



Responsiveness Summary

**Public Comments on the Proposed Plan
Jackson Park Housing Complex/
Naval Hospital Bremerton Superfund Site
Operable Unit 3 – Marine**

Bremerton, Washington

January 2018

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy (Navy) has prepared this Responsiveness Summary from public comments submitted on the *Proposed Plan – Management of Discarded Military Munitions, Jackson Park Housing Complex/Naval Hospital Bremerton Superfund Site, Operable Unit 3 – Marine* (Proposed Plan). This document provides responses to public comments submitted on the Proposed Plan during the public comment period from October 6, 2017, until November 18, 2017. No other public comments were received.

Notice of the public comment period and project open house was first published in the *Kitsap Sun* from October 6 through October 8, 2017, and again from October 15 through October 17, 2017. The open house was held on October 18 at The Landings Community Center, located in the former Jackson Park Housing Complex in Bremerton, Washington.

Newspaper articles about the project, including information about the public comment period and how to access the Proposed Plan, appeared in the *Kitsap Sun*, *Stars and Stripes*, and *USA Today* on October 18, 2017.

One individual indicated interest in Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) participation, which does not rise to the level required for re-forming the RAB at this time. The Navy has added that individual to an e-mail distribution list for members of the public interested in cleanup activities at the JPHC/NHB Superfund Site.

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Six comments were received during the public comment period. One individual provided written comments, but did not attend the public meeting. Three other individuals attended the public meeting but did not provide formal comments.

Comments from CDR Neil R. Wollam, USN (Ret.):

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Overall, the information is quite thorough. I was alerted to the opportunity by your notice in Kitsap Sun classifieds.

Comment 1.

Am I safe in thinking the EOD folks back East are reviewing this plan, since they have previously been involved?

Response 1:

The Navy Ordnance Safety and Security Activity (NOSSA), the Navy's technical expert for explosive safety, has been involved since the beginning of the project and will remain involved as a project team member, providing explosive safety expertise and oversight for this project.

Comment 2.

Alternative 4 seems like the only reasonable alternative, especially when 500 years is considered.

Response 2:

Thank you for your support of the selected alternative. The project team utilized the CERCLA nine criteria to propose a remedy that is the most protective of the public and environment.

Comment 3.

After dredging and screening, why dump metal anomalies back into bay from [the] scow? Can't some (or most) be recycled since area of concern is "saturated"? If the anomalies are mostly iron containing rock, then it makes sense to dump back.

Response 3:

Metallic material recovered during dredging will be processed to determine if it is suspected to be munitions or explosives of concern (MEC) or metallic debris. Metallic debris will be further processed to determine if it is safe (not potentially explosive). All non-military metallic debris will be recycled without further processing. Any material that appears to be military in nature will be processed to ensure that it is properly recycled or disposed of.

Comment 4.

3 years to design and implement Alternative 4 seems quite excessive.

Response 4:

The Navy is committed to completing this action as quickly and as safely as possible, while conducting the work in compliance with applicable federal requirements. Implementation of the remedy is currently estimated to take 3–5 field seasons. The Navy is committed to ensuring that the project is carried out in a manner that is the least environmentally damaging to Ostrich Bay and that all explosive safety requirements will be met to ensure the safety and protection of the public, the divers who are qualified to handle underwater explosives found in Ostrich Bay, and the environment. Because there are limitations on the dates during which in-water work may be performed, and an unknown quantity of anomalies in the project area, the Navy has established a conservative time frame to account for these issues.

Comment 5.

Will divers be both EOD and non-EOD and will they be Navy only or EPA again?

Response 5:

This project will be conducted by the Navy, using divers that are qualified to work with underwater explosive found in Ostrich Bay. Divers may be civilian or military.

Comment 6.

Didn't see the word EARTHQUAKE, Ostrich Bay is close enough to Puget Sound Fault Line that I feel it adds some urgency to my comment 4.

Response 6:

The Navy is committed to conducting this action as quickly and safely as possible. The time frame given is an estimate to ensure that the public, the environment, and the workers are protected during the dredging.