

# **RAB Minutes**

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

## **Introduction**

The fifty-third Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island/ Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado was held on Thursday, February 18, 1999, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Bill Collins, Navy Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed RAB members and the public.

**RAB Attendance:** LaConta Coleman, Bill Collins, Wayne Crawford, Carla Fargo, Alice Gimeno, Laura Hunter, Sandor Kaupp, John Locke, Bob Logan, Richard Mach, Foster Marshall, Larry McCauley

**Public/Navy Attendance:** Mark Bonsavage, Neal Clements, Marilyn Field, Betsy Gill, CDR Mike Giorgione, Ed Kleeman, Mike Magee, Mary Masters, Vivian Mayer, Marnyce McKell, Rick Phillips, Michael Pound, Betty Schmucker, Debbie Wankier

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** The November 1998 minutes were approved. Ms. Hunter had a suggestion for changing the January 1999 minutes, clarifying the dredge areas on page 2. The January 1999 minutes were approved with that change.

## **SITE 9 UPDATE – Bill Collins**

Mr. Collins described the meeting with Ms. Mary Masters from the Technical Outreach Services to Communities (TOSC), Ms. Carla Fargo, the contractors, and the regulators that had taken place earlier that day. They discussed how to finish the clean up of Site 9. It was agreed that the Navy would do a new Feasibility Study (FS) for the site, referring back to data from the previous FS report. The NoVOCs system, free product issues and other new information will be incorporated into the new FS, which will then be presented for public and regulatory review.

The Navy, contractors, regulators, Ms. Masters, and Ms. Fargo will have a day-long meeting in March 3<sup>rd</sup> to determine how to handle the various issues and to set reasonable goals for the site and then search for the technologies that are able to achieve those goals. They will also discuss treatability studies.

The March RAB meeting will be dedicated to Site 9, with presentations by the contractor, the Department of Substances Control (DTSC), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Bechtel will prepare an information sheet for the meeting. The RAB meeting will have to be on a Wednesday to accommodate regulatory schedules. Ms. Hunter also felt it important that Ms. Masters, as the RAB consultant, be at that RAB meeting. Therefore, the March RAB meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> to accommodate everyone's schedule.

## SITE 10 REMEDIAL SHORE INVESTIGATION – Mark Bonsavage

A remedial investigation (RI) was recently completed at this site. In the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, a RI occurs after the preliminary assessment (PA) and the site inspection (SI), once it is known that there is contamination. There are three goals to accomplish in the RI: determine the nature and extent of the contamination; assess human health risk and assess ecological risk.

Mr. Bonsavage gave a description of the site location and summarized the site history. In June of 1995, DTSC found gamma anomalies (low level radiation) in the slag along the shoreline. An emergency removal action took place in July of 1995, where most of the slag material was removed. The Navy followed this removal action by performing an extended RI to address any remaining slag along the shoreline. Using Oak Ridge National Laboratories, through the Department of Energy, to perform the testing, they sampled soil, sediment and groundwater. They then performed an ecological risk screening, and a human health risk screening. Soil samples were found to contain metals at levels, which are classified as hazardous waste. The groundwater showed no elevated levels of radium or metals.

Soil borings were taken all along the inside of the fence at the back of the site. These borings took a continuous core sample of the soil column. Visual observations were used to verify that the entire contaminated slag/ash layer was bounded by the investigation. Based on this site bounding, there are three areas of concern with a total estimated volume of approximately 550 to 1100 cubic yards (CY) of contaminated soil. Mr. McCauley asked how much material was removed during the emergency removal action. Mr. Pound said about 800 CY, and Mr. Collins said that translated into roughly 1 million pounds, adding that a considerable amount of clean beach sand was hauled away as part of that volume.

Mr. Bonsavage showed a sample photograph of the material in question, explaining that there was a smelter on the site at one time, and it would appear that parts were fired but not entirely melted. Mr. Collins pointed out that the character of the slag differs from one side of the pier to the other. This slag consists mostly of huge metal parts, such as machinery and hardware. The slag on the other side of the pier (removed) was metallic, glassy, and broke up easily. These machine parts are not necessarily radioactive, they simply contain heavy metals such as lead, copper, silver, arsenic, chrome and cadmium.

The marine sediment had some detections of metals. There were some minor point sources of the low level radiation slag, which were removed during the investigation. No additional areas were found on the site and radium was only found in the area where the previous removal action was performed.

Mr. Bonsavage explained that for human health risk screening, they always look at a worst-case scenario, based on a person living on the site for 70 years. The calculation of cancer risk for Site 10 was less than 10 to the minus 4, or 1 in 10,000. The screening assessment is a very conservative tool to determine whether a more detailed risk assessment is required. Mr. Pound explained that the National Contingency Plan considers 10 to the minus 6 to be diminimus. The range between 10 to the minus 4 and 10 to the minus 6 is the risk management range, and a decision is made by risk managers as to whether or not further action should be taken. In response to a question from Ms. Hunter, Mr. Bonsavage explained that the only metal bioaccumulated was silver.

Mr. Mach told the RAB that they are already working on a removal action for this site. The contract will be awarded by the end of March, and there should be an Action Memorandum and an Engineering Evaluation/ Cost Analysis (EE/CA) by the fall. Mr. Bonsavage added that after the removal action, they will go in and test to ascertain that all the material has been remediated. Mr. Kaupp asked if there was any relation between the DNAPL plume on Site 9 and this site. He was told

that there is no connection and was shown on the map that it is at least 2000 feet further along the shore.

Mr. Bonsavage is now reviewing the draft RI report from Oak Ridge Laboratories and expects to have a report ready by the end of March. He said it would be available for review on CD-ROM in about May 1999.

#### SITES 4, 6 AND 10 – Richard Mach

Mr. Mach just received the draft Sites 4, 6 and 10 removal action closeout report. In addition to the report, there are 17 boxes of analytical data, all of which is summarized in tables and figures in the report. The closeout report will also be produced on a CD-ROM and be distributed for public and regulatory comment. All the soil contamination was removed from Site 6. All of the PCB-contaminated soil was removed from Site 10, but there continues to be ongoing work at that site (discussed above). Site 4 received all of the consolidated PCB treated soil and has ongoing groundwater monitoring. The closure report will be sent out by the end of March 1999.

#### INFORMATION REPOSITORY – Richard Mach/Betty Schmucker

Mr. Mach recently looked at the RAB information repository at the Coronado library. He said that it was difficult to find a specific document or particular information there. Bechtel set it up originally. Ms. Mayer has simply added new documents to the repository as part of her contract. Therefore, the Navy is going to have Bechtel re-vamp the information repository to make it more user friendly for the RAB and general public.

Ms. Schmucker reviewed a questionnaire to gain feedback from the RAB and public attendees as to what they want from the repository. All of the comments received will be addressed. Below are some of the more substantive comments received during the meeting.

Five people have used the repository, 2 use it monthly and another every 6 months. It is not organized by chronological order or topic. It needs an index. Most RAB members would be happy to use a CD-ROM when it comes to checking out documents.

Regarding a question concerning site summaries and cross-referencing sites and contaminants, Ms. Schmucker explained that most documents have an executive summary in the front. Mr. Kaupp said the summary does not contain the information he looks for when he utilizes the repository. Mr. Collins told the RAB that a new report, addressing every site at NAS North Island, will be available soon. The "Interim Measures Assessment/Current Conditions Report" (IMA/CCR) will summarize each site in 3 pages or less. It will be incorporated into a detailed site management plan. It will be available in printed and CD-ROM formats. Mr. Collins mentioned that this document will cover all hazardous waste sites including some buildings, the Installation Restoration (IR) sites, some underground storage tanks, and some pipelines, which will all be addressed under the IR program.

The consensus was that draft documents should still be available once the final report comes out, as a basis of comparison. This, too, is acceptable in CD-ROM format. Mr. Mach explained that the entire administrative record is now available on 7 CDs. Ms. Hunter asked if comment letters go into the report. Mr. Collins said yes.

Mr. Kaupp also suggested having it organized by site. Mr. Mach pointed out that some removal actions incorporate several sites at a time. Ms. Hunter would prefer that each site have a separate administrative record. While separate administrative records are not feasible, the CD-ROM allows searches by site, which will provide a subset of the administrative record for that site. Mr. Kaupp said it would be useful to dedicate an area for those sites currently under review for public comment,

and perhaps a quarterly update of "hot" documents area.

Ms. Schmucker commented that the library had generously donated two 6-foot shelves, and that there is the possibility of color-coding documents by site as well as by type (technical, RAB, general information, etc.). She also said that sometimes there are documents, which are of general interest, but not directly related to the RAB or to NAS North Island or NAB.

Ms. Hunter would like some kind of primer on contaminants, treatment, etc. She also said that a history of each site would be helpful. Mr. Mach informed the RAB that much of the basic information is on the EPA web site. He also mentioned the training video for the RAB, which discusses CERCLA.

Ms. Schmucker said that they are considering getting a computer with a CD-ROM drive for the RAB repository. The goal is to have the information repository re-vamped incorporating these comments by the April 1999 RAB meeting.

#### RESULTS OF TRAINING QUESTIONNAIRE – Richard Mach

Mr. Mach only received one completed questionnaire, from Mr. Coleman. He asked the other RAB members to fill it out now, and said that he would have a handout available for the next meeting.

#### RAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE – Laura Hunter

Ms. Hunter and Mr. McCauley met. They recommend applying for a grant for all of NAB, particularly since Dr. Gurol said there were too many documents to review without receiving payment. She and her students could be the contractor. Ms. Hunter and Mr. McCauley also recommend applying for a TAPP grant for Site 5 on NAS North Island. There was no objection from any of the RAB members, so Ms. Hunter and Mr. McCauley will draft the documents and submit them to the Navy. She hoped they could get that done by the next RAB meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mach explained that he added several things to the document summary, including the Site 10 removal action, and the Site 5 removal action, and the San Diego Bay munitions PA.

Ms. Hunter announced that the Environmental Health Coalition hired Ted Henry, the RAB's TAPP consultant, to look at the unexploded ordnance (UXO). They have also hired a pollution prevention consultant, and she will share that information with the RAB as well.

Mr. Magee said that the Navy Environmental Leadership Program (NELP) bulletin for December had clean up as the subject and was available on the back table.

#### AGENDA ITEMS

The March meeting will be dedicated to Site 9.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Wednesday, March 31, 1999**

**Thursday, April 15, 1999 (will likely be re-scheduled for later in the month)**

**Thursday, May 20, 1999**

**Wednesday, June 16, 1999**

**Wednesday, August 11, 1999 (note date change)**

**Thursday, September 16, 1999**

**Thursday, October 21, 1999**

**Thursday, November 18, 1999**