



News Release

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Picatinny Cleanup Plan Proposed

Officials to discuss publicly Thursday night

PICATINNY, N.J. – Officials here will host a public meeting on Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rockaway Twp. to discuss a proposed \$2 million final clean-up plan for removing and containing groundwater contamination from a 90-acre area in the south-central region of the base.

According to Ted Gabel, Picatinny installation restoration program manager, the contaminated groundwater, known as Area D, underlies part of the base golf course on one side and buildings and pavement on the other.

“The contamination was a result of the past industrial practices including discharging wastes into lagoons and dry wells that once operated in our building 24,” Gabel said. “These operations have been closed for years.”

The proposed cleanup plan that the Army hopes to use consists of four actions.

The first would install a permeable treatment wall near Green Pond Brook. The wall would intercept and treat contaminated groundwater before it reached the brook which flows north to south through Picatinny and empties into the Rockaway River, according to Gabel.

Three-quarters of this wall would consist of sand and one-quarter of iron filings. It would measure 200 feet in length and approximately 27 feet in depth. The sand and iron filings would make the TCE contaminants harmless.

Gabel said that the Army also is proposing to use a second treatment procedure called “monitored natural attenuation.” Routine tests would be

performed on Area D to make sure that the contamination is dissipating naturally and exposure levels remain acceptable, he explained.

The Army also wants to use several additional actions to prevent individuals and animals from becoming exposed to the contamination while the area undergoes clean up. These include closely controlling future excavation in the affected area and continued monitoring and treatment of water from a supply well located within the contaminated area.

Lastly and most importantly, the Army would also be evaluating new technologies to compare the cost of the long term testing to implementing a new technology. Two studies are ongoing for the Area D plume now.

Copies of the complete plan have been available at the Rockaway Twp. and Morris County public libraries since July 3.

Individuals have until Aug. 2 to submit comments on the plan to Picatinny .