



# Soil & Groundwater Investigation Former Building 3009 Site COMNAVMARIANAS, Guam

Fact Sheet No. 2

August 2004

*This fact sheet describes past and upcoming environmental activities at the Former Building 3009 site. This is one in a series of informational fact sheets being issued periodically throughout the Navy's investigation process.*

## INTRODUCTION

The former Building 3009 site is located within Naval Base Guam in the area operated by Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Marianas (COMNAVMARIANAS) as shown in Figure 1. The site is fenced and consists of the former Building 3009 foundation; asphalt- and concrete-paved areas; and a large field overgrown with tangantangan and tall grass. The site overlies shallow groundwater that is not a drinking water source. A drainage swale exists in the western part of the site.

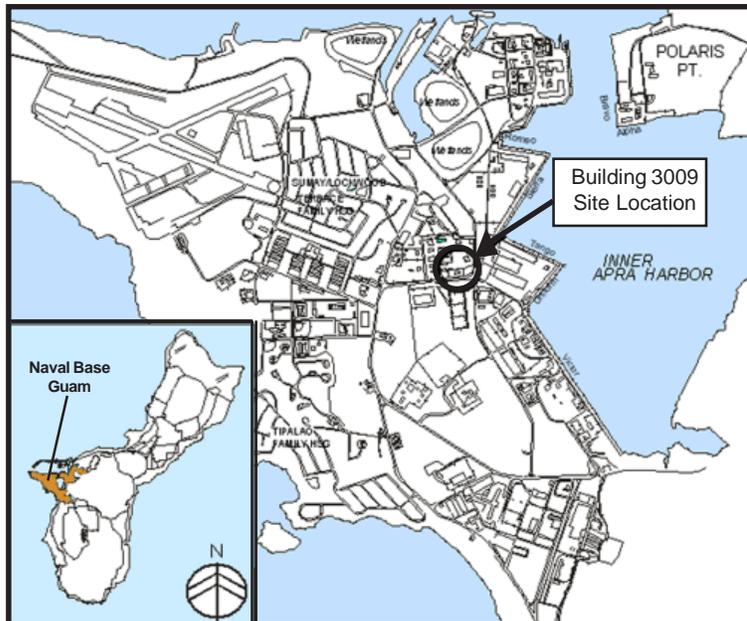


Fig. 1. Vicinity Map, Former Building 3009

U.S. Navy Public Works Center (PWC) performed electrical transformer maintenance for the entire western fleet in Building 3009 from 1952 through 1977, when the facility was shut down. While the site was in operation, activities included repair, refilling, and storage of electrical transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs are used as electrical insulators and were previously mixed in oil as a transformer coolant and lubricant. During operations, one of the storage tanks next to Building 3009 leaked PCB oil onto the ground. The Navy has conducted several investigations and an interim cleanup action at the site as described herein.

## Previous Site Investigations

The first investigation of the site was conducted in 1982. Investigators reported PCBs in soil samples collected from the area where the tanks had been stored. The Navy also found PCBs in the soil in two drainage ditches bordering the southern and eastern limits of the site.

A second investigation of the site was conducted in 1989. Its purpose was to find out how much of the soil around the site had been impacted by the spill. PCBs and related chemicals were found to extend eastward in the drainage ditch south of the site and in soil near Building 3009 up to 11 feet deep.

In May of 1996, a telephone wire support pole was installed in the PWC parking lot just to the west of the Building 3009 site. During the installation, a 18-foot-deep hole was drilled. Soil from this hole was tested and found to contain PCBs.

## Interim Soil Cleanup

The Navy began a cleanup of the site in January 1993. This cleanup focused on the area where the highest levels of PCBs were found in an effort to rapidly reduce chemical levels in soil around the source of the spill. A large treatment facility was built on the existing concrete foundation. Through June 1997, approximately 11,800 tons of soil were dug up and treated on site using an innovative process that destroys the PCBs present in the soil. This treatment system removed most of the PCBs from the soil and the cleansed soil was then returned to the site. Following completion of the soil treatment, the facility was shut down in 1997.

A follow-up investigation was conducted in November 1998 to learn whether PCBs remained at the site. Three areas of subsurface soil were found to still contain PCBs.

## CURRENT WORK

**Objectives.** In August 2004, the Navy will conduct further investigation at the Former Building 3009 site. The objectives of this investigation are to:

- Test soil in areas beyond those previously investigated to assess where PCBs and related chemicals may be present in surface and subsurface soil, and
- Evaluate shallow groundwater underlying the site.

Surface and subsurface soil and groundwater samples will be collected and tested for PCBs and related chemicals.

**Soil Sampling.** Over 300 surface and subsurface soil samples will be collected from the site. Test results from this sampling will supplement previous studies by providing information from areas that have yet to be tested. These additional data will be used in conjunction with existing site data to delineate the extent of lower levels of PCBs across the site. The sampling locations are arranged in a grid pattern surrounding areas of known PCB concentrations. These new data points are intended to map the extent of PCBs at the site (Figure 2). Samples will also be collected in the drainage ditch, to map the current extent of PCBs in this area as well.

**Groundwater Sampling.** Four groundwater monitoring wells will be installed to depths of 20 feet below ground surface in the locations shown in Figure 2. Groundwater samples will be collected from each well and analyzed for PCBs and related chemicals during the first phase of work and then again 6 months later. After the field work is completed, a report will be prepared to document the results and recommend future actions.

### Schedule of Events

The site investigation schedule is as follows:

#### Field Work

August 2004: Soil sampling, first round groundwater sampling

February 2005: Second round of groundwater sampling

#### Reports

Summer 2005: Draft site investigation report

Fall 2005: Final site investigation report

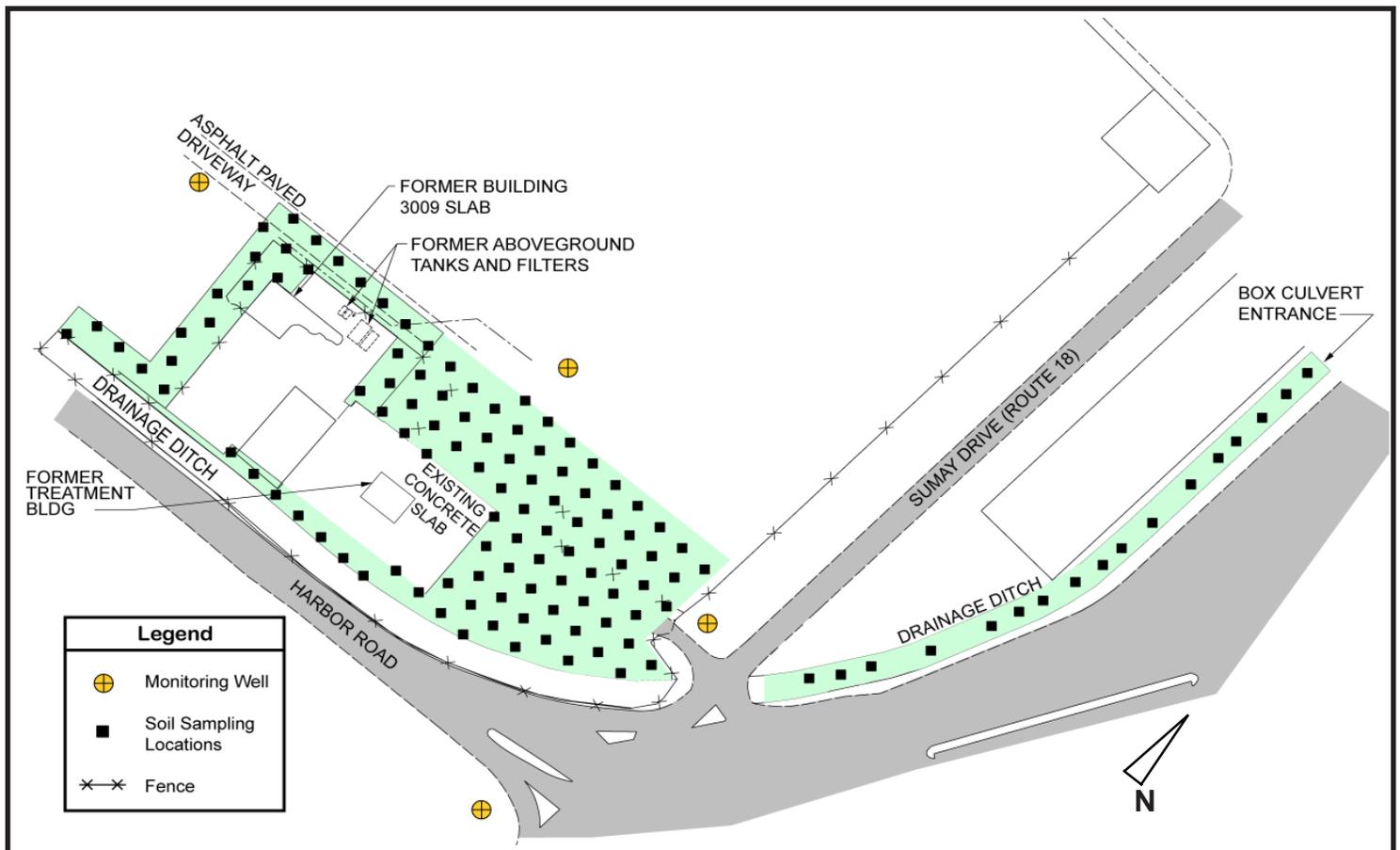


Fig. 2. Surface and Subsurface Soil and Groundwater (monitoring well) Sampling Locations

### For More Information

The Navy is committed to completing activities at the Building 3009 site. For more information related to this site, please contact the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (COMNAVMARIANAS) at (671) 339-5207 or Guam EPA at (671) 475-1658. Previous studies and reports on the Building 3009 site are available at the Nieves M. Flores Library in Hagatna.