

RAB Minutes

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

Introduction

The forty-eighth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Thursday, August 20, 1998, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Mike Magee, substituting for Arno Bernardo, Navy Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed RAB members and the public. Laura Hunter, who is the interim Community Co-Chair, was unable to attend. Carla Fargo will step in as acting Community Co-Chair this evening. Mr. Magee introduced Stephan Dirtadian, Environmental Director of the Submarine Base in Point Loma. As the regionalization process progresses, Mr. Dirtadian will become more involved in the installation restoration (IR) process. Mr. Magee requested that all those in attendance introduce themselves and they did so.

RAB Attendance: LaConta Coleman, Carla Fargo, Alice Gimeno, Bob Logan, Richard Mach, Marsha Mingay, Gregory Walker

Public/Navy Attendance: Roger Argus, Jerry Bailey, Rick Basinet, Douglas Bautista, Charles Bolz, Mark Bonsavage, Merry Coon, Bill Collins, David DeMars, Stephan Dirtadian, Cdr. Mike Giorgione, Lori Haun, Mike Magee, Vivian Mayer, Dan McCullar, Ray Mello, Ken Mitchell, Tracy Mogg, Scott Morris, Rick Phillips, Rey Ringor, Betty Schmucker

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF COMMUNITY CO-CHAIR: There did not appear to be a quorum. Mr. Magee asked for nominations but none were tendered. The election was tabled until the September RAB meeting. Cdr. Giorgione asked about the requirements for Community Co-Chair, and Mr. Magee explained that the only requirement to become the Community Co-Chair is to be a member of the RAB. Later in the meeting, he read from the RAB Charter:

"Duties for the Community Co-Chair include, but are not limited to, ensuring membership participation in an open and constructive manner concerning the community issues and concerns related to cleanup are brought to the table; coordinating, preparing and distributing the meeting agenda with the Navy Co-Chair; assisting in the dissemination of information; and alternative the chairing of the meeting with the Navy Co-Chair."

Mr. Magee said that Vivian Mayer, the meeting planner for the NAS North Island RAB, prepares and distributes the agenda and the meeting minutes, making the administrative duties of the Community Co-Chair minimal. He encouraged the newer members of the RAB to consider the position, explaining that the effort involved was little more than being a regular RAB member.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 13, 1998 AND JUNE 18, MEETINGS: The

minutes were approved. Mr. Mach said that a quorum was not required for minutes approval.

NAS NORTH ISLAND SITES 9 AND 11 SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION REMOVAL ACTION UPDATE - Richard Mach

This was a non-time critical removal action. This means that the planning period is longer than six months. The goal of the removal action was to reduce the risk of the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the surface to the groundwater level. In addition, the upper aquifer groundwater was treated with a combination of air sparging and air injection to prevent recontamination.

The Site 11 removal is complete. The SVE system operated from August 1996 through March 1997. The system was then shut off and rebound testing was done. Since the contamination did not rebound, the system was shut down. The infrastructure (wells, piping, etc.) remains, but the treatment system was removed. The closure report is being written at this time, and the final report should be out on September 14th. At that time it will go out for public and regulatory review.

Site 9 has continuing operation. It took longer to complete construction and installation of the treatment system, and clean up began at about the same time the Site 11 clean up ended. The site is next to the Weapons compound. This required field construction work to occur only when weapons evolutions were not occurring. This necessitated a lot of night work and other delays in the system construction. Approximately 40 horizontal wells are removing VOCs. The output from all but 3 wells are now reduced to asymptotic levels. Free product was found floating in some wells adjacent to these three hot wells. After gaining approval from the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), air injection was added into and below the free product. The added air injection has seen the return of the methane problem. This methane problem existed before, and next week an analyzer that differentiates methane emissions from VOC emissions will be reinstalled. The hope is that the enhanced air injection will allow cleanup to be completed in about 3 months.

There was a question about solvent being recycled at the last meeting, when Mr. Mach was absent. Mr. Mach told the RAB that the solvent is not recyclable because it has a mixture of many VOCs, including petroleum. It is shipped to Chemical Waste Management in northern California and from there by rail to Port Arthur, Texas where it is incinerated.

Ms. Fargo asked what was causing the new methane. Mr. Mach replied that they were uncertain about the cause; that methane is an anaerobic biodegradation product. The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) is not concerned about the methane level being emitted, since there are no fire or explosion hazards. The limit on non-methane VOC emissions is 25 parts per million (ppm) and once that level is reached, the treatment switches to the other carbon beds. When methane levels are high, they are unable to remove as much volume of contaminants.

NAS NORTH ISLAND SITES 2 AND 9 LOW LEVEL RADIATION REMOVAL ACTION – Richard Mach

This is a time-critical removal action for low-level radioactive waste. Site 9 housed a storage area for low-level radioactive waste. Site 2 was a landfill. During a radiation scan of the landfill, there were some elevated radiation levels. This appears to be from radium dials.

The proposed remediation will involve excavating the contaminated soil, packaging it into drums and roll-off bins and then hauling it off-site for disposal. The Draft Action Memorandum was out for review from the public and regulators during May and June. The comments have been incorporated and the Action Memorandum has been finalized and sent out for a final 30-day review. There are two copies in the NAS North Island information repository at the Coronado Library. Although there is no formal requirement, the Work Plan was sent out for review from August 1st to 31st and there

are 4 or 5 copies in the library repository as well. DTSC has received the information necessary to perform their California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) evaluation. Once that has been completed, it will get out for a 30-day review, after which time the fieldwork will begin. OHM, the contractor for this cleanup, will dig up the soil and containerize it. The Army is the approved low-level radioactive waste disposal agency. The fieldwork should take about one month. Mr. Mach was not sure how long it would take for the Army to remove the soil off-site.

There were no questions. Mr. Mach informed the RAB that he had prepared an updated summary of documents that are out for review right now, those that are planned for future review, and those that have been reviewed by the RAB over the past four years.

NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE SITE 6 MARINA REMOVAL ACTION – David DeMars

The NAB Marina is located approximately 2 miles south of the main base, down the Silver Strand in an enclave called Fiddler's Cove. The marina is owned and operated by the Navy and has been operating since approximately the early 1970's. There are approximately 500 docking spaces for small recreational boats. Until 1993, there were two boat railways, allowing people to haul boats out of the water. Light maintenance work used to be performed here, activities such as hydroblasting, power sanding, and repainting, and the paint chips from marine paints and coatings would fly into the sand. These activities took place in a rather small area, approximately 1200 square yards.

In 1991, San Diego County conducted a routine environmental compliance inspection. Having observed the maintenance work in progress, the County requested that the Navy take soil samples and screen them for hazardous waste. In 1994, Brown & Caldwell performed an extensive soil study, putting in 47 soil borings and taking more than 150 samples at and around the site. In April 1996, OHM put 5 borings into the groundwater to measure contamination. The contaminants of concern in the soil were four metals – arsenic, lead, copper and tributyltin (a man-made organic tin compound used in marine paints and coatings). The groundwater showed hits of copper and tributyltin.

A streamlined risk evaluation for both human health and ecological risk was done, as part of the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA). Arsenic is the only cancer-causing agent among the four metals, and the risk formulas yielded a result within the acceptable range. The lead screening also came back lower than action level. However, when the combination of arsenic, copper and tributyltin was tested, the non-carcinogenic level was exceeded. The ecological risk survey showed that marine invertebrates and fish could be at risk, primarily because of the tributyltin, which is extremely toxic to marine life, even in very small quantity.

The Navy decided to proceed with a removal action, based on the ecological risk. The human health risk alone would not have necessitated a removal action, or at most a very limited action. The removal action is being done to prevent the migration of the chemicals of concern, particularly tributyltin, from the soil into the bay.

The EE/CA summarizes the site characteristics, describes the removal action alternatives (5 in this case) and does an analysis for each alternative. The first alternative is no action, which is always included for comparison. Next is excavating only the hot spots and disposing the soil, and then covering the entire site with an asphalt cap. The third option is completely excavating the soil down to cleanup goals, disposing of it off-site and then backfilling. The fourth alternative would be excavating the soil, treating it on-site and then using it in an asphalt mix to be used on base or to sell to an asphalt company. The final alternative was to excavate and treat the soil on-site with a soil washing technique and then putting the soil back in place.

The EE/CA will be sent to the library, and should be officially available for public review next week. The CEQA documentation will be also be placed in the library. There will be a concurrent 30-day

public review period. Once the Navy responds to comments, it will distribute the Action Memorandum, and then the Removal Action Work Plan for review and comment. They will then do the fieldwork, probably in October and November.

Ms. Fargo asked how the cost of offsite removal compares to treating the soil on-site and then selling it. Mr. DeMars said it was very close. The Navy was concerned that since the goals for tributyltin had been set so low, it was unclear whether they could be achieved with on-site treatment. Mr. Walker inquired about the cost, and was told it was approximately \$600,000 for excavation and disposal of 560 cubic yards of soil. Hot spots alone are approximately 160 cubic yards. This approach would have required institutional controls and restricted land use.

NAB SITES 2 AND 4 – Dave DeMars

Site 2 is the old refuse disposal and burn area. Scrap metal and other types of debris were buried. Site 4 is the old sandblast grit disposal area. Prior to 1985, when the new maintenance facility was built, barges and large craft were worked on in this area which was capped and asphalted even at that time. The Extended Site Inspection (ESI) report, the draft of which was written in June of 1996, is about to be finalized, probably in November. Comments are still welcome.

The Navy and DTSC and the Water Board are working on a solution. The issue is whether to leave it as is, since there is no chance of exposure, or to dig it up. Neither seems entirely reasonable.

Mr. Magee informed the RAB that Mr. DeMars would be leaving to work at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro. He has been involved in several innovative technology demonstrations at NAS North Island. He will be missed. Mr. DeMars said he had enjoyed his work with the RAB.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

At the last RAB meeting, Ms. Hunter mentioned that she would like RAB to deal with other issues such as pollution prevention. Mr. Magee said the RAB charter clearly states that the RAB work only with the IR program. He referred to the list of documents Mr. Mach prepared, and said with the inclusion of NAB Coronado, the RAB has a lot to do. He did bring some printed information on the Navy's efforts in the area of pollution prevention.

Ms. Fargo asked if there could be a brief presentation on preventative measures now being implemented. Mr. Magee replied that an open house on NAS North Island is being planned for some time during the fall or winter and the subject will be covered then.

AGENDA ITEMS

September:

Update on Navy's regionalization process – Arno Bernardo

Site 9 – Bill Collins

TAPP subcommittee – Laura Hunter

Site 11 – Richard Mach

Site 4, 6, 10 September/October

October:

TOSC presentation - Mary Masters (this may not work with tour and may be moved to November)

Tour

FUTURE RAB MEETINGS

Next meeting: Thursday, September 24, 1998

Saturday, October 17, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. for a tour

Thursday, November 19, 1998

Wednesday, January 13, 1999

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.