

**INDIAN HEAD DIVISION  
U.S. NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER (MD-064)  
Indian Head, Charles County, Maryland  
(National Priorities List Site)**

***Site Location***

The facility is located about 25 miles southwest of Washington D.C., in the northwest portion of Charles County. It encompasses about 2,253 acres, including the Indian Head peninsula (2,010 acres), Bullitt's Neck peninsula (47 acres), the railroad right of way linking Indian Head to White Plains (163 acres), and two islands in Mattawoman Creek. The mailing address for the facility's environmental office is Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division, 101 Strauss Avenue, Indian Head MD 20640.

The facility is bounded by the Potomac River to the north and west, the Mattawoman Creek to the south, and the town of Indian Head to the east. The Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Center, which is located on the Stump Neck peninsula, is south of the Indian Head facility across the Mattawoman Creek.

***Site History***

In 1890, the U.S. Navy established the facility as the Naval Proving Ground, which had the responsibility for testing naval guns, powder, fuses, and other naval ordnance. A smokeless powder factory was built at the facility in 1900, and during the period from 1900 to 1932, the Navy shifted the facility from proving ground activities to smokeless powder production. The Navy renamed the facility the Naval Powder Factory in 1932.

Manufacturing responsibilities were expanded to include explosives and other propellants. These operations necessitated construction of several other factories and plants at the facility. The facility was renamed several times during the period from 1932 to 1992, when it was assigned its current designation as the Indian Head Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center.

The materials handled during the manufacturing operations include acids, solvents, heavy metals, propellants, and explosives. The propellants, explosives, and other volatile materials are contained in storage bunkers at the facility. Past disposal and handling practices have impacted the facility, as discussed below.

The facility was placed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL) on September 29, 1995.

***Environmental Investigations***

The Navy began investigating the environmental impact from previous facility operations in the early 1980s. In 1983, the Navy completed the Initial Assessment Study (IAS), identifying 38 sites, which pose potential impact to the environment. A Confirmation Study (1985) evaluated five of the 38 sites identified in the IAS; three of the sites were recommended for further action.

A Resource, Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Assessment in 1989 identified 78 solid waste management units (SWMU) and 14 areas of concern on the main peninsula. Twenty-four SWMUs have been identified on the Stump Neck Annex. In addition, a Preliminary Assessment, completed as a supplement to the IAS, identified 17 additional sites. In 1992, a Site Inspection Report of one site was completed (Olsen Road Landfill, Site 42). A Site Inspection Report was conducted for 13 other sites and included the on-post production wells in 1993-94. The Remedial Investigation Report for Sites 12 (Town Gut Landfill), 39/41 (Organics Plant/Scrap Yard), 42 (Olson Road Landfill), and 44 (Soak Out Area) was completed in July of 1999. A Feasibility Study for Sites 12 and 41 was completed in January of 2001. Individual Proposed Plans and Records of Decision

(ROD) were written for Sites 12, 41, and 44 in 2001. Because of a disagreement between EPA and the Department of Defense (DOD) regarding institutional controls, the RODs for Sites 12 and 41 were postponed and a Site 12 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) published in 2002. Remedial Design documents for Sites 12 & 41 were completed in 2002. The Remedial Investigation for Site 57 (Former Drum Disposal Area) was also completed in July of 2000. Remedial Investigations of the Lab Area, Sites 6, 39 & 45, as well as Sites 11, 13, 17, 21 & 25 were completed in 2002. The Site Screening Process Report for Seven Sites on Stump Neck was finalized in 2002. The Draft Mattawoman Creek Study Report and the Background Soil Investigation Report were also completed in 2002. The No-Further Action Record of Decision for Site 44 (Soak Out Area) was signed on October 1, 2002.

To date, 57 specific areas have been identified as potential areas of concern under the Navy's Installation Restoration Program at Indian Head and the Stump Neck Annex. Investigations at several of these sites have revealed heavy metals, organic solvents, and explosive compounds in soil, sediment, and groundwater at the facilities.

### ***Current Status***

The MDE provides support to the Navy's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act Installation Restoration Program and the EPA's oversight of Navy activities at Indian Head.

The RODs for Sites 12 and 41 are currently going through final legal review. The Remedial Investigation for Site 47 (Mercuric Nitrate Disposal Area) and the Draft Mattawoman Creek Study Report are currently under review by the EPA and the MDE.

A soil cap is currently being constructed on Site 12, the Town Gut Landfill as a non-time critical removal action.

### ***Future Activity***

The following documents are currently in development: Site 57 Feasibility Study and Pilot Study Documents, and the Site 42 Feasibility Study Addendum.

### ***Facility Contacts***

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### ***Site Repositories***

INDIV-NSWC General Library  
Building D-40  
Indian Head MD 20640-5035