

adjacent acres found no ordnance, no explosives and only one piece of ordnance-related scrap. Based on this, EPA and the Corps believe that no further response action is appropriate for soil in the Impregnation Kit Area.

2. EPA has recommended the partial deletion and the Corps and EPA have prepared the relevant documents. These documents have been compiled into a Deletion Docket.

3. The Commonwealth of Virginia, through the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, concurs with this partial deletion.

4. Concurrent with this national notice of intent for partial deletion, a notice has been published in a local newspaper of record and has been distributed to appropriate Federal, State, and local officials, and other interested parties. These notices announce a 30 day public comment period on the deletion package, which commences on the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and publication of a notice of availability of this notice in a newspaper of record.

5. EPA and the Corps have made all relevant documents available at the information repositories listed previously.

This **Federal Register** document, and a concurrent notice in a newspaper of record, announce the initiation of a 30 day public comment period and the availability of the notice of intent for partial deletion. The public is asked to comment on EPA's proposal to delete the soil in the Impregnation Kit Area of Nansemond from the NPL. All critical documents needed to evaluate EPA's decision are included in the Deletion Docket and are available for review at the information repositories.

Upon completion of the 30 day comment period, EPA will evaluate all comments received before issuing the final decision on the partial deletion. EPA will prepare a Responsiveness Summary for comments received during the public comment period and will address concerns presented in the comments. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available to the public at the information repositories listed previously. Members of the public are encouraged to contact EPA Region III to obtain a copy of the Responsiveness Summary. If, after review of all public comments, EPA determines that the partial deletion from the NPL is appropriate, EPA will publish a final notice of partial deletion in the **Federal Register**. Deletion of the area does not actually occur until the final Notice of Partial Deletion is published in the **Federal Register**.

IV. Basis for Intended Partial Site Deletion

The following provides EPA's rationale for deletion of the soil in the Impregnation Kit Area from the NPL and EPA's finding that the criteria in 40 CFR 300.425(e) are satisfied.

Background

The Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot site (Nansemond) is located in Suffolk, Virginia, near the northwestern end of State Route 135. It was once a U.S. military facility. It is situated at the mouth of and to the east of the Nansemond River, on the south side of Hampton Roads, and contains approximately 975 acres. It is bordered to the west by the Nansemond River, to the north by the James River (Hampton Roads) and to the east by Streeter Creek.

From its establishment in 1917 until 1950, Nansemond was occupied by the U.S. Army for ammunition supply, maintenance, and disposal functions. In 1950, the site was transferred to the Department of the Navy, and was subsequently named the Marine Corps Supply Forwarding Annex. Following Navy operation, Nansemond was deactivated in 1960, and ownership of the property was transferred to the Beazley Foundation. The land of the former depot is now principally occupied by Tidewater Community College; the General Electric Company Jet Engine Division (GE); and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD). Smaller parcels of land are owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation, Interstate 664; Dominion Lands, Inc.; Continental Properties; and SYSCO Food Services.

Soil and ground water at Nansemond have been contaminated by past operations, including the storage, handling, reconditioning and disposal of ordnance. Types of contamination at Nansemond include, but are not limited to, semi-volatile organic compounds, heavy metals and compounds used in explosives (e.g., TNT) in soil; and compounds used in explosives (e.g., hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine ("RDX")) in ground water.

Nansemond is classified as a "Formerly Used Defense Site" or "FUDS." Pursuant to Public Law 98-212 and the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (chapter 160 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986), the Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for investigating and remedying releases of hazardous substances at FUDS that resulted from DOD activities. DOD has assigned those

responsibilities to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps).

Environmental contamination from past military operations at Nansemond came to the attention of the Corps and EPA at least as early as 1987, when a boy found a piece of crystalline TNT near the entrance to Tidewater Community College. Beginning in 1987 and continuing to the present, the Corps and EPA have cooperated to remove TNT, buried ordnance and other contamination from soil at Nansemond. In addition, the Corps and EPA have cooperated in investigating soil and ground water contamination at Nansemond.

Impregnation Kit Area

The Impregnation Kit Area (also known as the Impregnate Kit or XXCC3 area) is an approximately 300,000 square foot, rectangular area in the southwestern portion of Nansemond, about 1000 feet from the Nansemond River. It was apparently used for the disposal of impregnation kits containing XXCC3. Impregnation kits consist of two substances: (a) XXCC3, which is a fine, white, granular, crystal powder, and (b) a "honey-like syrup" or "black waxy material." XXCC3 was used to neutralize chemical agents, and the impregnation kits disposed of in this area were probably used as a protective coating on an under garment for older military issue chemical suits.

As of 1948, the U.S. Army's recommended methods for disposal of surplus XXCC3 included scattering on the ground, burial (at least three feet below ground), and burning. Aerial photographs indicate that activities such as excavating and grading took place at the Impregnation Kit Area during the 1950s. A 1995 excavation by a contractor for Dominion Lands, Inc. uncovered wooden crates containing the white powder; small metal cans containing the black waxy material; and fiber drums. In 1996, the Corps conducted a chemical screening and ordnance survey in the Impregnation Kit Area, took soil samples and dug test pits. The test pits revealed a thick seam of the white powder in a mounded area, and remnants of the kits were visible.

EPA took a soil sample from the Impregnation Kit Area in 1997. The hazardous substances detected at the highest concentrations in this sample were zinc (11,100 milligrams per kilogram), carbon tetrachloride (20,700 micrograms per kilogram ($\mu\text{g/kg}$)), chloroform (20,600 $\mu\text{g/kg}$), and TNT (279 $\mu\text{g/kg}$).

In December 1998 and January 1999, a contractor for the Corps excavated the area containing the impregnation kits.