

RAB Minutes

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

Introduction

The fifty-second Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island/ Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado was held on Wednesday, January 13, 1999, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Carla Fargo, Community Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed RAB members and the public.

RAB Attendance: LaConta Coleman, Carla Fargo, Alice Gimeno, Laura Hunter, John Locke, Bob Logan, Richard Mach, Foster Marshall, Gregory Walker

Public/Navy Attendance: Jerry Bailey, Mark Bonsavage, Stew Bornhoft, Neal Clements, Steve De Young, Stephan Dirtadian, Marilyn Field, CDR Mike Giorgione, Ed Kleeman, Mary Masters, Vivian Mayer, Tracy Mogg, Carol Raykowski, Lee Saunders, Betty Schmucker

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes of the November meeting will be mailed out with the January minutes and approved at the February RAB meeting.

RAB MISSION STATEMENT – Richard Mach

Mr. Mach explained that he would address this issue since Mr. Collins was ill with a serious sinus infection.

The Mission Statement was last revised in 1996. Mr. Mach made some editorial changes, adding in the Naval Amphibious base, and changing the Navy's representative designation to conform to the new regionalization. Mr. Mach asked if any of the RAB members had any additional changes.

Ms. Hunter asked whether the scope of the RAB could be expanded to include ongoing operations and their environmental impact. She told the RAB that she had written a letter from the Environmental Health Coalition to the Commanding Officer of the Base some time ago requesting that the RAB also review pollution prevention activities, and had received a response saying that this was not within the purview of the RAB. Mr. Mach explained that the RABs were set up solely for the Installation Restoration (IR) program. He added that Mike Magee is planning a public day to address current operations and pollution prevention. A discussion followed. Mr. Mach suggested that those RAB members interested in reviewing current operations contact Mike Magee.

Although the RAB expressed an interest in meeting on the same night each month, it was agreed that would be a goal, and not written into the mission statement.

The issue of a quorum was discussed. It is in the original Mission Statement, and there seemed to be

no reason to change it.

Following these discussions, the Mission Statement was approved as revised by Mr. Mach. Ms. Fargo and Mr. Locke signed the Mission Statement. A copy of this is included with this mailing.

SAN DIEGO MUNITIONS PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT – Mark Bonsavage and Steve De Young

Mr. Bonsavage explained that this study covers the entire San Diego Bay area, not just NAS North Island, and that this same presentation will be made to the Naval Station and Naval Training Center RABs. Usually, a preliminary assessment (PA) does not involve community relations, however the Navy decided to get the public involved earlier in this process. He introduced Steve De Young, from Bechtel National, Inc., who presented the data.

Mr. De Young explained that the project is known as "Preliminary Assessment of Munitions in San Diego Bay Primary Ship Channels and the Stennis Home porting Beach Replenishment Areas." The draft work plan was sent out for review in December 1998.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) outlines the various stages required for the Installation Restoration (IR program. First is a PA, followed by a site inspection (SI), then the remedial investigation (RI) and feasibility study (FS). Next is the record of decision (ROD), then the remedial design (RD) and remedial action (RA), which is the design and construction, then operation and maintenance of the clean-up. A removal action can be performed concurrent with any of these phases.

The PA is defined under CERCLA as a limited scope investigation. No environmental sampling is conducted. It involves a review of historic and archival records, photographs, and interviews with those people familiar with past or present facts. The goal of the PA is the identification of sites posing a potential threat to human health and/or the environment, which require further investigation.

The background of this particular project is that the Navy undertook a dredging project in preparation of the Stennis homeporting on NAS North Island. The Navy agreed to use the sand from the dredging to replenish eroding beaches. Del Mar and Mission Beach were two offshore replenishment areas, and Oceanside was an onshore beach replenishment area. In September of 1997, munitions were discovered on the Oceanside beach. Consequently, the Navy performed unexploded ordnance (UXO) warhead surveys and found eleven 20-millimeter (mm) rounds, two 81mm mortar rounds, and two small caliber rifle rounds, all live. The "sweeps" were repeated until March of 1998. Mr. Walker asked about the vintage of the ordnance, and CDR Giorgione told the RAB that markings indicated they were from the 1940's, 1950's and 1980's.

Based on concerns raised by the public and the regulatory agencies, the Navy initiated this PA under the IR program. The PA will cover the primary shipping channels and the areas of beach replenishment. The document review will include a search and review of records, documents and photos from sources such as the Port District, Base command histories, national archives, the Army Corps of Engineers and local scuba diving clubs. Interviews will be conducted with former and current Navy personnel and civilians with knowledge of munitions in the Bay. They will also prepare a pathway and receptor survey, and conduct a community involvement program. This will involve outreach to local officials, residents, public interest groups, regulators and other interested parties, including the RAB. They will prepare fact sheets and possibly conduct public hearings.

The Draft PA Work Plan was issued in December 1998. The review period will end on February 15, 1999. The PA report is scheduled for summer, 1999. Mr. De Young then asked for comments from

the RAB.

Mr. Kleeman asked where the sand containing ordnance was dredged. CDR Giorgione explained that the first piece was from the outer channel, but that the exact location could not be pinpointed since the dredging pattern included several areas. After the discovery of ordnance, screens were used, but another piece was found from sand off Ballast Point near Point Loma. There was a third attempt, but they again found ordnance and ended the sand replenishment project. The remainder of the sand was taken to the LA-5 ocean disposal site. Screens were used for the safety of the dredge operators.

Ms. Hunter suggested including the offshore area off Imperial Beach, and that Naval Station dredge areas and disposal sites should be included in the PA. She referenced a Union Tribune article, which Mr. Mach requested she give a copy of to Mr. Bonsavage. She said it might be necessary to find a way for people to give information for the PA anonymously. She also mentioned a site on the internet, which is a forum about military clean-up around the country, which the Navy agreed to look into. She asked if there was any way to send divers down for further information. Mr. De Young said they have records of communications from the San Diego Association of Divers to the Navy. Mr. Mach asked if Ms. Hunter would include this on the green "Request for Information" form handed out this evening, which she did.

Mr. Kleeman asked if metal detectors were used. Mr. De Young explained that UXO teams used various types of equipment. Mr. Kleeman also mentioned that dredge soil was used to widen the Silver Strand at Delta Beach, and that some of the sand was then moved to the Ocean Beach. He was concerned that ordnance might wind up on city beaches. He also asked about a web site for the bases, and Mr. Saunders explained that each base has its own, but that there is a web site for the RABs and environmental programs. The Navy is looking into ways to link to the Coronado web site.

Ms. Fargo commented that this was a thorough presentation. She asked how the issue was being publicized. Mr. Mach said the Navy normally places legal notices, but the newspapers usually write their own articles. She suggested putting a monthly article in the *Coronado Eagle*, reporting on the RAB meeting, saying it might generate more interest. Mr. Mach added that a discussion on better communication with the City of Coronado would be a good topic during the quarterly team meeting scheduled for January 20th.

SITE 9 FEASIBILITY STUDY – Mary Masters

Ms. Fargo introduced Ms. Masters with the Technical Outreach Services to Communities [TOSC] program at Stanford University who gave a brief history of her involvement with the RAB. Ms. Masters was asked to review the documentation on Site 9. She was at the RAB meeting in May 1998 for the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) presentation by Tamara Niles of EnviroSolutions. In addition, she reviewed the RI and the FS. The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) commented on the FS shortly after the TAPP presentation, and recommended serious revisions. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) also required additional data. Bill Collins told Ms. Masters that treatability work would also be done on the site in support of the FS revisions. Because of this, Ms. Masters felt it would be prudent to delay a major review.

At this point, Ms. Master's opinion on the groundwater situation at Site 9 is that the Navy did an excellent and thorough job in the RI/FS process. It was one of the most thorough studies she has ever seen. She did not agree with the alternative preferred by Ms. Niles in her TAPP presentation, and would have suggested the NoVOCs system, the in-well stripping, and then granular-activated carbon. However, Mr. Mach has informed her of the recent problems with this system.

Ms. Masters says that she can review the treatability studies. She suggested having the regulatory

agencies talk to the RAB about their comments.

Ms. Fargo asked Mr. Mach about the timetable for the treatability studies. He said that, although the regulatory agencies had suggested having everything completed by June of 1999, the date was not feasible. The NoVOCs system was shut down last week. The Navy is trying to set an FS meeting with DTSC and the RWQCB. Mr. Mach said that it would be possible to get Ms. Masters involved in the planning stages, as Ms. Hunter had previously requested for TAPP consultants. Ms. Fargo and Ms. Masters will be invited to the FS review strategy meetings with the regulators.

Ms. Masters had reported last June that she would not be able to work with this RAB if it received a TAPP grant. The EPA has revised its regulations to allow TOSC to work at sites that have TAPP grants, provided that the scopes of work are not the same. This will allow Ms. Masters to continue working with the RAB even if it does receive TAPP funds.

Ms. Masters works with other RABs, and said it was standard practice to have regulators make presentations at RAB meetings, sometimes even before their comments are published. There was some discussion and agreement that the RAB would like a joint presentation from DTSC and RWQB, possibly in March. Rafat Abbasi and Charles Cheng will be asked to make approximately 30-minute presentations (each) at the March meeting. In the meantime, Mr. Mach said he would send out the DTSC and the RWQCB comments on Site 9 in a separate mailing before the next RAB meeting. The Site 9 FS status will be a continual monthly update for the near future.

RAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (RABTAC) STATUS– Laura Hunter

Ms. Hunter hired the RAB's TAPP consultant on Site 1, Ted Henry, to write comments on the Site 1 follow-up. She encouraged RAB members to get involved on the RABTAC. She also mentioned that Dr. Mirat Gurol is still doing the Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) sites. Mr. Bonsavage said that he spoke to Dr. Gurol and that she was not reviewing those sites. Ms. Hunter was unaware of this, stating that she had requested reports and that they had been sent. The Navy sent the reports to Dr. Gurol. Ms. Hunter said she would follow up with Dr. Gurol.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN - Richard Mach

Mr. Mach filled in for Bill Collins, saying that he is aware of comments from Ms. Fargo, Marsha Mingay and the City of Coronado regarding the draft community relations plan. He will contact John Locke to see if there are additional comments. Ms. Mingay says it is one of the best community relations plans she has seen; that it goes well beyond what is required by law and that she only had some very minor comments. Ms. Schmucker of Bechtel added that the final document should be out in the next week or so.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mach mentioned that the Document Summary list is on the back table, and that he will update it again prior to the February meeting. The information in the summary should help the RAB determine whether a TAPP grant is required. The summary also lists the 62 or so documents already reviewed by this RAB since its inception.

He also requested that the RAB members return the requests for technical training forms to him. He reminded the RAB that last month they discussed having more training-oriented presentations.

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Site 9 Feasibility Study update

Site 10

Site 4, 6, 10 Closure Report

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, February 18, 1999

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Wednesday, August 18, 1999

Thursday, September 16, 1999

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Thursday, November 18, 1999