

# **RAB Minutes**

**NAS North Island**

**Restoration Advisory Board**

**CTO-057**

**Subject: RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 19, 1995**

The sixteenth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Wednesday, July 19, 1995 in the Winn Room at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.

Mr. Arno Bernardo, Navy Co-Chair for the NAS North Island RAB, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Bernardo began the meeting with a brief outline of the evening's key topics: a presentation on the emergency removal action of shoreline slag near Installation Restoration Site 10; an update on the status of sampling at the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9); and an update on the status of the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for Site 9 and 11.

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes from the June 13, 1995 RAB Meeting**

The June 13, 1995 RAB meeting minutes were accepted and approved with one amendment to line three of the second bullet on page three. Ms. Avery should read Ms. Lavery.

## **Presentation on the Shoreline Slag Emergency Removal Action near Installation Restoration Site 10**

Mr. Mike Magee, Installation Restoration (IR) Program Manager at NAS North Island, described the new emergency removal action near Site 10.

- Prior to explaining the emergency removal action, Mr. Magee provided background on the activities at Site 10 that led to the emergency removal action. An Initial Assessment Study (IAS) conducted in 1983 identified both the IR Sites and smelting operations at the base. Through data collected in the IAS, it was determined that smelting operations occurred at the base from 1943 - 1967. Further, the IAS identified slag that had been disposed of along the shoreline near Site 10.
- In response to his review of the Site 10 Technical Memorandum, which further identifies the former slag operation near the site, Mr. Joe Zarnoch, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), requested Hydropunch™ sampling be performed near the shoreline, immediately upgradient of the slag to characterize groundwater quality.
- After the Hydropunch™ sampling was completed, Mr. Zarnoch visited the site with a scintillation detector. Readings taken from the device indicated that the radiation in the slag was at approximately four times NAS North Island background levels. In response to the above-background level readings, Ms. Kimberly Wheeler, Remedial Project Manager with Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command (SWDIV), sent Bechtel National Incorporated (BNI) to the site to conduct confirmation sampling and monitoring of the area. Because the

sampling and monitoring confirmed above background levels of the contaminant of concern, Ms. Wheeler took immediate action and contacted the Navy's Radiological Affairs Support Office (RASO) to assist in the matter. The representatives from RASO responded by coming to the base to provide oversight and assistance on the project.

- After reviewing the data and analyses from the slag sampling, it was decided that an emergency removal action would be implemented at the site. The emergency removal action will serve to remove slag material containing radio-luminescent sources and heavy metals of concern on the shore and in the water near Site 10.
- Ms. Carol Fenner, BNI, added that groundwater samples were taken at the site with Hydropunch™ sampling equipment. Analytical results from the samples showed the presence of low levels of beryllium in groundwater immediately upgradient of the slag.
- In response to a RAB member question, Mr. Magee stated that the slag appears as two outcrops, each totaling about 40 by 20 feet in width and length. Although the depth of the slag is currently unknown, it will be determined by utilizing a slant boring test in the area around the slag. The slant boring method can also be used to take samples under the slag.
- In response to another RAB member question, the method for removal of the slag was described. In order to prevent migration of any materials into the Bay, a silt curtain will be used. A large crane will be used to do the actual removal. The silt curtain and crane were designed to work together to control movement of any suspended particles during dredging/removal operations.
- RAB member Clay Kordahl inquired about the threat of the ionizing radiation that has been detected at the site. Dr. Lino Fragoso, a representative of RASO, responded to Mr. Kordahl's question and stated that the radiation is not a serious threat. Very small pockets of the radio-luminescent material have been detected, but it is not leaching into the Bay. In fact, Mr. Fragoso stated that there is no evidence that the material is leaching outside of the slag. He added that sampling will be conducted throughout the removal process to compare the state of the water before, during, and after the removal.
- Mr. Magee stated that the public comment period for the documentation associated with the expedited or emergency removal action will occur after the removal begins taking place. He explained that due to the threat of immediate potential risk at the site, the removal precedes the documentation in emergency removal actions. The emergency removal action is tentatively scheduled to begin Monday, July 24, 1995.

#### **Update on the Status of Sampling at the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9)**

Mr. Bill Collins, NAS North Island Team Leader for SWDIV, provided an update on the status of sampling at Site 9.

- Mr. Collins explained that samples taken at on-site wells determined that the groundwater surrounding the wells was contaminated. These reference wells, located 100 to 300 feet away from San Diego Bay, also determined the need for further investigation into possible leakage of contamination into the Bay. Thus, it was decided by SWDIV, with concurrence from the DTSC and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, to sample the wells again to confirm the contamination. After samples confirmed contamination, it was decided that probes would be placed into the ground to determine if gases were coming off the area. On July 10, Petrex passive soil gas sampling devices were placed on the shore-side of the area of concern. The Petrex system will be testing for volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and other

chemicals that would normally be found at the site.

- Mr. Collins stated that seepage meters will be placed at the bottom of the Bay to determine if there is a flow of water into the Bay from the base. After the sampling processes associated with the passive soil gas device and the seepage meters are completed, SWDIV will meet with DTSC to determine if there is a need for additional deeper samples.
- Mr. Collins distributed the anticipated field schedule for the passive soil gas survey. It is anticipated that the survey will be complete October 3, 1995.

#### **Status of Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and Action Memorandum for Sites 9 and 11**

Mr. Richard Mach provided a brief overview of the status of the EE/CA and Action Memorandum for the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9) and the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (Site 11).

- The EE/CA and Action Memorandum for the two sites has been finalized and is currently undergoing a 30-day public/regulator review and comment period. The review period is scheduled to close August 14, 1995.
- Mr. Mach indicated that a slight modification was made to the EE/CA and Action Memorandum since the draft copy underwent a review; the EE/CA is now an attachment to the Action Memorandum. The single document is titled an Action Memorandum/Removal Action Workplan (AM/RAW). The only other minor change to the document was the addition of several legal citations to state where the State requirements of the RAW are met.

#### **Update on RAB Member Review of Op/Ed**

Discussion tabled until August 24, 1995 RAB meeting.

#### **Update on Access to Internet**

Mr. Mike Magee provided an update on Internet access to free information. Mr. Magee noted that before those present can access the Internet, they must join a computer service that is on-line with the Internet.

- Mr. Magee stated that there are many environmental resources available on the Internet. He described in detail an environmental engineering discussion group and the CAREERPRO e-mail list. Through the environmental engineering discussion group or e-mail list, one can access technical information or general overviews of various types of engineering. The CAREERPRO e-mail list is designed to be a non-partisan and open discussion addressing the issues surrounding military base closure, cleanup, and conversion. RAB members, DoD personnel, and community members participate in CAREERPRO discussions.
- Mr. Magee introduced Mr. Lee Saunders, Environmental Public Affairs Officer for SWDIV, to discuss the environmental World Wide Web (WWW) page that has been created for the Environmental Department at SWDIV (<http://ivory.nosc.mil/.saundel/default.html>). The purpose of this page is to offer an alternative method by which one can access information related to environmental cleanup issues. The e-mail address for Navy Environmental is URL: <http://enviro.navy.mil>. Mr. Saunders' e-mail address is [lhsaunders@efdswest.navfac.navy.mil](mailto:lhsaunders@efdswest.navfac.navy.mil). Mr. Saunders invited those present to communicate any problems they have or input regarding the environmental WWW page directly to him via e-mail or the telephone.

### **General and Closing Questions and Answers/Comments**

- Mr. Mach distributed a new, reformatted document review status sheet. Changes to the status sheet are the addition of an acronym list and the inclusion of the NAS North Island Remedial Project Managers' initials by the project they manage.
- Mr. Mach reminded RAB members and others present of the poster boards being displayed in the meeting room. Mr. Mach invited RAB member input on the current poster boards and suggestions for future poster boards.
- Mr. Mach reminded RAB members to come to RAB meetings held at the Winn Room 30 minutes early to assist with the set-up of the meeting room.
- Mr. Mach discussed an alternative technology meeting that was held on July 12, 1995. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various technologies for possible use in the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) removal action at the Public Works Salvage Yard (Site 4), the Seaview Heritage Park Public Works Yard (Site 6), and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (Site 10). Technologies discussed at the meeting include treating PCB residuals on-site by utilizing the last portion of the base catalyzed decomposition process (BCDP). The back end of the BCDP, the Stirred Tank Reactor (STR), could potentially be used on-site to destroy the PCB residuals. The logistics, cost, and regulatory requirements for the potential use of the STR are currently under review and there will be more to follow.

Mr. Bernardo adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

[The next RAB meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 1995 at the Coronado Public Library in the Winn Room. The September 14, 1995 RAB meeting will be held at the same location.]