



PHASE II STORM WATER RULE ISSUED

Smaller storm water dischargers will be regulated under the Clean Water Act (CWA) using a two-tiered approach. The approach specifies sources which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines are significant contributors to water quality problems, and these sources must apply for a discharge permit within 180 days of receiving notice of such a designation. The remaining dischargers would be required to apply for a storm water discharge permit under the CWA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program within six years of the effective date of the regulation.

The new storm water rule incorporates the following elements:

- Creation of a phased approach for compliance with water quality standards for discharges from separate municipal storm sewer systems;
- Provision of an exemption for facilities that have no significant exposure of activities or materials to storm water; and

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- Creation of a targeted approach for storm water program requirements; including a requirement that municipalities regulate storm water discharges from industrial facilities within their area.

The final rule is scheduled to take effect on August 2, 1995. Information may be obtained from Nancy Cunningham, Permits Division (4203), EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, D.C., 20460; telephone (202) 260-9535.

--*Air & Water Pollution Control*, Vol. 8, No. 8, April 12, 1995, p. 1.

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DISSOLVED METALS, NOT TOTAL DISCHARGES, BASIS OF EPA INTERIM RULE

Water quality standards for metals will be based on the amount of metals dissolved in the water column, rather than the amount of total recoverable metals the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said on April 24, 1995. Dissolved metal standards will better reflect the amount of metal that can affect aquatic organisms. Nine states will be affected by the interim rule: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey, Vermont, and Washington. The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are also covered under the measure.

The interim final rule will require modifications to some National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. Permit limits for metals, in most cases, will become a little less stringent under the amended rule. The provisions of the interim final rule will be immediately effective and binding, but the agency can revise the rule based on public comments. The comment period will be in effect for 60 days after the measure is published in the Federal Register, according to a statement by the EPA.

--*Environment Reporter*, Vol. 25, No. 51, April 28, 1995, pp. 2525-2526.

--*Air & Water Pollution Control*, Vol. 8, No. 9, April 26, 1995, pp. 1-2.

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SPECIAL EMAP INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED

The Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) announced its upcoming "First North American Workshop on Monitoring for Ecological Assessment of Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems." The workshop will be held September 18-22, 1995, near Mexico City. It is being sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, the

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Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural and Environmental Secretariats of Mexico, and Environment Canada.

The general objective of the workshop is to exchange information on ecological monitoring approaches and technologies that are useful and cost-effective for assessing ecosystem condition and health. In addition, the workshop will stimulate cooperation and collaboration among scientists of the North American Free Trade Agreement countries through future information exchange, networking, reciprocal training, and development of cooperative projects on monitoring for ecological assessment of forests, rangelands, agricultural ecosystems, estuaries and coastal waters, wetlands, and surface waters.

Specific workshop objectives include the following:

- Presentation and discussion of scientifically-defensible ways to monitor and assess the status of, and changes and trends in, ecosystem condition, with a focus on the following issues: survey design, indicator evaluation, data interpretation strategies, and information management and quality assurance;
- Discussion of policy-level issues associated with ecological monitoring and assessment, including: historical and current mandates for ecological monitoring, regulatory activities, international and domestic partnerships, and priority research needs; and
- Development of mechanisms to further scientific cooperation and information transfer in the field of monitoring for ecological assessment in North America.

For a copy of the preliminary workshop announcement contact Dr. Sidney Draggan at the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program [8205], U.S. EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, D.C., 20460, E-mail: draggan.sidney@epamail.epa.gov.

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EPA ANNOUNCES INCENTIVES FOR VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE ACTIONS

A new interim enforcement policy by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was announced on March 31, 1995, which increases incentives for companies to conduct voluntary compliance evaluations and to disclose and correct violations. The new policy offers three enforcement benefits to companies disclosing environmental violations under the policy: 1) the EPA will not recommend that criminal charges be brought against companies for violations (although the EPA reserves the right to pursue individuals); 2) the EPA will reduce the amount of civil penalties sought for violations by eliminating the gravity-based component; and 3) the EPA will not seek the production of voluntary audit reports to trigger an investigation. There are seven conditions that



must be met for companies to receive maximum benefits under the policy; the company must:

- Discover the violation through self-policing by using an audit or other self-evaluation process;
- Disclose the violation in writing to all appropriate federal, state, and local agencies when discovered;
- Promptly correct the violation within 60 days, or as expeditiously as practicable;
- Immediately remedy any condition creating an imminent and substantial danger to human health or the environment;
- Implement appropriate measures to remedy any harm to the environment and to prevent recurrence of the violation;
- Demonstrate that the violation did not stem from a failure to correct repeat violations; and
- Cooperate fully with regulators, including providing copies of requested documents, access to employees, and providing other needed assistance.

The new policy applies to all federal environmental laws administered by the EPA, and supersedes any conflicting or inconsistent provisions of the 1986 Environmental Auditing Policy Statement. Additional incentives are also under consideration by the EPA, including 12 Environmental Leadership Program pilot projects, which, if successful, will lead to reduced inspections and public recognition for companies or agencies with state-of-the-art compliance programs.

For more information about the EPA interim policy, contact Geoff Garver or Brian Riedel at (202) 564-4187.

--*California Environmental Compliance Monitor*, Vol. 5, No. 11, April 17, 1995, pp. 171-172.

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TECHNOLOGY-BASED LIMITS PROPOSED FOR WASTE TREATMENT PLANTS

Technology-based limits would be established for the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters under effluent guidelines proposed for the centralized waste treatment industry under the Clean Water Act by the Environmental Protection Agency (60 FR 5464).

Limits for discharges into publicly owned treatment works by facilities that receive off-site industrial waste for treatment or recovery would also be set. The proposed rule



would reduce pollution discharges into U.S. waters by at least 123 million pounds per year, reducing dangers to aquatic life and toxic health effects for humans in 30 water bodies (25 ER 1867). The guidelines would affect approximately 72 facilities that treat hazardous and nonhazardous industrial waste from off-site operations. Additional information on the technical aspects of the proposal may be obtained from the Debra DiCianna (EPA) at (202) 260-7141; information regarding the economic impacts may be obtained from Susan Burris (EPA) at (202) 260-5379.

--*Environment Reporter*, Vol. 25, No. 40, February 10, 1995, p. 1904.

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SEASONAL WETLANDS COVERED BY CWA

Seasonally dry wetlands used by migratory birds are within the regulatory reach of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled on May 22, 1995 (Leslie Salt Co. v. U.S., CA 9, No. 93-15932, 5/22/95). The ruling affirmed a trial court decision that 12.5 acres on a parcel owned by Cargill Inc. (the successor to Leslie Salt Co.) adjoining the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge were wetlands subject to federal regulation. The district court held that Leslie Salt violated the CWA by discharging fill or altering structures without permits, and that civil penalties were mandatory under Section 309(d) of the act. The appeals court declined an invitation to revisit an earlier decision (896 F.2d 354, 31 ERC 1139) that held that the CWA allowed regulation of isolated, even manmade, water bodies. The appeals court also found that civil penalties are mandatory under Section 309(d) of the act.

--*Environment Reporter*, Vol. 26, No. 5, June 02, 1995, p. 287.

--*California Environmental Compliance Monitor*, Vol. 5, No. 15, June 12, 1995, p. 215.

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AUTOMATED OIL SPILL DETECTION SYSTEM BEING DEVELOPED AT NRAD

Researchers at the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center's RDT&E Division (NRAD) in San Diego are currently working to develop an automated oil spill detection system for use at Navy facilities. The system is intended to be a means of providing the Navy with a reliable, cost-effective method for the early detection of petroleum hydrocarbon leaks and spills in the marine environment. Early detection of oil spill events will enable a rapid response to prevent loss of product, minimize environmental impact and ultimately reduce clean up costs.



Although primarily targeted for use at oil storage and transfer sites, the system is also expected to have wide application to environmental water quality monitoring and compliance activities associated with water treatment facilities, wildlife habitats, wastewater discharge, cooling water intakes, and effluent streams.

As a part of this program, NRaD is evaluating a prototype oil spill detection system developed by the Spectrogram Corporation of New Haven, CT. The Oil Spill Remote Alarm (OSPRA™) consists of a base station and any number of fluorometric sensors mounted in free-floating buoy platforms or at fixed locations where continuous monitoring is required. The fluorescence-based optical sensors are used to detect fuels and oils floating on the water's surface.

The entire sensor is enclosed in an explosion-proof case to allow for safe operation in the presence of flammable fuel products. Monitoring data from each of the individually-deployed sensors is relayed via radio-link to the base station computer for real-time automated interpretation. When oil is detected, the base station computer alerts personnel on duty, who may then initiate immediate corrective action to contain or stop the spill. The OSPRA™ system operates day and night and in all weather conditions.

The optical sensor operates by illuminating the water with ultraviolet light which causes oil and fuel products to fluoresce. The fluorescence signal emitted by petroleum products provides a spectral fingerprint that is unique to various major fuel classes. This provides the ability to automatically identify different petroleum products. Automated identification can be an important advantage in terms of rapidly resolving questions of spill origin, or in determining an appropriate response.

Questions, comments or requests for additional information may be directed to either John Andrews or Dr. Stephen Lieberman at NRaD Code 521 San Diego, CA, DSN 553-2794 or (619) 553-2794. They can also be reached by e-mail at d361@spawar.navy.mil. They are particularly interested in discussing specific application needs with potential end users.

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WATERSHED APPROACH TO CONTROL POLLUTION OF SOURCE WATER

A watershed protection strategy may be the best way to protect source water from nonpoint pollution sources. As defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a watershed is a land area that drains into a stream or river. The EPA defines nonpoint



sources as runoff from agriculture, forestry, urban activities, construction, mining and saltwater intrusion. According to the EPA, point sources are adequately regulated in the U.S., but regional strategies to protect watersheds may be required.

The EPA's source protection program aims to have 50 percent of all community water systems covered by active and comprehensive local source water protection by the year 2005.

--*Environment Reporter*, Vol. 25, No. 47, March 31, 1995, p. 2376.

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STUDY SAYS EPA NEEDS TO REDEFINE MISSION

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), a non-partisan organization commissioned by Congress, prepared a report at the request of the Senate which concludes that states and local governments should have more responsibility to solve environmental problems. The report also called on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to adopt a mission statement that clearly spells out its own responsibilities, as well as those of the states, localities and the private sector.

According to the report, the EPA is hindered by overly prescriptive statutes that pull the agency in too many directions. The study states that the solution is moving toward a truly integrated approach to environmental problems. The EPA should have a smaller role in state environmental issues yet remain active as a national standard setter and monitor. Successful state performance should be rewarded with increased autonomy. Legislation is needed to provide flexibility to the private sector and local governments to go beyond mere compliance with environmental standards.

The report is available for \$10 from NAPA, 1120 G St. NW, Suite 850, Washington, D.C. 20005; telephone (202) 347-3190.

--*Environment Reporter*, Vol. 25, No. 50, April 21, 1995, p. 2488.

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EPA PLANS TO ELIMINATE OBSOLETE REGULATIONS

On May 15, 1995, the Director of Regulatory Management and Evaluation at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said that the EPA has drafted recommendations to delete thousands of pages of its regulations from Title 40 of the Code of Federal



Regulations. The changes are designed to weed out obsolete regulations, and those that offer little environmental benefit to the regulated community. Reporting and record keeping changes will save industry and other regulated entities millions of hours. No timetable for the implementation of these changes has been specified.

--*Air and Water Pollution Control*, Vol. 8, No. 11, May 24, 1995, p. 1.

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OCEAN DUMPING ENFORCEMENT IMPROVING

On May 30, 1995, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released a report entitled "Coast Guard: Enforcement Under MARPOL V Convention on Pollution Expanded, Although Problems Remain." In the report, the GAO noted that, although the U.S. Coast Guard has intensified its efforts to mitigate dumping of garbage and plastics at sea, identifying and penalizing violators of Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships (MARPOL) is still in need of improvement. The report, GAO/RCED-95-143, may be obtained by writing the GAO at P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD, 20884-6015, or by calling (202) 512-6000.

--*Environment Reporter*, Vol. 26, No. 7, June 16, 1995, pp. 362-363.

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BUDGET CUTS WOULD SLOW BASE REUSE CLEANUP

The Department of Defense (DOD) Fast Track Program was designed to remove delays at closing bases while protecting human health and the environment, but budget cuts threaten the department's ability to set up military bases for reuse. More than 60 percent of the properties remediated under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program are available today for transfer because of the Fast Track approach.

The DOD is requesting \$457.1 million for base closure environmental work, compliance and planning for FY96. The DOD's environmental program called for \$450 million in proposed rescissions in FY95 in the Emergency Supplemental Defense Bill (HR 889).

--*Environment Reporter*, Vol. 25, No. 47, March 31, 1995, pp. 2391-2392.

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CLEANUP COSTS NOT CONSIDERED IN BASE CLOSING DECISIONS

Environmental restoration costs are not considered when the Department of Defense (DOD) base-closing decisions are made because the department must restore contaminated sites on military facilities regardless of whether, or not, the facilities are closing.

The 33 bases proposed for closure in the 1995 round will cost \$2 billion to clean up. Cleanup for minor bases would cost an additional \$14.3 million. While environmental cleanup costs were not factored into the DOD's decision-making process, the impacts of base closures or realignments on the environment were considered. Environmental impacts taken into account include threatened or endangered species, wetlands, flood plains, water supplies, and air quality.

--*Environment Reporter*, Vol. 25, No. 50, April 21, 1995, p. 2495.

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MESO SUPPORTS ARMY TESTS OF BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS

The Marine Environmental Support Office (MESO) supplies information to the DOD community in many forms such as this newsletter; however, MESO also receives many requests for help with particular projects or problems. One such request was received from the U.S. Army's Research, Development & Evaluation (RD&E) Center in Natick, Massachusetts, asking for assistance with the evaluation of the potential effects of biodegradable plastics on marine biota.

The disposal of wastes into the oceans and waterways of the world has been commonplace for centuries; however, the disposal of plastics into the marine environment, in particular, is becoming increasingly restricted. In anticipation of this and other requirements, investigations into the processes which hasten the breakdown or degradation of plastic products have accelerated. In view of the increased use of plastics for packaging purposes and the tonnage of accumulated plastics in landfills and at sea, enhanced degradation studies are currently in progress. Some studies have focused on problems associated with entanglement and ingesting of plastics by marine birds and fish. The development of new biodegradable packaging materials to reduce the amount of plastic waste being generated may add additional problems to the marine environment which must be addressed. As some of these new products degrade, what impact, if any, do they have on survival and growth of marine plants and animals?



At the request of the U.S. Army, researchers at the Environmental Sciences Division of the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center's RDT&E Division (NRaD) conducted a series of static-renewal bioassays to estimate the potential toxicity of two biodegradable starch-based materials: PHBV and EVOH. Bioassay organisms representing different phyla were chosen and tested to represent a potential "risk" to the marine environment. *Mysidopsis bahia*, a mysid shrimp was chosen to represent a benthic response, while the fish *Menidia beryllina* was picked for a pelagic response. Two phytoplankton species, *Isochrysis* sp., a brown algae, and *Gonyaulax polyedra*, a bioluminescent dinoflagellate, were used to observe any effect on primary production in marine waters. Standard Environmental Protection Agency 96-hour acute survival and 7-day chronic survival, growth, and fecundity test methods were followed for the shrimp and fish. The endpoints measured were survival in the acute tests, and survival and growth in the chronic assays.

The results of this study were presented in September 1993 at the Biodegradable Materials and Packaging Contractor Review Meeting at the U.S. Army Natick RD&E Center.

While MESO primarily provides environmental quality assurance for the U.S. Navy, we may also assist other agencies within the Department of Defense. The preceding was an example of support provided to the U.S. Army on an issue pertaining to the marine environment. Many such reports are prepared for requestors throughout the year. For further information please contact us.

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OOPS!

In the previous issue of the *Marine Environmental Update* (Vol. FY95, No. 2), the Marine Environmental Support Office (MESO) printed a toll-free telephone number [(800) 635-4598] to obtain further information about the NRaD-developed Metalyzer™ 5000 automated metals analyzer from Environmental Technologies Group, Inc. Shortly after this article appeared, we were informed by several readers that they were unable to reach the company at this number. In response to an inquiry by MESO, the company stated that it was unaware of the inability of callers from some parts of California to contact the company through the toll-free number, but would immediately investigate the trouble with its long distance carrier. The problem has since been resolved, and we have confirmed that Environmental Technologies Group, Inc. may be reached without difficulty at (800) 635-4598. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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STATE REGULATORY HIGHLIGHTS

California Begins Review of Non-RCRA Waste Program

The State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is beginning a comprehensive review of the waste-management regulatory program for wastes that do not fall under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The review will have four components:

- Revision of hazardous waste standards and program requirements;
- Creation of "self-implementing" standards for certain specific waste management activities, instead of requiring permits;
- Creation of "self-implementing" standards for certain specific wastes; and
- Use of updated scientific principles to examine federal and state waste classification systems in order to revise the state's existing system.

Public hearings will be held, and a task force of stakeholders will provide input. Part of the review of the non-RCRA regulatory program will include consideration of improvements in the hazardous waste recycling law.

For more information, see the DTSC's June 1995 "Toxics Update" posted on the Cal/EPA ACCESS electronic bulletin board at (916) 322-5041. Written comments may be sent to: Regulatory Structure Update Task Force, Hazardous Waste Management Program, DTSC, P.O. Box 806, 400 P St., Sacramento, CA 95812.

--*California Environmental Compliance Monitor*, Vol. 5, No. 15, June 12, 1995, p. 221.

California State Water Board Weighs Draft Enforcement Policy

A draft policy to enforce water pollution control laws throughout the state of California is under development by the State Water Resources Control Board. The draft seeks to standardize waste discharge requirements, toxicity standards, reporting deadlines, compliance schedules, and other regulatory duties.

The draft policy tries to help regional boards set enforcement priorities that best utilize their limited resources. It also addresses special situations, such as violations that occur at state or federal facilities. Additionally, it will outline procedures for cooperative enforcement actions involving the state and regional boards and other federal, state or local agencies.



For more information about the draft policy, contact the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs at (916) 657-1247.

--*California Environmental Compliance Monitor*, Vol. 5, No. 14, May 29, 1995, pp. 207-208.

Virginia Water Permits in Question

Six officials from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) allegedly violated federal and state laws by "knowingly approving" illegal water permits. The complainant, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), cited six sewage treatment permits issued during the past year that allowed "illegally high discharges" into adjoining streams. A statement sent to the Virginia Water Board March 28, 1995, by the DEQ's director, Peter Schmidt, said that PEER "misinterpreted" state water quality management plan regulations, and the translation of those requirements into permit limits. A fact sheet accompanying the letter said almost all rivers and streams in Virginia meet water quality standards for dissolved oxygen. The DEQ director plans to send a letter to the U.S. Attorney and the Commonwealth of Virginia Attorney "refuting each of PEER's allegations."

--*Air & Water Pollution Control*, Vol. 8, No. 9, April 26, 1995, p. 8.

Texas Enacts Gulf Coast Management Bill

A bill (HB 3226) requiring state and federal agencies with coastal jurisdiction to coordinate regulatory activities was signed into law on June 8, 1995. The law is designed to manage and protect natural resources in Texas counties along the Gulf of Mexico without creating additional layers of bureaucracy or intruding unduly on private property rights.

--*Environment Reporter*, Vol. 26, No. 7, June 16, 1995, p. 364.

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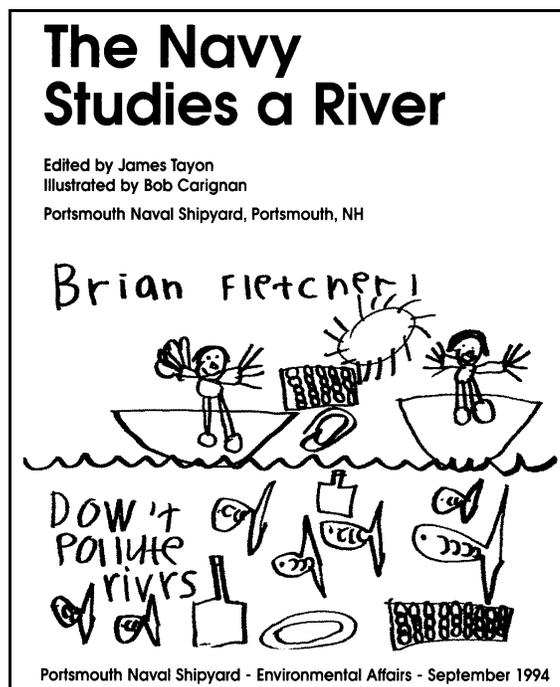


DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FROM MESO

The Navy Studies a River

A group of scientists from the Marine Environmental Quality Branch at the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center's RDT&E Division (NRaD) measured marine environmental data from the Piscataqua River Estuary as part of a joint study with the Environmental Protection Agency, the University of New Hampshire, and the Jackson Estuarine Laboratory. This effort was conducted to gain knowledge about contaminants around the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as part of an estuarine ecological risk assessment.

A small booklet describing this work was prepared by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in conjunction with NRaD to help elementary school children understand their environment, and the efforts to study it. Written at approximately the third grade level, the booklet explains how scientists at NRaD study the marine environment. The booklet shows different scientific equipment and their uses, as well as the importance of this research to the marine environment. Artwork contributed by schoolchildren from the Portsmouth area is featured.



Estuarine Ecological Risk Assessment for Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine — Phase I: Problem Formulation

This report presents the findings of the first phase of a research and monitoring project to assess the ecological risk of hazardous waste released from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME, on the Great Bay Estuary. The ecological risk assessment follows the framework proposed by the EPA Risk Assessment Forum and consists of quantitatively estimating the likelihood of adverse ecological effects resulting from exposure to hazardous waste releases from the shipyard. The purpose of the study was to assess the potential environmental effects from past, present, and future releases of hazardous substances into the estuary. The study was developed in context of an



ecological risk assessment to determine where contaminants would accumulate, to measure exposure levels, and to evaluate whether contaminants were adversely affecting the ecology of the estuary.

ABOUT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

This newsletter is produced by the Marine Environmental Support Office (MESO) and is dedicated specifically to inform the Navy about marine environmental issues that may influence how the Navy conducts its operations. MESO is located at the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center's Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Division (NRaD) in San Diego, California. The mission of MESO is to provide Navy-wide technical and scientific support on marine environmental science, protection and compliance issues. This support covers a broad spectrum of activities, including routine requests for data and information, technical review and consultation, laboratory and field studies, comprehensive environmental assessments, and technology transfer. Significant developments in marine law, policy, and scientific advancements will be included in the newsletter, along with references and points of contact for further information. The Marine Environmental Support Office may be reached at:

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