



FACT SHEET
FORMER NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER
(NCBC) AT DAVISVILLE, RI
CALF PASTURE POINT - UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

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Individuals using Calf Pasture Point as a recreation area are not at risk from the contamination underneath the property.

Environmental Investigations

Multiple environmental investigations required by EPA's Superfund Program and conducted by the Navy were undertaken prior to Calf Pasture Point being transferred to the Town of North Kingstown, RI for recreational use. Environmental investigations included:

- Metal detection surveys to identify the location of buried containers.
- Soil boring analysis to study the site's geology and determine subsurface contamination levels.

- Numerous monitoring well installations to determine the groundwater contamination plume size and characteristics (Figure 1).

The investigations, conducted between 1991 and 1998, found solvents such as trichloroethene or "TCE" several feet below the ground surface of Calf Pasture Point. Concentrations found at the ground surface and along the Calf Pasture Point shoreline are below action levels and do not pose a risk to recreational users. More information about TCE can be found on-line through the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (TCE fact sheet link: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts19.html#bookmark08>).



Photo 1: Calf Pasture Point Shoreline

As you visit Calf Pasture Point you will likely see groundwater monitoring wells throughout the property and may occasionally see workers collecting environmental samples. Workers may be outfitted in white suits simply to see ticks more readily.

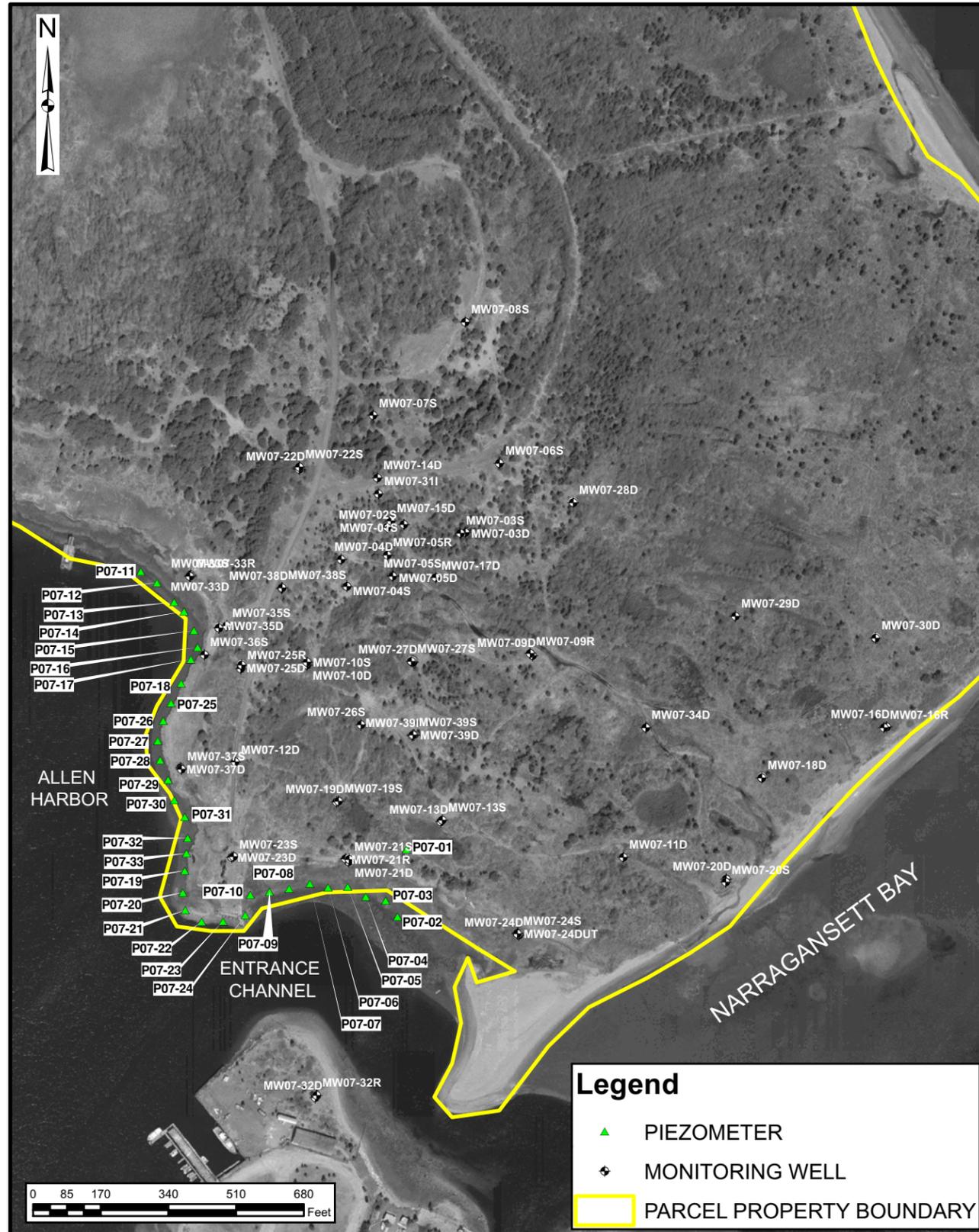


Figure 1: Calf Pasture Point Monitoring Wells



Photo 2: Shoreline Sampling of Groundwater Using Piezometers

Long-Term Risk Monitoring Program

To verify the contamination underneath the property continues to be below levels which could pose a human health risk, the Navy frequently collects groundwater, surface water, and sediment samples from Calf Pasture Point as part of its long-term risk monitoring program. The Navy also conducts annual inspections to ensure no water supply wells are installed and no permanent buildings are constructed on the property without approval from the Navy, the EPA, and the State of Rhode Island.

The long-term monitoring effort is dynamic and is adjusted based on sampling results as a means of ensuring maximum protection of human health and the environment. To that end, currently additional subsurface investigations are being planned in order to optimize the monitoring effort.

Five-Year Review Reports

Although the data collected as a part of the long-term risk monitoring program are continually reviewed, to further ensure continued protection of human health and the environment and to comply with Federal and State hazardous cleanup laws and the cleanup plan, the data undergoes a formal review by the Navy, EPA, and RIDEM every five years. These findings are documented in a Five-Year Review report and are publicly available. The most recent 2008 Five-Year Review, the second one completed for Calf Pasture Point, found that the remedy effectively assures the area is suitable for use as a public recreation area. The review can be found online at: www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/ncbc and at the local repository:

North Kingstown Free Library
100 Boone Street
North Kingstown, RI 02852



Photo 3: Environmental Sampling of Monitoring Wells

History

Calf Pasture Point was part of the Former Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) at Davisville, RI. NCBC Davisville provided mobilization support to the Naval Construction Battalion, also known as the "Seabees." Calf Pasture Point was primarily used for Navy Seabees' training in the use of heavy construction equipment. The NCBC Davisville facility began operations in 1939 and closed in 1994. In 2001, the Town of North Kingstown received the land through the National Park Service from the Navy for public recreational use.

Contamination Sources

The Navy used industrial solvents at NCBC to help clean and maintain construction equipment used in training exercises. Some of these solvents were spilled and released to the environment through inappropriate disposal practices, thereby causing groundwater contamination. Based on Navy investigation reports, it is suspected that cans of a decontaminating agent containing solvents were buried at Calf Pasture Point in the late 1960s/early 1970s, and are believed to be the main source of the groundwater contamination in the aquifer underlying Calf Pasture Point.

For More Information

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