



2024 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Restoration, Installation Award

Each year since 1962, the Secretary of Defense has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding achievements in Department of Defense (DoD) environmental programs. These accomplishments include outstanding conservation activities, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life and promote efficiencies without compromising DoD's mission success. The 2024 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2023 (Fiscal Years [FY] 2022-2023). A diverse panel of 47 judges with relevant expertise representing Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluated all nominees to select 1 winner for each of the 9 categories. These nine categories cover six subject areas including natural resources conservation, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, cultural resources management, and environmental excellence in weapon systems acquisition.

About the Environmental Restoration, Installation Award

The Environmental Restoration, Installation award recognizes efforts to protect human health and the environment by cleaning up hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, and munitions in a timely, cost-efficient, and responsive manner. Restoring sites impacted by past DoD activities protects military personnel, their families, and the public from potential human health, environmental, and safety hazards. The 2024 winner of the Environmental Restoration, Installation award is *Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Maine*.

About Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Maine

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) is a 288-acre restricted-access military facility located on Seavey Island in the Piscataqua River in Kittery, Maine. PNSY was officially established as a Federal facility in 1800 with the primary mission of building and repairing naval warships. Today, PNSY employs approximately 6,400 civilians and approximately 800 active-duty military personnel, with the primary mission being the conversion, overhaul, and repair of submarines for the Navy. The PNSY Environmental Restoration (ER) Program has been actively engaged in environmental investigation and remediation since the mid-1980s. Naval Facilities Engineering System Command (NAVFAC) Mid-Atlantic's



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Environmental Division (EV) leads the ER Program, with technical and management support from the PNSY Command leadership, NAVFAC Public Works Department-Maine (PWD-ME) leadership, and PWD-ME EV. The PNSY ER Program maintains a collaborative relationship with the local community, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Major Accomplishments in FY 2022-2023

- The PNSY ER Program prepared the Final Close Out Report (FCOR), an EPA report documenting that all remedies are in place and all cleanup goals are achieved. EPA signed the FCOR in June 2023, with MEDEP concurrence. FCOR completion allowed PNSY's de-listing from the National Priorities List on March 19, 2024.
- The ER Program successfully amended the groundwater Land Use Control (LUC) component of the Jamaica Island Landfill (JILF) Operable Unit (OU) remedy to include four per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) screening areas, allowing PFAS management under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. This action eliminated the need for a separate Proposed Plan/Record of Decision for PFAS, reducing the time to achieve a PFAS Remedy-in-Place by 18 months.
- The ER Program provided technical/regulatory support on two major projects within ER boundaries: Modernization/Expansion of Dry Dock 1 and Consolidation and Construction of the Paint/Blast/Rubber Facility. The ER Program support ensured regulatory compliance and appropriate transportation and disposal of 73,000 tons of soils, 6,300 tons of it hazardous. The support reduced delays and costs.
- The ER Program provided regulatory/technical support to design/construction managers and tenants toward beneficial reuse of multiple ER areas. These efforts included finalizing construction of the new Naval Branch Health Clinic Portsmouth within OU7; evaluating the much-needed parking expansion on the JILF cap; and construction support for improved on-base berthing and morale/welfare/recreation facilities at OU3 and OU7.
- The ER Program continued long-term management, LUC inspections, and groundwater monitoring, which confirmed the effectiveness of the implemented remedies in protecting human health and the environment. The Navy realized a significant cost savings from optimizing the monitoring program by reducing the frequency of sampling at OU2 and eliminating nine wells from the OU3 groundwater monitoring program.



The JILF cap effectively covers hazardous waste within OU 3 while allowing beneficial reuse, including parking and recreational uses. The ER Program is currently partnering with the PNSY CO and XO, NAVFAC PWD-ME PWO and other leadership, and PNSY tenants to evaluate the expansion of much-needed parking facilities on the JILF cap.



In FY 2022 and 2023, the ER Program provided technical and regulatory support on two major projects within ER boundaries at PNSY: Consolidation and Construction of the Paint, Blast, and Rubber Facility (P293) and Modernization and Expansion of Dry Dock 1 (P381), pictured above.