

RAB Minutes

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

Introduction

The forty-ninth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Thursday, September 24, 1998, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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

RAB Attendance: Arno Bernardo, LaConta Coleman, Laura Hunter, Bob Logan, Foster Marshall, Larry McCauley, Marsha Mingay, Art Van Rooy, Gregory Walker

Public/Navy Attendance: Mark Bonsavage, Neal Clements, Bill Collins, Raymond Corral, Stephan Dertadian, Marc Hale, Ed Kleeman, Craig Little, John Locke, Mike Magee, Vivian Mayer, Dan McCullar, Scott Morris, David Valley

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Walker moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 1998 meeting. Mr. McCauley seconded, and the minutes were approved.

COMMUNITY CO-CHAIR ELECTION – Arno Bernardo

Ms. Hunter, who is now serving as interim Community Co-Chair, suggested that the RAB wait until the November meeting and elect a new chair at that time, giving the newer RAB members an opportunity to feel more comfortable.

Foster Marshall inquired about the status of his RAB application. He attended the April meeting, and his name was inadvertently left out of the RAB membership list. Mr. Walker moved that Mr. Marshall be accepted as a RAB member, and Ms. Hunter seconded. The motion passed. The Community Co-Chair election was tabled until November.

Mr. Bernardo requested that everybody introduce themselves. He also asked Ms. Mayer to update the roster of RAB members and distribute it.

Ms. Mingay volunteered to contact the RAB members before the next meeting to see who would be attending the site tour on October 17, 1998.

REGIONALIZATION – Arno Bernardo

Mr. Bernardo explained that the purpose of regionalization is to make the most of reduced resources and to standardize the way the Navy functions. The environmental program managers met recently

to determine the best organizational structure for their operations.

COMNAVBASE is the command for California and sections of Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. Instead of each base being "owned" by its Commanding Officer (CO), ownership of the land will now be in the hands of COMNAVBASE. Mr. Bernardo displayed an organizational chart,

Mr. Bernardo introduced John Locke, who will be the COMNAVBASE representative for the Installation Restoration (IR) program, for NAS North Island. Mr. Bernardo, as Environmental Support Office Manager, will manage resources, pollution prevention and the NELP program. Stephan Dirtadian is the environmental manager responsible for the water program, and Mr. Locke's supervisor. Generally, the compliance section of the site team will handle day-to-day issues. John Locke informed the RAB that he worked on IR at NAS North Island until 1993. He can be reached at 532-2255. Arno Bernardo should still be available next month.

Mr. Marshall asked where health care fits in the organizational chart. Mr. Bernardo explained that it would fall under the Assistant Chief of Staff (ACOS) and the safety people. Ms. Mingay asked for a quick review of the chain of command for Mr. Locke and Mr. Collins. Ms. Hunter requested an organizational chart with a list of names and telephone numbers, and Mr. Bernardo agreed. Ms. Mayer will include it in the next RAB mailing.

Responding to questions from Mr. Kleeman, Mr. Bernardo said that the members of the compliance team are the "go to" people; if they are unable to help immediately, if a project is required, the water program takes over. Regional services handle the planning, studies and the like. Mr. Collins will take over as Interim Navy Co-Chair of the RAB. The Commanding Officer (CO) is officially the Navy Co-Chair, but he can delegate that duty to someone else. Mr. Bernardo assured the RAB that the objective was to make the transition seamless, that the relationship with Southwest Division (SWDIV) would remain the same. Mr. Locke would only need to get involved if there were complex issues to be resolved.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (TAPP) – Laura Hunter

Ms. Hunter has been unable to work on the subcommittee application, and will not be available to do so until November. She expects to convene a RAB TAPP meeting in November. If anyone else would care to chair the subcommittee, they are welcome to do so.

Mary Masters, the TOSC consultant, will be making a presentation to the RAB in November. She is now reviewing the Site 9 feasibility study and the comments. Dr. Mirat Gurol, from San Diego State University, is reviewing documents from the Naval Amphibious Base.

NAS NORTH ISLAND SITE 9 GROUNDWATER AND BAY SAMPLING – Bill Collins

This 38-acre site is over by Weapons. From the 1950's to the 1970's, it was a dump for hazardous waste. Sometimes the chemicals dumped were incompatible with one another and would catch fire. The site was often referred to as the "fiery marsh". Later, trenches were dug, the waste was segregated, and the fires ceased. The use of the dump terminated in the 1970's. However, the pits were not lined and chemicals leaked out the bottom into the sediment. On the south side of the road, people would occasionally dump things. There is also a small area, 40' X 40', which was used as a temporary storage area for low-level radioactive waste before it was shipped to the Naval Air Station in Oakland.

Investigation of this site started in the mid-1980's, and has continued to the present. Four wells in each of four groups (deep, not-so-deep, etc.) were put on the downstream side to monitor chemicals in the groundwater. This past year, additional wells were installed and porewater was sampled in the

Bay. It appears that the contaminants have been wicked toward the bay. Contamination has increased, up to 3000%, from March of 1995 to May of 1998. The only explanation is leakage from the bottom of the well to the top. The wells which breach a thin clay layer allowed the dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs) to rise from the lower aquifer to the upper aquifer and ultimately to the Bay.

In response to Ms. Hunter's question, Mr. Collins explained that the contaminant was sandwiched between two relatively impermeable layers. The theory is that when the well broke through the top layer, it permitted the contaminant to be affected by the tides. Instead of draining out the bottom, it is being pulled up, as through a straw. The well has been capped, but there is a continual increase in the contaminant level in the middle depth well. Mr. Collins said they are still unclear on the reasons for this.

SWDIV has proposed to the Water Board and the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) that they abandon the deep well by closing it up with cement. The deepest wells are 65-80' deep. They can either plug the well with cement or pull the well out and pressure grout the holes and fill that area with cement. Then they will monitor regularly and see what a porewater sample measures a year later.

Mr. Kleeman asked how long the plume was, and Mr. Collins informed the RAB that it is about 200' long. He also asked how fast the plume moved, and was told that the speed is "slow and steady"; in all probability a few pounds of contaminant each year.

Mr. Collins will continue to update the RAB on this situation.

NAS NORTH ISLAND SITE 11 SVE CLOSURE REPORT – Dan McCullar, OHM Technical Lead

Mr. McCullar presented the Closure Report for the non-time critical removal action at Site 11. This was the industrial waste treatment plant, and also the oily waste treatment plant. The paper report is made up of 5 thick volumes, but it is now available on CD-ROM (compact disc) as well. With the assistance of Marc Hale using a laptop computer connected to a projector, Mr. McCullar proceeded to demonstrate the advantages of having and viewing a report on CD. It takes 20 minutes and costs about \$3 to reproduce a CD, compared to hundreds of dollars on paper. The initial investment is putting this into the format, in this case Adobe Acrobat.

Ms. Hunter inquired about the difference in cost. Mr. Hale explained that the biggest cost was labor, or in this case, his salary for the 2 or 3 days it took him to input the report. Mr. McCullar added that it took two people most of today to put together the paper report to deliver to SWDIV. He explained that the task is so labor intensive because each document needs to be "framed" – links established, figures input, the search engine, etc.

One can do a search for a particular phrase in the whole document. There are also links, just like a web page on the Internet. The user may zoom in to enlarge any part of a map or figure. Other than the reference possibilities, another advantage of a report on CD-ROM is the ease of storage. If someone wants to print a page or the whole report, they have the capacity to do so. Mr. Collins said that from now on SWDIV would push for all their reports to be available on CD-ROM. There will still be a paper report; in fact, the Administrative Record requires paper. However, the entire Administrative Record for NAS North Island is now on seven CDs. Eventually, the Administrative Record will be on the web site. NAS North Island is the first to have reports on CD-ROM, along with El Toro.

Mr. McCullar briefly covered the contents of the report. He explained that over time the concentration of VOCs became asymptotic, so the soil vapor extraction (SVE) system was turned off.

OHM did rebound tests in the wells, to make sure that the levels did not rise after several months. Rebound was not seen. DTSC agreed with a final soil-sampling plan. Results of this soil sampling indicated that the site remediation goals for VOCs in soil were met. This closure report is under public and regulatory review.

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY – INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP Dr. Craig Little

Dr. Little is head of the Environmental Technology Section of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. His section is located in Grand Junction, Colorado. Their mission is to develop and demonstrate new characterization and remediation technologies. They develop specialized software. Two of the technologies they have developed are (1) colloidal borescope and (2) Visual Sample Plan.

The colloidal borescope is a 2-inch submersible video camera on a cable with a magnification of 140. It can be inserted into a well and used to calculate the velocity of groundwater flow. One of their programmers wrote a database program that monitors the videotape by using a "frame grabber". It's been used at NAS North Island on the shoreline slag area, to determine where samples should be taken. Dr. Little brought along a fact sheet on the borescope.

The Visual Sample Plan (VSP) is part of the Visual Environmental Statistics Project. Its purpose is to provide simple, defensible tools for solving environmental problems. It was developed by an environmental statistician (Jim Davidson) and the same programmer who worked on the colloidal borescope (John Wilson). The program makes world-class algorithms accessible to those developing sampling plans by offering decision tools, such as probability of hits vs. cost graphs. It provides inter-relating documentation. This system is geared to environmental professionals. Dr. Little then showed examples of situations where the VSP could be used, and how it would work.

In all probability, they will put this system on the new high-density format, DDD, rather than CD. A beta test version is available free from the Oak Ridge laboratory.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT RAB MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Saturday, October 17, 1998 and will be a tour of the IR sites. The RAB will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Island Club. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend, and if you plan to bring someone else let Mike Magee or Marsha Mingay know by Wednesday, October 14th. The tour should last until 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming meetings:

Saturday, October 17, 1998

Thursday, November 19, 1998

No meeting in December

Wednesday, January 13, 1998

Thursday, February 18, 1998

Ms. Hunter announced that she is attending a conference on low level radiation and health in New York City and will be leaving tomorrow. The conference will be videotaped and if it is possible she will get copies of the video for the Coronado library. She also told the RAB that she was elected to the

National Board of Military Toxics project, which is a national group of approximately 150 community organizations. The board was instrumental in getting RABs established. She also described a few handouts she brought to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.