



NAVAL WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT, BEDFORD

NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION (ERN) PROGRAM

MAY 2019

FIVE-YEAR REVIEWS



HARTWELL HILL TO BE SOLD AS SOON AS ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION REMEDY DESIGNATED "OPERATING PROPERLY AND SUCCESSFULLY"

Mike Rosenberg, Chair of Bedford's Selectmen, asked Maritza Montegross about the Navy's divestiture plans for the Hartwell Hill acreage. She explained the Navy has no use for the former NWIRP facility since its mission ended and it was mothballed nearly 20 years ago. "So, here it is 2019, and we've only gotten rid of half of the property. And we only just got rid of it."

Cleanup target dates of 10 or even 80 years do not limit a deed transfer, as long as environmental remedies for the various remaining contamination problems at the site are in place.

Montegross noted, "Eventually, we'll be preparing this 'Operating and Successfully/Interim Remedial Action Closeout Report'. It's not a closeout in the sense that we are done. It just says things are working as intended, and this allows us to be able to sell the property."

Any land use controls imposed by the Navy do not limit the sale or transfer of divested NWIRP land to new owners. Citing the Navy hangar land parcel, which recently sold for \$9,040,000, Montegross stated, "It's been sold, and yet it doesn't matter. [The sale] doesn't change what I have to do. We still have to work on the Site."

No matter who owns the property, the Navy will retain responsibility for continuing remediation and enforcement of land use controls until the ultimate cleanup goal of groundwater being brought to safe drinking water standards has been achieved.

If new problems related to former NWIRP operations should surface, Montegross said the Navy will step in to undertake whatever remediation and monitoring is necessary to reach the cleanup goal. She cited two examples which would trigger additional Navy remediation:

The discovery of previously undetected contamination on the site.

The EPA reclassification of chemicals previously believed to be non-toxic, or present at non-toxic levels as contaminants of emerging concern, as recently happened in the case of the 1,4 dioxane and perfluorinated compounds present in groundwater at the site.

Montegross reassured Bedford officials and residents of the Navy's intentions, explaining, "We don't just say, 'Oh, we have a remedy that's in,' and just walk away."

Bedford's Navy Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting took place May 8, 2019 to hear the second Five-Year Review of the Navy's environmental cleanup of contaminated groundwater beneath the land of the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP). Maritza Montegross has been the Navy Facilities Engineering Command Remedial Project Manager for the Bedford NWIRP since 2006.

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