

# NOAA Coastal Resource Coordination Program New Hampshire Sites

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

## CRC PROGRAM MISSION...

NOAA acts on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce as a Federal trustee, under CERCLA and other laws, for natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA's mandate is to protect and restore trust resources that are injured by Superfund site contaminants. NOAA fulfills its responsibilities through an effective network of Coastal Resource Coordinators (CRCs) placed in eight EPA regional offices, as well as an interdisciplinary support group located in Seattle. NOAA CRCs respond to local technical requirements by identifying risks to natural resources, recommending protective remedial measures, and designing in cooperation with the U.S. EPA, the State of New Hampshire, and other trustee agencies. Our goal is to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefit of healthy coastal ecosystems, abundant fishery stocks, and robust populations

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- 1... Auburn Road Landfill Londonberry
- 2... Coakley Landfill Greenland\*
- 3... Dover Municipal Landfill Dover
- 4... Kearsarge Metallurgical Corp. Conway
- 5... Keefe Environmental Services Epping
- 6... Mottolo Pig Farm Raymond
- 7... Ottali & Gross / Kingston Steel Kingston
- 8... Pease Air Force Base Portsmouth
- 9... Somersworth Sanitary Landfill Somersworth
- 10... Tibbets Road Barrington
- 11... Tinkham Garage Londonberry
- 12... Town Garage/Radio Beacon Site Londonberry

- 13... Fletcher's Paint Works and Storage Milford\*
- 14... New Hampshire Plating Co. Merrimack
- 15... Savage Municipal Water Supply Milford\*
- 16... South Municipal Water Supply Well Petterborough
- 17... Silvester Site (Gilson Road) Nashua

NOAA has developed a one-page fact sheet for sites marked with an asterisk. The fact sheets provide a physical description of the site and the contamination present, list the NOAA resources of concern, and summarize NOAA's involvement in the cleanup process.

## NOAA TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE...

NOAA trust species in New Hampshire include anadromous species such as alewife, blueback herring, American shad, Atlantic salmon, striped bass, and catadromous species such as American eel. Non-anadromous species found in New Hampshire include Atlantic tomcod, Atlantic silverside, rainbow smelt, killifish, river herring, white perch, and smooth flounder. Invertebrate resources include American oyster, American lobster, sea scallop, Atlantic razor clam, soft shell clam, and blue mussel.

## NOAA CRCs AND THE SITE CLEANUP PROCESS...

NOAA CRCs provide technical expertise to EPA on resources and ecological risk assessment, mitigative measures, and cleanup strategies to ensure protection of NOAA trust resources. Federal and state trustees' early involvement and coordination in the scoping of ecological risk assessments ensures that assessments and the entire remedial process adequately evaluate the risk to natural resources. Designing a cleanup that protects natural resources as well as human health is a cost-effective and efficient way to address the threat posed by coastal waste sites. Through CRC participation in the cleanup process, the government saves time and money by avoiding duplication of effort and litigation. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of natural resource damage liability. Best of all, environmental threats are addressed sooner, increasing the chances for effective protection, recovery and/or restoration of coastal and marine resources.

## MILITARY SITES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE...

New Hampshire is dotted with 42 military installations and formerly used defense areas, comprising 128 DoD sites. The nature of defense-related activities involves chemicals that are highly toxic and persistent in the environment. In New Hampshire, military contaminants of concern include VOCs, spent fuels, waste oils, petroleum/oils/lubricants, pesticides, and paints. The NOAA CRC program conducted a coastal hazardous waste site review for Pease Air Force Base in 1990. DoD has 18 installations contemplated for restoration in New Hampshire. NOAA's input is needed now to ensure that cleanups are protective of coastal natural resources as well as human health. NOAA offers technical expertise and a neutral perspective that is valued by both the military and the local public.

## AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE...

The NOAA CRC program works to protect and restore natural resources throughout New Hampshire. However, the Souhegan River, a tributary of the Merrimack River, is of special concern to NOAA. This area has been designated as "priority" Atlantic salmon nursery habitat by the state Division of Fish and Game. NOAA CRC is working on two sites affecting the area: Savage Municipal Water Supply (Savage Wells) and Fletcher's Paint Works and Storage. NOAA has conducted Preliminary Natural Resource Surveys (PNRS) for both sites, and a coastal hazardous waste site review for Savage Wells. Other NOAA activities for these sites include reviewing sediment and biota sampling, and development and implementation of toxicity studies for ecological risk assessment. NOAA required additional sampling as part of a conditional Covenant Not To Sue (CNTS) for Savage Well and based on the findings, removal of contaminated sediments as part of the remedy. Coakley Landfill is another example of success in working through the remedial process. NOAA's CRC program was active throughout the site characterization and remedial decision phases. We provided EPA information critical to designing a protective remedy in a 1990 report detailing contaminants of concern, natural resources in the area, and potential ecological risk and resource injury concerns. Our continued close cooperation with EPA resulted in a remedy protective of both human health and natural resources. Because the remedy addressed NOAA's concerns, we were able to authorize DOJ to grant a CNTS to the responsible parties for injuries to natural resources of trust to NOAA in early 1995. Other areas of concern to NOAA are Cohas Brook, Whispering Pines Pond, and the Cocheco River system, which support a variety of fish species.

## FYI...

For more information about NOAA's CRC program in New Hampshire, please contact:

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