

CHAPTER 2

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE

The Department of Navy conducts environmental restoration work at installations affected by the four rounds of base closures in a similar manner to cleanups at active installations with two major distinctions; 1) cleanup is not funded from ER,N Account, and 2) cleanup funding prioritization decisions are based primarily on the schedule for the property's economic reuse, with relative risk as a consideration.

The Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1988 (PL 100-526) (BRAC I) and the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (PL 101-510) (BRAC II, BRAC III and BRAC IV) required the environmental restoration efforts at bases being closed or realigned to be funded from a separate BRAC account. It was the intent of Congress that closing bases would not have to compete for cleanup funds with active installations. It also provides an impetus for quicker cleanup and turnover of land to the public or private sector for economic reuse. Local Redevelopment Authorities (LRA) represent communities in developing plans for base reuse. The LRA is recognized by DoD as the entity responsible for developing or implementing the communities redevelopment plan.

In July 1993, the President announced a five-part program to speed economic recovery for communities where military bases are slated to close. As a result, a BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) has been established at each of the Navy's closing bases where property is available for transfer to the community. The BCT is empowered with the authority, responsibility and accountability for environmental cleanup programs at these installations, with the emphasis on taking necessary actions to facilitate reuse and redevelopment. The BCT works closely with the LRA to exchange cleanup information related to redevelopment plans, priorities and decisions. The DON is working closely with regulators to use innovative technologies and management approaches that will allow bases to be cleaned up even earlier than originally planned. The DON made significant progress in the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) arena over the past year. Navy and Marine Corps personnel are committed to "Fast-Track" cleanup at closing bases as demonstrated by the following accomplishments:

- Completing environmental baseline surveys at BRAC I-IV installations to determine the environmental condition of property and to document the status of the cleanup program.
- Partnering with regulators to develop the most cost effective cleanup estimates and schedules.
- Completing the BRAC Cleanup Plans (BCPs) for BRAC I-IV installations.
- Integrating study and design work efforts between study and cleanup (CLEAN and RAC) contract personnel to accelerate cleanup.

Site Status - As of the end of FY96, DON had identified 1,035 sites on BRAC installations. DON has completed all necessary cleanup response actions at 84 sites and cleanup is underway at an additional 70 sites, and the remedy is in place at 2 sites.

Environmental Condition of Property - As of the end of FY96, DON identified a total of 108,274 acres available for transfer from BRAC I-IV installations. This is an increase of 72,845 acres from the end of FY95. To date, 7,159 acres have been transferred to other federal agencies and 549 acres have been transferred to communities for economic reuse.

Redevelopment Plans - For BRAC I-IV installations, 28 redevelopment plans have been approved, and an additional 9 plans have been developed and are awaiting approval. For 3 installations, these plans were not required due to Federal to Federal transfers.

Cleanup Strategy - DON's cleanup strategy for FY96, due in part to a decrease in cleanup funding and the environmental congressional ceiling, was to:

- Fund all cleanup projects where there is an imminent threat to human health and the environment.
- Prioritize funding for cleanup projects for which there is specific reuse and property recipient identified for the property.
- Support the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) and BRAC Cleanup Team (DON, EPA and state regulatory personnel) cleanup priorities based on reuse.
- Fund high priority site characterization studies and support development of the Findings of Suitability for Transfer/Lease (FOST/L) documentation for economic revitalization efforts.
- Fund cleanup in accordance with DON's Environmental Policy Memorandum 95-02 "Consideration of Future Land Use in Determining Cleanup Standards for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Property" of 17 Aug. 95.
- Continue to support a bias towards cleanup versus study due to cost effectiveness and time savings.
- Develop an aggressive execution schedule to ensure continued full obligation of available funds by the end of each fiscal year, while maintaining a healthy funds expenditures profile.

Regulator Involvement - In FY96 and FY97, DON continues to:

- Partner with BCTs to refine the scope and type of cleanup projects which should be accomplished, and to prioritize projects to be accomplished or budgeted.
- Provide support to the Fast-Track Cleanup Implementation Work Group.
- Provide BRAC Cleanup Plan Abstracts which establish a baseline and metrics to assess program progress.
- Participate in and support BRAC Cleanup Team training.
- Conduct an OSD/Navy Community Conference to exchange ideas and update communities on cleanup issues at BRAC installations.