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DON EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES FOR OPERABLE UNIT NO. 1 CLEANUP

The Department of the Navy (DoN) announces the availability of an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) on the selected cleanup remedy for Operable Unit (OU) No. 1, Site 21, at Marine Corps Base (MCB), Camp Lejeune. The DoN has determined that a change to a cleanup level is necessary for OU No. 1. This change will reduce the volume of soil that will require excavation. The purpose of this ESD is to change to cleanup level as explained below.

More information on this ESD is available in the Administrative Record, which documents the basis for remedy selection and this change, can be reviewed or copied at the Onslow County Library, Doris Avenue East in Jacksonville, North Carolina or at the Camp Lejeune Environmental Management Department.

The DoN has determined from a review of current Federal and State criteria for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that the PCB cleanup level presented in the September 1994 Record of Decision (ROD) for OU No. 1 should be revised. The existing cleanup level for PCBs presented in the ROD is 0.37 parts per million (ppm). The Federal PCB action levels for industrial sites ranges from 10 ppm to 25 ppm. The State of North Carolina Divisional Policy for PCBs is 10 ppm for industrial sites. Based on the location of OU No. 1 within the industrial area of MCB, Camp Lejeune, the DoN has determined that the appropriate PCB cleanup level should be revised to 10 ppm. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environment Health and Natural Resources (NC DEHNR) concurred with this change. Implementing the new PCB cleanup level will significantly reduce the volume of soil that has to be excavated and treated.

PCBs were detected in two areas of concern within OU No. 1. Both of these areas of concern were located within the boundaries of Site 21, which is one of three sites which comprise OU No. 1 at MCB, Camp Lejeune. Site 21 has a history of pesticide storage and handling. In addition, transformer oil was reportedly disposed at the site during a one year period between 1950 and 1951. PCBs were a main component in the transformer oil. The DoN has conducted several environmental investigations at Site 21 as part of OU No. 1. The DoN selected cleanup remedies at Site 21 to reduce the risk posed by the contamination in the soil at several areas of concern within the site due to the levels of detected pesticides and/or PCBs.

For further information on this ESD or OU No. 1 at MCB, Camp Lejeune, contact:

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