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Dear Citizen-Expert, Citizen-Scientist, Professional-Expert and Others:

We are writing to you today to introduce The National Technical Experts Network (NTEN).

The Institute for Science & Interdisciplinary Studies is forming the NTEN and we need you! The NTEN mission is to link citizen-experts, citizen-scientists, professional-experts and others involved in military waste cleanup and restoration in a forum for information sharing and exchange. Through exchanging your valuable *lessons learned*, *technical information* and *context-related insight* in a forum that promotes cleanups with strong public participation, we foster the sharing of knowledge among all of the various experts.

- ◆ Do you review the technical reports at Restoration Advisory Board, Citizen Advisory Board or Site-Specific Advisory Board meetings?
- ◆ Are you a concerned scientist or professional expert wanting to get involved?
- ◆ Do you have technical information questions?
- ◆ Have you made yourself a citizen-expert?
- ◆ Do you have a story to tell that might help others or lessons learned that need to be shared?

Then join us and sign up for the NTEN now!

**And... don't forget to come to our
Federal Facilities Cleanup Workshop and Citizens' Forum,
July 13-15, 2001 in Amherst, Massachusetts.**

This event is the first in a series of national workshops addressing your role (as citizen-expert, citizen-scientist or professional-expert) and your access to technical information in the federal facilities cleanup process. Presentation topics include: *environmental justice*; *unexploded ordnance (UXO)*; *policy and legal issues surrounding community involvement in cleanup*; *risk assessment analysis*; *natural attenuation/natural remediation analysis*; *new science needed for effective cleanup*; *the citizen's role as context-expert*; and much, much more.

Information and registration forms for the NTEN and the NTEN-sponsored workshop are enclosed.

NTEN is part of a larger ISIS program, *The Military Waste Cleanup Project (MilWaste)*, that includes innovative and progressive local, regional and national efforts. The enclosed MilWaste Fact Sheet describes the history of the project and ongoing activities. For more information about ISIS, the NTEN and the MilWaste Project, visit us at our website: <http://isis.hampshire.edu/mil>. You can also sign up to receive more information by returning the enclosed NTEN sign-up form or by filling out our online form at: <http://isis.hampshire.edu/mil/application.html>.

We value your expertise, your voice, your story and your hard-won knowledge and we look forward to hearing from all of you!

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With Warmest Regards,

Jeanne Stevens
Coordinator,
ISIS Military Waste Cleanup Project

MILITARY WASTE CLEANUP PROJECT WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT



ISIS's Military Waste Cleanup Project announces the first in a series of national workshops on technical information needs and the role of citizen participation in the environmental cleanup process at Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Energy (DOE) facilities.

- TITLE:** Federal Facilities Cleanup Workshop & Citizens' Forum
- DATES:** Friday, July 13, 2001 - Citizens' Forum
Saturday & Sunday, July 14 & 15, 2001 - Workshop
- LOCATION:** Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts
- AGENDA:** **Friday, July 13 - Citizens' Forum:** Presentations and open forum for community members and citizen-experts including both scientists and non-scientists.
- Saturday & Sunday, July 14 & 15 - Workshop:** Community, military and regulatory presentations, official plenary sessions, exercises and breakout sessions.
- SCHOLARSHIPS:** *There is no registration fee.* A limited number of travel and support stipends are available. Please contact us for further details.
- ACCOMMODATIONS:** Dormitory space is available on the Amherst College campus and can be reserved for \$50 per night, which includes room and board. These accommodations are covered for travel stipend recipients.

The workshop location is in western Massachusetts and is easily accessible by bus, train and plane. Bus and train service are available directly to Amherst through Peter Pan Bus Lines and Amtrak. Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, Connecticut, is located approximately 45 minutes south of Amherst on Interstate 91.

FEDERAL FACILITIES CLEANUP WORKSHOP & CITIZENS' FORUM REGISTRATION FORM

1. Please fill out a registration form for each attendee. Use photocopies if necessary.
2. Send the form to ISIS at: 893 West St., Prescott D-1, Amherst, MA 01002 or fax: (413) 559-5611.
You may also e-mail the information requested here to: isis@hampshire.edu.

Title (Mr., Ms., Dr., etc.): _____ First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Occupation & Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____ E-mail address: _____

Are you a concerned citizen who will be attending the Citizens' Forum on July 13th? _____

Will you need lodging or special accommodations? _____

Please contact us at (413) 559-5582 or isis@hampshire.edu for further information.

MILITARY WASTE CLEANUP PROJECT FACT SHEET



WHAT IS THE MILITARY WASTE CLEANUP PROJECT?

ISIS's Military Waste Cleanup Project (MilWaste) supports communities and individuals, including scientists and non-scientists, in understanding technical issues related to military environmental cleanup and restoration. From military installations in the former Soviet Union to our own Cold War legacy, harmful pollution caused by military activities exempt from most environmental laws has resulted in an unprecedented legacy of poisoned communities, people, land, water and air. It is probably the single most intractable problem of environmental contamination in the world.



(Department of Army file photo.)

THE MILITARY WASTE CLEANUP PROJECT MISSION

The mission of the MilWaste Project is to link and empower concerned citizens, scientists and non-scientists in an information sharing and exchange network that will ensure cleanup is done in an informed, effective and democratic way.

THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS NETWORK

A number of military installations have set up citizen advisory boards. However, many of the citizen advisory boards lack technical expertise to effectively assess and evaluate the risks to human health and safety and the environment. The formation of a linked network of scientists, non-scientists and technical experts, the National Technical Experts Network (NTEN), will support citizen advisory boards in technical information access, sharing and exchange. NTEN is part of the MilWaste national, regional and local strategy.

MILWASTE/NTEN NATIONAL FOCUS

At the National Level, MilWaste/NTEN:

- ◆ Serves the technical needs of citizens, scientists, non-scientists and technical experts involved in military toxic and nuclear waste cleanup.
- ◆ Works collaboratively with the Restoration Advisory Board Caucus, Global Green Legacy Project, Arc Ecology, Center for Public Environmental Oversight, Military Toxics Project and other public interest organizations and institutes.
- ◆ Hosts a website with an electronic bulletin board and online mailing list to facilitate technical assistance networking.
- ◆ Holds workshops, focus groups and forums that bring together those involved in military toxic and nuclear waste cleanup to foster information sharing and exchange of ideas and to showcase personal experiences.
- ◆ Presents new ways of applying science technology to affect better, more efficient and democratic cleanups.
- ◆ Encourages colleges and universities to become more active and involved in military cleanup.



Concerned citizen activists and context experts at a grassroots conference about military toxic waste, San Diego, CA (11/12/00).

MILWASTE/NTEN REGIONAL FOCUS

The *Northeast Federal Facilities Cleanup Workshop (NFFCW)* was convened by the MilWaste Project in 1997. The NFFCW:

- ◆ Brought together over 65 participants from all over the northeast as well as representatives from Colorado, California and Puerto Rico.
- ◆ Facilitated discussions on toxic and nuclear waste cleanup issues ranging from risk assessment to environmental justice and regulatory mandates.
- ◆ Hosted key participants, including a U.S. congressman, a state assistant attorney general and the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for Environment.
- ◆ Helped a variety of different people in useful dialogue: one regulatory official in charge of public participation called it “the best conference [he’d] ever attended;” and a skeptical activist who came to test out the first day stayed throughout the weekend and referred her chemist daughter to the MilWaste Project for advice and help following the event.



Hampshire College professor and students sampling Cooley Brook, which flows through Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts.

MILWASTE/NTEN LOCAL FOCUS

At the local level, MilWaste staff works on the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts. As part of this effort, we attend RAB meetings and work with local professors and their students to research and coordinate class research projects about military environmental pollution. This local experience offers us valuable insight about the practicality of our ideals and informs our regional and national goals, including building the NTEN.

Student Projects: MilWaste continues to collaborate with faculty and students of the Five Colleges (Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst). This collaboration has launched a project to test the waters of Cooley Brook for contamination originating from aircraft deicing practices at Westover. Cooley Brook flows into the Chicopee Reservoir, which area residents use as a popular swimming spot.



*Westover’s Jet Test Stand Area before demolition and cleanup. The site was polluted with jet fuels and solvents, threatening to contaminate adjacent wetlands.**



*Soil sampling begins, and from these tests, cleanup plans are developed (Fall 1997).**



*Based on test results and RAB recommendations, Westover’s contractors excavated potentially contaminated areas behind the former Jet Test Stand due to concerns about contamination.**

*(*Photos courtesy of Montgomery Watson.)*



*The excavated contaminated soil was removed to be treated and the pit left behind was filled with new soil. MilWaste played an important role in mediating and advising the RAB on the cleanup process (Summer/Fall 1998).**

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at WARB: MilWaste helped convene the RAB at Westover. The RAB has now been effectively operating for over six years. Since its inception, MilWaste staff members have been active supporters of local citizen organizations represented on the RAB. With MilWaste assistance and guidance, citizens have had and continue to have a strong voice on the RAB. This has helped lead to successful, efficient cleanups that address the concerns of stakeholders and affected citizens.



Break-out session at a MilWaste conference: small group workshops to discuss and apply lessons learned.

MILWASTE LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Beginning in the summer of 2001, the MilWaste Project will kick off a series of national workshops dedicated to structuring, refining and building the National Technical Experts Network (NTEN) to meet the ongoing needs of current and new members and all those involved in military waste cleanup. The first workshop will be held at Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts, on July 14 & 15, 2001. A special citizens' forum on July 13 will help orient and empower these participants. MilWaste:

- ◆ Promotes military waste cleanup actions that accurately and equitably address impacts to both human health and the environment.
- ◆ Continues to build the technical experts network linking citizens, scientists, non-scientists and technical experts through the NTEN electronic bulletin board.
- ◆ Creates links amongst citizens, colleges, universities, students and professors in the field of military cleanup to embody our vision of citizen-scientists helping communities and their own context-experts.
- ◆ Constantly updates our knowledge and technical information to meet and serve the needs of communities struggling with toxic and nuclear waste pollution.

WHAT IS ISIS?

ISIS is a non-profit science institute founded in 1992 to analyze the influences of history, politics, economics and culture and to incorporate this analysis into the study of science and technology. ISIS works to reconnect scientists with communities so that research is developed collaboratively to address such complex and pressing problems as environmental degradation, economic crises in agriculture and industry, providing effective health care and toxic and nuclear waste disposal. With programs combining technical assistance, coalition-building, education and original research and writing on the foundations of knowledge, ISIS is developing a new way of doing science that is open, self reflexive, democratic and socially responsible. Science and knowledge are crucial to solving today's economic, environmental and social problems.

The definition and solution to these problems are not simple or short-term and require the skills and perspectives of a wide range of participants. ISIS is committed to making science more open, democratic and responsible to and inclusive of people. To that end, we aim to change the way science is defined and how knowledge is produced, acquired and used.

We are concerned with knowledge that is value-explicit and actively works with people. Our approach/process includes community organizing, education and research.

ISIS strives to function as an organization which reflects this philosophy.

SIGN UP NOW:

Citizen, scientist, non-scientist,
technical expert, community activist
and others...

JOIN US, BECOME A PART OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS NETWORK (NTEN) TODAY!

To join the NTEN mailing list or request further information, contact MilWaste Coordinator
Jeanne Stevens at (413) 559-5582. You can also sign up online at our website:
<http://isis.hampshire.edu/mil/application.html>

SIGN UP TO JOIN THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS NETWORK:

Fill in the following form and mail/fax it back to ISIS: 893 West St., Prescott D-1, Amherst, MA 01002.
Fax: (413) 559-5611. You can also sign up online at: <http://isis.hampshire.edu/mil/application.html> or
email the information requested here to: isis@hampshire.edu.

Title (Mr., Ms., Dr., etc.): _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Occupation & Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____ Email address: _____

RAB/CAB/SSAB Member/Participant? yes no

Board Position (please check one): Community Co-Chair Installation Co-Chair

Regulatory Site Manager Installation Restoration Program Member

Concerned Citizen/Non-Member Other (please specify: _____)

Installation Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Please describe your reasons for joining the NTEN: _____
