



NAVAL WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT, BEDFORD

NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION (ERN) PROGRAM

MAY 2019

FIVE-YEAR REVIEWS



NAVAL WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT FACILITY ON HARTWELL HILL TO BE DEMOLISHED

“Several months ago the Town was notified that the Navy intends to demolish all the structures on the northern site,” Selectman Rosenberg stated, referring to Hartwell Hill. He added that the Town hadn’t heard anything more, and asked if Maritza Montegross knew the timing for the planned demolition.

When she said a different Navy Command was in charge of demolition scheduling, Rosenberg expressed concern, saying the Town needs time to plan for such a large operation, especially since he was under the impression Navy operations would be exempt from local permitting.

Montegross explained that although her Superfund remediation operations are exempt from local permitting, demolition of the Navy buildings will be subject to local permitting. She also noted that safety issues related to trespassing on the NWIRP site are of major concern to the Navy, and will play a role in demolition scheduling decisions.

Bedford resident Meeta Mathur asked if notice of the start date of the demolition could be shared with local residents once Montegross knows the schedule. The Project Manager explained that the demolition mission was separate from her environmental restoration mission, and typically she would not communicate such information. However, when Mathur persisted, pointing out that the Town and residents would be very much affected by the demolition work and traffic, Montegross reconsidered, saying, “I guess we could.”

When asked if there could be safety issues with truckloads of demolition materials from the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant traveling through neighborhood streets, Navy Consultant Paul Corwell offered assurances that the materials would be handled safely. He added any contaminated materials encountered during demolition will be remediated before leaving the worksite.

Board of Health Director Porter also pointed out, “Asbestos would be mitigated, would be remediated, bagged and hauled separately,” from unregulated demolition debris from the NWIRP site.

Asked if there could be a mold problem in the Hartwell Hill buildings, Corwell answered that it was likely. Questioned whether truckloads of moldy, dusty materials would be traveling through Bedford streets, he explained that a specialty company would first treat the mold contamination, and then remove contaminated solutions in pump trucks. He also explained that the Navy contractors will use cleaning stations to hose down and remove all demolition dust from the trucks on site, before they enter neighborhood streets.

Montegross noted that the Navy-contracted truck drivers will be required to operate within normal working hours. Mathur mentioned her concern that trucking contract agreements might not always be honored, based on past experience in her neighborhood. Mathur's road was one of several Bedford streets designated as haul routes for Massport-contracted heavy construction vehicles, operating 24/7 for six weeks, during the massive 2017 Hanscom Field Runway Repaving Project. She pointed out there had been safety issues during the previous project with truck drivers speeding on town roads, and that the heavy truck traffic had disturbed residents at all hours of the day and night with noisy jake braking and honking.

Mathur then asked if Montegross could be contacted directly should similar concerns arise during the NWIRP demolition project. Montegross explained that once the demolition begins, there will be a sign posted at the site with the contractor's contact information. However, she agreed to Mathur's request, saying, "I'd be glad to try to track down who the problem is, if it's happening on our Base. You have my email."

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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