

City of W.P.  
Lake Druid

## Lake residents: Navy should test our water

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By Katherine Bouma 7-17-97

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

WINTER PARK — The Navy should run tests for potentially cancer-causing chemicals on the residential side of Lake Druid before telling homeowners that they're safe, residents told officials Wednesday night.

"For the contamination to stay on your property or in that little area [of the lake] is kind of ridiculous to figure," said Bethany Arredondo, who said she has lived in the Lake Druid neighborhood all her life. "You put a drop of dye in water, and it doesn't stay where you dropped it. It permeates everywhere."

The Navy Wednesday held its first public meeting on the environmental cleanup of the Orlando Naval Training Center since residents of Lake Druid found out about pollution in their water.

Tests have shown dry cleaning solvents leaking into the lake from contaminated ground water under an old base laundry.

The water is contaminated with perchloroethylene, which is known to cause cancer in animals, and related chemicals. The chemicals are flowing into the undeveloped side of Lake Druid, part of a small Navy-owned piece of land southwest of the main Navy base.

Navy and state environmental officials say the

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# Cleaning lake could run \$3 million

## LAKE from D-1

shallow waters of that side of Lake Druid are unsafe to drink or touch on a daily basis. But for the occasional passerby or residents on the other side of the lake, the Navy says studies have shown no health risk from the chemicals, which evaporate rapidly in water.

Residents at Wednesday's meeting said they use all sides of the lake, which is small enough to swim across. In fact, they said they all know the best fishing is right next to the Navy property.

"I would have appreciated knowing you were testing for potential carcinogens, and I

wouldn't have been out there fishing with my son," said Jeannie Floyd, who has lived on Lake Druid since 1979.

Officials have said they thought that information would have alarmed residents more than it helped, since their studies showed the residents weren't at risk from the pollution.

The tiny Orlando lake is wooded along the edge owned by the Navy and lined with houses and an apartment complex on the other sides.

The Navy has been conducting environmental tests and cleanup on all its Orlando property as it gradually closes the Naval Training Center during the next few

years.

The Navy expects to have a system in place by the fall to clean the ground water before it reaches the lake. The dry-cleaning solvents won't be removed from the lake. That would destroy the wetlands and, with them, the lake's ability to clean itself, Navy and state environmental officials have said.

The cost of cleaning up the ground water and laundry area could run as high as \$3 million, according to the Navy.

Orlando is negotiating with the Navy to buy major portions of the training center, but the Lake Druid property is not expected to be part of that deal.