action subsites (RASS 1–4) in the IR program.

#### **Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) Sites 2, 5, 7, and 18 Groundwater Investigation**

SWMU Sites 2, 5, 7 and 18 are part of the base industrial complex for maintenance, cleaning, and degreasing operations associated with the servicing of locomotive engines. During investigation of these areas in the late 1990s, volatile organic compounds (VOC) were detected in groundwater in an area that spans the SWMUs. The Navy prepared a draft remedial investigation in October 2002. Some chemicals in soil exceed EPA drinking water standards. The site is not currently used as a source of drinking water. The Navy is planning to complete a draft final remedial investigation in February 2003. A draft feasibility study is scheduled for completion in August 2003.

#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM**

The Navy is committed to keeping the community informed about the environmental work at NWS Concord. The community plays an important part in the success of the environmental program by providing valuable input to the cleanup team. The Navy has expanded its community involvement program by updating their community relations plan, creating a website, developing this fact sheet, and hosting monthly Restoration Advisory Board meetings

#### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

##### **Navy's Community Relations Plan Goals**

- Consider the community's issues and concerns on cleanup remedies
- Identify preferred methods for outreach and communication to the public
- Expand information distribution to a broader community
- Gain more community interest in the cleanup process at Concord
- Enhance the Navy and regulatory agencies understanding of community environmental concerns

#### **How do you get more information on NWS Concord?**

The Navy has a variety of ways to involve the community in the cleanup program at NWS Concord. The Navy has regular public meetings, public comment periods, information repositories for environmental document review, and a website available to the public (See more detailed information on Page 8).

#### **THE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD**

##### **What is a Restoration Advisory Board?**

A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is a committee formed to provide the community an additional opportunity to participate in the environmental cleanup process at NWS Concord. It is made up of community members, base representatives, regulators and other stakeholders who reflect the diverse interests of those living and working on or near NWS Concord.

Among the responsibilities of the RAB are:

- Voicing issues and concerns on environmental cleanup issues
- Reviewing, evaluating and commenting on environmental cleanup documents
- Recommending cleanup priorities among sites or projects
- Sharing information from RAB meetings with their stakeholder groups

##### **The RAB has two goals:**

1. Be a forum for representatives of the community and the base to discuss and exchange information about NWS Concord's cleanup program
2. Give the community an opportunity to be involved in the cleanup decision-making process and make their views known to decision-makers

##### **How do YOU become involved in the RAB?**

Community members interested in finding out more about the RAB are encouraged to contact the Navy Public Affairs Officer, Gregg Smith at (562) 626–7215, and attend meetings of the Concord RAB usually held on the *first Monday of the month*. Meeting locations rotate between the cities of Concord, Bay Point, Pittsburg, and Clyde. Look for the monthly public notice in the legal section of the Contra Costa Times on the Monday before the RAB for meeting location information.

Installation Restoration Cleanup Process (Figure 1)

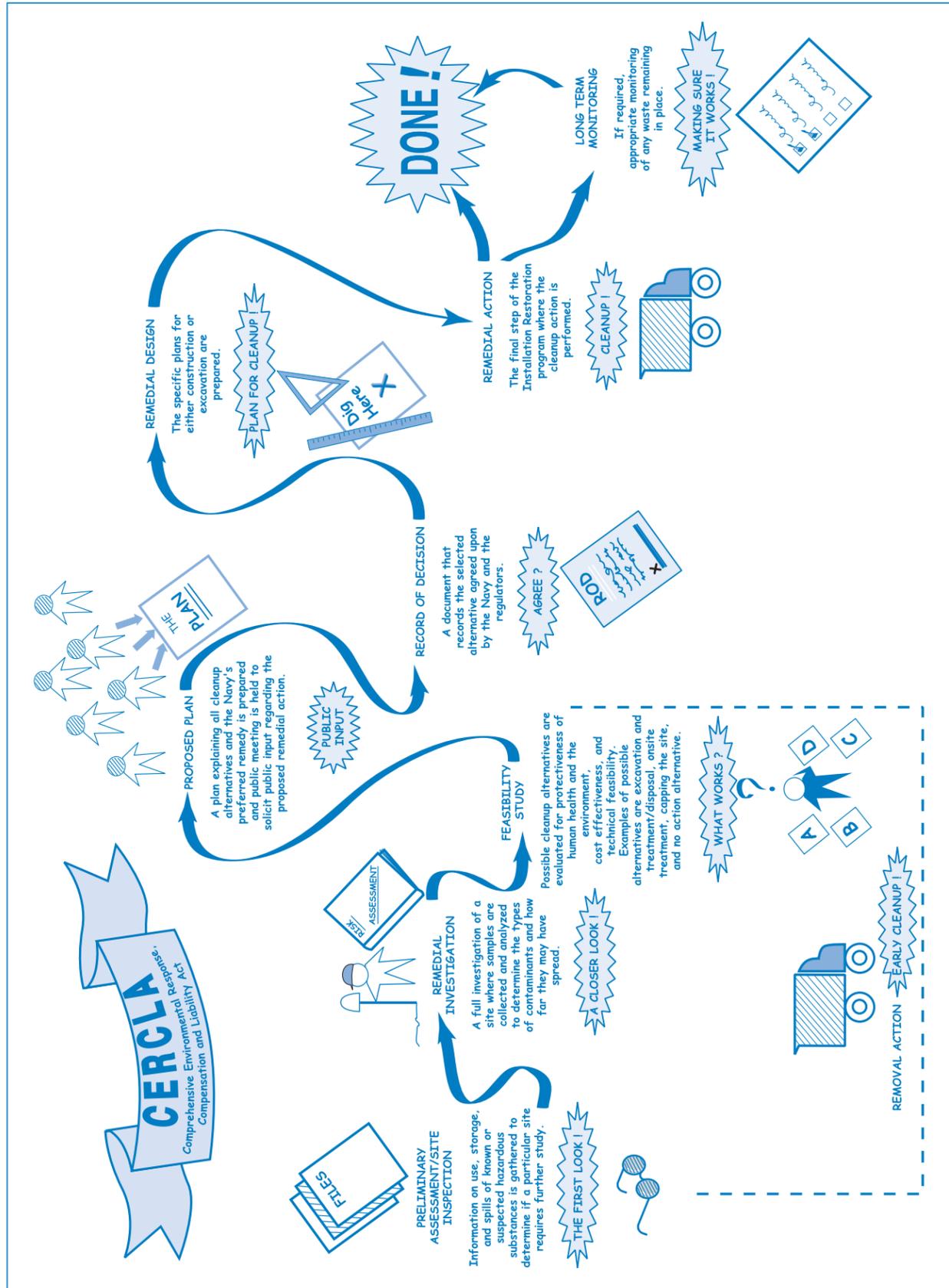


Table 1

Status of All Current Concord IR Sites		
Site Name	Waste Types	Current Status
Site 1 Tidal Area Landfill	Petroleum, paints, pesticides, metals, PCBs	Record of Decision (In Progress)
Site 2 R Area	Explosives, VOCs, SVOC, pesticides, PCBs, metals	Remedial Investigation
Site 3 RASS 2	Metals	Removal action implemented from 1992-5. 5-Year Review Assessment (In Progress)
Site 4 and 5 RASS 1	Metals	Removal action implemented from 1992-5. 5-Year Review Assessment (In Progress)
Site 6 RASS 4	Metals	Removal action implemented from 1992-5. 5-Year Review Assessment 2002 (In Progress)
Site 9 Friod and Taylor Roads	Metals, Explosives, VOCs, SVOCs	Remedial Investigation
Site 11 Wood Hogger	VOCs, SVOCs, metals, pesticides	Remedial Investigation
Site 13 Burn Area	VOCs, metals, petroleum hydrocarbons	Record of Decision
Site 17 Building IA-24	Petroleum hydrocarbons, metals	Record of Decision
Site 22 Building 7SH5	VOCs, metals, petroleum hydrocarbons	Remedial Investigation
Site 25, 26 and 28 RASS 3	Metals	Removal action implemented from 1992-5. 5-Year Review Assessment (In Progress)
Site 27 Building IA-20	Oils, hydraulic fluids, pesticides	Feasibility Study (In Progress)
Site 29 Building IA-25	Metals, pesticides, SVOC	Feasibility Study (In Progress)
Site 30 Taylor Boulevard Bridge	Metals	Remedial Investigation (In Progress)
Site 31 (AOC-1) Area of Concern 1	Metals	Removal Action (In Progress)
SWMUs 2, 5, 7 and 18 Buildings IA-7, IA-12, IA-15 and IA-16	VOCs, petroleum hydrocarbons	Remedial Investigation (In Progress)

<b>PCB</b>	Polychlorinated Biphenyls	<b>SVOC</b>	Semivolatile organic compound
<b>RASS</b>	Remedial Action Subsite	<b>SWMU</b>	Solid Waste Management Unit
<b>VOC</b>	Volatile organic compound		

**Tidal Area Sites**

As a result of past naval activities, the IR program is currently evaluating potential contamination in four additional areas, known collectively as the Tidal Area Sites:

**R Area Disposal (Site 2):**

This site was formerly a disposal area for debris, and includes brackish and salt marsh habitat.

**Froid and Taylor Roads (Site 9):**

This site was formerly an area where miscellaneous scrap metal was deposited.

**Wood Hogger (Site 11):**

This site was historically used as a dunnage and wood scrap area.

**Otter Sluice:**

The sluice is an adjacent water body that has been investigated as an area of concern for potential contamination related to the adjacent Sites 2, 9, and 11.

*What has been done to investigate contamination at the Tidal Area Sites?*

In 1983 the Navy conducted an initial study to characterize the contamination of the Tidal Area Sites. From 1993 through 1996 the Navy conducted sampling and developed a plan to cleanup the sites. From 1997 through 1999, the Navy completed a draft remedial investigation discussing the initial sampling results and conducted a confirmation study for the groundwater.

The remedial investigation at the Tidal Area Sites included human health and ecological risk assessments to determine whether the site is protective of environmental health. In January 2002, the Navy completed a Revised Draft Final Ecological Risk Assessment and submitted it for public review. The remedial investigation is also currently being revised to address regulatory agency comments and will be issued in Spring 2003.

*Future Document Review and Public Comment Opportunities on the Tidal Area*

**Spring 2003:** *The Navy will submit the Draft Final Remedial Investigation Report.*

**INLAND AREA SITES**

**Sites 13 and 17**

Site 13 is an open, undeveloped field that was used as a burn area for live ordnance and napalm, fire fighting training, and as a target practice area. Site 17 includes Buildings IA-24, IA-24A, IA-24B, which were formerly used for forklift maintenance and battery recharging. Sites 13 and 17 are at the Record of Decision (ROD) phase and have been combined into one ROD because neither site poses long or short term risk to human health and the environment. The last version of the final ROD was submitted to the agencies in June 2002. The Navy will submit a final version of the ROD, which is scheduled for signature by the Navy and the EPA by February 2003.

**Site 22, Building 7SH5**

The Site 22 investigation has focused on Building 7SH5, a former missile wing repair facility. Elevated concentrations of arsenic have been detected in soil at Site 22. Soil samples were collected from the site in October 2002 for analysis, and data evaluation is currently underway to address whether arsenic in soil poses risk to human health and the environment. A supplemental draft remedial investigation (RI) will be completed for agency and RAB review by mid February 2003.

**Site 27, Building IA-20**

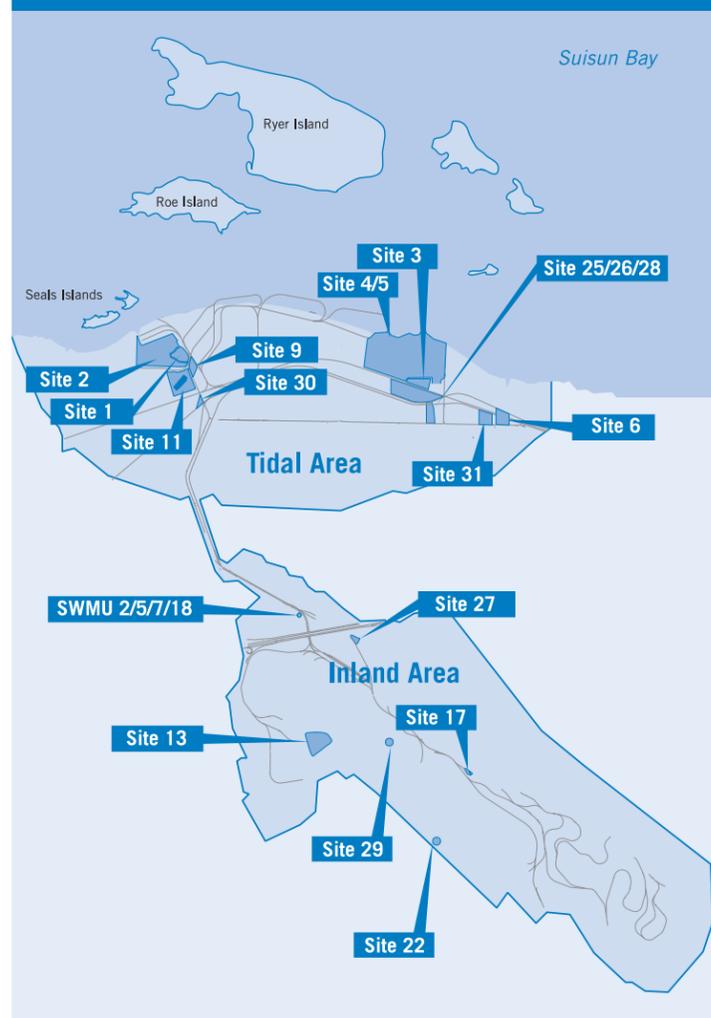
Site 27 includes Building IA-20, a former materials testing laboratory, and Building IA-36, a former boiler house. During construction of these buildings, the pesticide chlordane was applied to surface soil around the building perimeter. Chlordane was commonly used for termite control before it became known as an environmental hazard.

Due to potential adverse human health effects from exposure to chlordane, the Navy conducted a Feasibility Study (FS) to evaluate appropriate remedial actions at the site. The FS discusses the preferred remedial alternative for the site. The Draft Final Feasibility Study and responses to agency comments are scheduled for completion in Spring 2003.

**Site 29, Building IA-25**

Building IA-25 was historically an explosives testing laboratory. The site has been deemed appropriate for demolishing the existing building, excavating the contaminated soil, and offsite disposal of the contaminated soil in a permitted hazardous waste landfill. The Navy prepared the draft version of the Feasibility Study (FS) in November 2001 and issued a revised version for agency and RAB review in March 2002. The Draft Final FS is planned for Spring 2003.

**Active Concord Installation Restoration Sites**



*The Litigation Area (Sites 3, 4, 5, 6, 25, 26, 28) is one of the largest undeveloped wetlands in Contra Costa County and is home to dozens of species of birds, mammals, and reptiles, in the brackish marsh and adjacent upland habitats. The Litigation Area supports several special status animal and plant species, including the endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and Soft Bird's Beak (a wetland plant). Other common inhabitants of the area are river otters, raptors, and the native gray fox.*



*Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse*



*Soft Bird's Beak*

*What has been done at the Litigation Area to investigate and cleanup contamination?*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identified and conducted an investigation of four subsites that comprise the Litigation Area in 1988. In 1989, it was determined that the Navy would remove the most contaminated soil from the site and monitor any remaining contamination. From 1992 through 1996, the Navy conducted site cleanup and revegetation of the Litigation Area. From 1996 through 2001, the Navy conducted and published the results of the 5 years of post cleanup monitoring. In November 2002, the Navy published the results of the 5-year periodic review assessment of the Litigation Area Sites.

The Draft Final 5 Year Periodic Review Assessment concluded that the remediation was successful where implemented on the marsh surface and upland habitats. The assessment also recommended additional study to address the potential ecological risk to birds and fish in sloughs and ditches where contamination is still present. The Navy will be conducting this additional study in 2003.

*Future Document Review and Public Comment Opportunities on the Litigation Area*

The Navy has two documents for public review in 2003. Both Data Gaps Technical Evaluation and the Draft Supplemental Feasibility Study for ditches, sloughs, and erosional areas will be available for public review in the fall.



*Wetland water quality sampling in the Litigation Area*