

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Region I

Office of
Public Affairs
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

Environmental News

Jim Sebastian, (617) 565-3423
For more information call Doug Gutro, (617) 565-3383

For Immediate Release
November 15, 1989

Superfund Records Center
SITE: *Fort Devens*
BREAK: *B3*



SDMS DocID 476113

EPA ADDS FOUR NEW ENGLAND SITES TO SUPERFUND LIST

BOSTON -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today the addition of four federal facilities in New England and 29 sites nationwide to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL), EPA's list of top priority hazardous waste sites. These sites were proposed for inclusion on the NPL in July of 1989. The New England sites added today are the Otis Air National Guard Base/Camp Edwards in Falmouth, MA; Fort Devens in Ayer, MA; Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center in North Kingstown, RI; and the Newport Naval Education and Training Center in Newport, RI.

According to Acting EPA Regional Administrator Paul G. Keough, "The investigation and cleanup of contamination at federal facilities in New England is a monumental task. EPA has moved swiftly to finalize these sites for the NPL so that we can undertake action under the Superfund law."

EPA identifies and ranks NPL sites according to threats to nearby populations through actual or potential contamination of groundwater, surface water, or air. Today's announcement brings the total number of finalized NPL sites to 1010, 75 of which are located in New England.

The following is a brief description of the four New England sites:

-more-

MASSACHUSETTS

Otis Air National Guard Base/Camp Edwards - Falmouth

Otis Air National Guard Base (ANGB) and Camp Edwards cover approximately 21,000 acres of what is today known as the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR). Established in 1935, MMR's primary mission has been to provide training and housing for Air Force or Army units. Training and testing activities over the years have resulted in a number of potentially contaminated areas. In 1986-87, water lines were installed for area residents with contaminated wells. The Air Force is currently participating in the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), which seeks to identify, investigate and clean up contamination from hazardous materials.

Fort Devens

Fort Devens is 35 miles west of Boston at the intersection of four townships: Ayer and Shirley (in Middlesex County) and Lancaster and Harvard (in Worcester County). The Base is responsible for training active duty personnel to support various Army units. Fort Devens is also participating in the Installation and Restoration Program. IRP studies have identified 46 potential hazardous waste sites including a 50 acre sanitary landfill containing asbestos, construction debris, waste oil and incinerator ash among other wastes.

RHODE ISLAND

Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) - North Kingstown

The NCBC is located 18 miles south of Providence in a primarily residential area of Washington County. The mission of the Center is to provide mobilization support to Naval construction forces. The Installation Restoration Program has identified at least 24 potentially contaminated areas.

Newport Naval Education and Training Center (NETC) - Newport

The NETC is spread along six miles of the western shoreline of Aquidneck Island, north of Newport. The Navy has used Aquidneck Island as a refueling depot since 1900. IRP studies have identified numerous potentially contaminated areas containing fuel storing and handling wastes, sewage treatment wastes, and various other debris.

####