

# **RAB Minutes**

## **NAS North Island**

### **Restoration Advisory Board**

**CTO-057**

**Subject: RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 24, 1995**

The seventeenth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Thursday, August 24, 1995 in the Winn Room at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Dottie Marron, Community Co-Chair for the NAS North Island RAB, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Marron began the meeting with a brief outline of the evening's key topics: an update on the status of the shoreline slag emergency removal action near the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (Site 10); an overview of the removal action at the Old Spanish Bight Landfill (Site 2); a discussion of comments on the Action Memorandum/Removal Action Workplan at the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9) and the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (Site 11); an update on the preliminary sampling at the Site 9; and an update on the Op/Ed piece.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes from the July 19, 1995 RAB Meeting**

The July 19, 1995 RAB meeting minutes were accepted, with one abstention, and approved with one amendment to lines three, four and five of the third bullet on page one. The third bullet now reads:

- 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 several areas of 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 done by BNI identified one additional area reading 800 times background levels of the contaminant of concern in the same area, 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.

### **Update on the Status of the Shoreline Slag Emergency Removal Action Near the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (Site 10)**

Ms. Kimberly Wheeler, Remedial Project Manager with Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command (SWDIV), provided an update on the status of the shoreline slag emergency removal action near Site 10. Ms. Wheeler also introduced Dr. Lino Fragoso from the Navy's Radiological Affairs Support Office (RASO). Dr. Fragoso is providing oversight on the emergency removal action.

- Ms. Wheeler stated that the slag is located just south of Pier Echo near Site 10. The slag appears as

two outcroppings, each totaling 40 by 20 feet in width and length. Although the depth of the slag was unknown initially, it was known that it is submerged during high tide.

- Ms. Wheeler described the roles and responsibilities of the key organizations involved in this project. Key organizations are: NAS North Island; SWDIV; RASO; Army Industrial Operations Command; the Restoration Advisory Board; the Department of Toxic Substances Control; the California Department of Health Services - Radiological Branch; Allied Technology Group; and OHM Remediation Services.
- Ms. Wheeler reviewed the schedule of events related to the emergency removal action. Key dates in the removal include the following: removal began June 22 with the initial discovery of the slag by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC); a crew from Allied Technology Group conducted the Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) between July 1 and July 11; the excavation of the slag began on July 27 and was completed on August 7; confirmation sampling of the slag was conducted between August 11 and 18; and between August 21 and 23, the contractor OHM mobilized to install an embankment to prevent further erosion and exposed slag. (Ms. Wheeler also noted that the purpose of the RSE was to determine if any radioactive releases occurred in the area surrounding the slag. The evaluation determined that no releases occurred.)
- Ms. Wheeler stated that confirmation sampling was conducted at the site after the removal action was complete. The sampling utilized seven 50- by 50-foot grids. Each grid section was randomly sampled for heavy metals and radiation.
- Currently, the Draft Action Memorandum is being prepared. It will serve as the follow-up documentation required in emergency removal actions and will be available for public and regulatory review by September 14, 1995 (the date of the next RAB meeting).
- In response to a RAB member question, Ms. Wheeler replied that the boundaries of the slag have not yet been identified. Ms. Wheeler stated that in order to answer questions like these, SWDIV plans to further characterize the area through interviews and investigations about the history of the smelting operations and the waste from those operations that produced the slag.

#### **Discussion of Comments on the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and Action Memorandum at the Old Spanish Bight Landfill (Site 2)**

Ms. Wheeler provided an update on the activity at Site 2 and discussed the comments on the EE/CA and Action Memorandum for Site 2.

- Ms. Wheeler stated that previously undetected radium was found at Site 2. DTSC and Bechtel National Incorporated identified two anomalies, contaminated sources that are above background levels, at the site. The first source was found in the exposed outcrop. Using a gamma scintillation detector, it was determined that the first source was a factor of 10 above background levels. More specifically, the source was at 100,000 counts per minute of gamma and background is 9,000 counts per minute. There was, however, no transferable alpha radiation at the first source. The second smaller anomaly was a small piece of corroded aggregate in the soil pile that was stockpiled next to the landfill at Site 2. The gamma count of the second source was 70,000 counts per minute and the transferable alpha count was 100 counts per minute. Isotopic analysis of the anomaly determined that it is Radium 226.  
Ms. Wheeler emphasized that these findings will not affect the removal action for Site 2; however, the contractor OHM will now be conducting radiation air monitoring and surveying at Site 2 due to the findings.
- Ms. Wheeler received comments from DTSC on the EE/CA and Action Memorandum for Site 2.

DTSC requested to see the radiation analysis of the groundwater prior to the beginning of the non-time critical removal action.

- Ms. Wheeler indicated that the results of the groundwater and dioxin sampling at the site are expected at the end of September.
- Ms. Wheeler stated that although the Action Memorandum has not been signed off by the Commanding Officer of NAS North Island, the contractor OHM is currently preparing the work plan which will detail the method by which the non-time critical removal action will be implemented at the site. The workplan will be available for 30-day public review and comment at the September 14 RAB meeting.

### **Discussion of Comments on the Action Memorandum/Removal Action Workplan at the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9) and the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (Site 11).**

Mr. Richard Mach provided a brief overview of the comments received on the EE/CA and Action Memorandum for the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9) and the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (Site 11). The comment period closed on August 14, 1995.

- Mr. Mach stated that Mr. Joe Zarnoch, Project Manager with DTSC, requested an extension of the 30-day comment period due to the differences between the State of California and Federal Regulations regarding how the document should be prepared. Mr. Mach will grant Mr. Zarnoch the extension for an additional 30-day review period.
- Mr. Mach explained that DTSC has requested that a Removal Action Plan (RAP) be written for Site 11 rather than a Removal Action Workplan (RAW). SWDIV prefers that a RAW be written because it, unlike a RAP that follows the National Contingency Plan guidance, is more in accordance with removal actions. DTSC and SWDIV are currently in negotiations regarding the exact requirements for a RAP as opposed to a RAW, and whether or not the EE/CA and Action Memorandum for Sites 9 and 11 are equivalent to a RAP.
- Mr. Mach described the options available to SWDIV and DTSC: DTSC can accept the EE/CA and Action Memorandum for the two sites as equivalent to a RAP, or DTSC can give SWDIV additional requirements for revising the action memorandum.
- Mr. Mach explained that if DTSC requires revisions from SWDIV, SWDIV will investigate both the cost of the revisions and the potential for setting a precedent if a RAP is written. If it is determined that the work done under a RAP is precedent setting, Site 11 will most likely be dropped from the removal action. In this case, the currently scheduled removal action will continue on Site 9 only. A remedial action will occur at Site 11 after a feasibility study, a record of decision, and the remedial design is complete for the site. If SWDIV decides to move forward with a remedial action at Site 11, it will occur in approximately 1997 or 1998 after everything else is complete at the site.

### **Update on Preliminary Results of Sampling at Site 9**

Ms. Sue Johnson, Jacobs Engineering Group (JEG), provided an overview of the preliminary results of the sampling done at Site 9.

- Ms. Johnson stated that a passive soil gas survey was conducted along the shoreline of Site 9 in the first week of August. The purpose of the survey was to look for plumes of contaminated groundwater that could be traced out into the bay. Findings of the survey indicate that there is a

plume along the shoreline that is closer to the bay than those conducting the survey had previously thought. The survey did not determine, however, if the plume is seeping into the bay. In order to further analyze the plume, a gridline was placed atop the entire plume along the shoreline of Site 9. The gridline was placed 100 feet into the bay and along the full 1000 feet of the shoreline.

- A seepage test was also conducted at the site to determine discharge rates. The test did not provide further insight into the state of the shoreline.
- JEG will return to the site during the week of August 28 to collect additional data, including soil gas data and plume constituents. The results of the bay sampling are expected on October 6, 1995.

#### **Update on Op/Ed Piece**

- It was decided by those present that Ms. Laura Hunter, RAB member, and Ms. Marron will work together to update the previously written Op/Ed piece in light of recent events affecting the Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) system.

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

- Mr. Mach distributed an updated document review status sheet. NAS North Island's Pollution Prevention Plan has been added to the status sheet. The plan has been placed in the NAS North Island Information Repository and is currently available for public review. The review period will close October 31, 1995.
- Mr. Mach announced that International Technology (IT) Corporation is working on Fact Sheet #6. The topic of the fact sheet is the non-time critical removal action at Sites 4 (Public Works Salvage Yard), 6 (Seaview Heritage Park Public Works Salvage Yard), and 10 (Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office). It is expected that the fact sheet will be available in the middle or end of September 1995.
- Mr. Mach also announced the Sites 4, 6, and 10 Visitor's Day tentatively scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 1995.
- Ms. Hunter, Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), announced the September 8, 1995 "Alternatives to Risk Assessment" Workshop hosted by EHC. The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Aztec Center on the San Diego State University Campus.
- Ms. Cynthia Bradbury, RAB member, announced the scheduled tour of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk. The tour will be held Saturday, August 26, 1995.

Ms. Marron adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

[The next RAB meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 1995 at the Coronado Public Library in the Winn Room. The October 18, 1995 RAB meeting will be held at the same location.]