

# **RAB Minutes**

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

## **Introduction**

The fiftieth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island and Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) was held on Saturday, October 17, 1998, at the Island Club on North Island Naval Air Station from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The RAB then proceeded to take a bus tour of the sites on NAS North Island and NAB.

Mr. Bill Collins, Interim Navy Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed RAB members and the public.

RAB Attendance: Alan Clark, Bill Collins, LaConta Coleman, Richard Dittbenner, Carla Fargo, Sandor Kaupp, John Locke, Bob Logan, Richard Mach, Foster Marshall, Larry McCauley, Marsha Mingay, Art Van Rooy, Greg Walker

Public/Navy Attendance: Vivian Mayer,

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: The September and October minutes will be reviewed at the November RAB meeting.

## **TOUR OVERVIEW – Bill Collins**

Mr. Collins gave a brief history of the base and an overview of the sites the RAB would be touring. Mr. Collins explained that has been with Southwest Division (SWDiv) for 9 years. The RAB then boarded a bus.

## **NAS NORTH ISLAND:**

### **SITE 7 – BUILDING 39 RUNOFF CATCHMENT AREA**

This site had several small problems. There was a fire fighter training area. Waste aviation jet fuel was used for training exercises, and some of it spilled on the ground. An area where sandblasting occurred was not well managed, and some lead appeared in the grit left behind. In current operations, the waste is captured. There were hot spots in this area. Three hazardous waste storage tanks were pulled in 1992. The site has undergone some remediation and natural attenuation. No further action has been recommended.

### **SITE 6 – CONSTRUCTION SALVAGE YARD**

This was an area where excess construction materials were stored until 1965. This included electrical transformers. There were a number of hot spots where PCBs were found on this site. The entire area was excised, and fill material was imported and the site was restored to residential levels. A closure report for this site, in combination with Sites 4 and 10, is being written now, and should be ready in a

few months. This site will be recommended for no further action.

#### SITE 5 – GOLF COURSE DISPOSAL AREA

This is the site closest to the City of Coronado. It was last used in 1965 as the only solid waste and municipal trash disposal site on the base. There was an incinerator operating on the site, until the early years of the Vietnam War. The lowest layer here is sediment, then bay mud, dredge fill, trash, sculpted surface (for the golf course) and then grass. The Navy would like to redo the surfacing of the golf course, since on occasion trash, mostly in the form of old bottles, comes to the surface. For the remedial investigation, the site was divided into two units. Unit 1 was the landfill portion of the site. This area will be closed and monitored as an inactive landfill. Unit 2 is a tear drop shaped area of VOC contaminated groundwater. A natural attenuation study is underway at this site. Results of this study will be factored into the final cleanup strategy for the site.

#### SITE 4 – PUBLIC WORKS SALVAGE YARD

This site is next to the golf course, just north of the driving range. Public Works Department (PWD) materials were stored here between 1967-1976. When the transformers moved off site in 1978 one of them was pierced, and the leak caused large-scale PCB contamination. Soil with levels >25 parts per million (ppm) was excavated and treated to <2 ppm. Soil with levels of between 0.066 ppm and 25 ppm (levels which do not require removal) were left in place, covered with the treated soil (less than 2 ppm), then covered with a layer of plastic to demarcate the PCBs, then covered with 2 feet of clean fill. The area was covered by hydroseed and has become part of the driving range. The clean fill was taken from another site on the base which might otherwise have been trucked off, thus saving 2000 truckloads going out and another 2000 coming in. The closure report will be coming out in a couple of months. Monitoring of the groundwater will continue.

Ms. Fargo asked whether the soil treatment was done on site, and was told that it was. Mr. Van Rooy inquired about exposure to golf course workers, and suggested the signs be posted in Spanish as well as English. Mr. Van Rooy was concerned that base workers be informed. The golf course is aware of the cleanup, and the information will be part of the base Master Plan.

#### SITE 3 – GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE YARD

Containers with pesticides and other chemicals were rinsed out here. A 1997 site inspection showed very low levels of chlorinated pesticides, below regulatory levels. The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) has recommended no further action at this site.

#### SITE 2 – OLD SPANISH BIGHT LANDFILL

This was the site of the landfill from 1917 until 1945, when what we now refer to as Site 5 began operation. An incinerator operated here from 1938 to the mid-1940's. The building was removed but the basement remained until last year, when the bottom of the incinerator was removed. A removal action placed a cap over the exposed ash, and a cement wall was built into the slope to prevent the ash from escaping. Ms. Fargo asked why didn't they just remove the ash, and Mr. Collins explained that it was against Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) policy to excavate landfills.

In addition, there is some low-level radiation in a few spots, from radium dials. The soil will be removed and probably disposed of by Envirocare at their facility in Clive, Utah. The base wants to repave the area, and DTSC has said that it is okay to pave over it, except for the removal action area (until the action is complete). The threat could be removed just by paving, but the low-level radiation will be dug up and disposed of. October 22<sup>nd</sup> marks the end of the CEQA comment period. Once DTSC has issued a negative declaration, fieldwork will begin in 3 weeks. Mr. Kaupp asked about the

effect of weather, and was told that even heavy rains should not pose a danger.

#### SITE 1 – SHORELINE SEDIMENTS

Wastes such as detergents, oils, solvents and paint strippers were discharged through the outfalls. The homeporting construction project performed a removal action, burying a portion of the Installation Restoration (IR) site. The cost was approximately \$15 million, which would have been SWDIV's entire budget for two years. This is a confined disposal facility (CDF). The outfalls not included in the removal action were investigated in 1996 and are now being investigated by SPAWARS.

#### SITE 10 – DEFENSE REUTILIZATION AND MARKETING OFFICE (DRMO) PROPERTY DISPOSAL AREA

Aircraft were dismantled here, and parts sorted. There were PCBs at the back end of the yard in an unpaved section where transformers were drained. The soil was excavated and the soil taken to Site 4 for treatment. Fragments of radioactive dials were removed first

A smelter operated onsite from 1943 until the mid-1960's, and slag from the smelter was disposed of at the shoreline. An emergency removal action was performed in 1995, and about one million pounds of material was removed. This area is now monitored by wells. The report is due soon. There will probably be at least one more clean-up action, which will probably be done by the Department of Energy. Using them is most cost-effective and relies on their experience with radioactivity.

#### SITE 9 – CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL AREA

This site, often referred to as the "fiery marsh", was operated as a waste disposal area from the 1940's to the late 1970's. Incompatible chemicals would be combined and sometimes catch fire. The chemicals leaked into the ground. Some of it evaporated and some sank 1000 feet underground.

The soil vapor extraction (SVE) system has been in operation since March of 1997. It removes volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the soil. Steam is piped through carbon beds. The system was turned off the day before the tour for regularly scheduled maintenance, which occurs every few months. The Navy currently rents the system from OHM, but is exploring purchasing it. Much of the area is showing improvement, but the VOC levels are not decreasing in a couple of persistent wells.

Innovative technology demonstrations are part of the cleanup of this site. There is a NoVOCs system, which pumps air into the ground, through a well, to strip VOCs from the groundwater. The vapors are then captured and put through the Thermatrix system, which burns off the VOCs to 99.99% efficiency at a rate of 250 standard cubic feet per minute. Mr. Kaupp queried whether they had tested for dioxin, and he was told they were tested and there was none.

There was also a storage area for low-level radioactive waste on this site. This was mostly radium, although there was approximately 1 cubic yard of cesium 137. It was temporary storage of waste from the ships returning from overseas. This area will be excavated in conjunction with the radiation at Site 2.

A remedial investigation/feasibility study is being conducted into this troublesome area.

#### SITE 11 – INDUSTRIAL WASTE TREATMENT PLANT

There are waste treatment beds at this site. Recently, the oily waste treatment plant was torn down

and now there are new tanks. Ms. Athena Harrington, the department head, met with the RAB during their tour of this site and answered questions. The treatment plant operates separately, and the ongoing operations are not part of the IR budget.

The north pond was built in 1973 to handle industrial waste. Originally there were no liners, and material leaked through the clay surface into the groundwater. There is a stagnant groundwater plume in this area. Ms. Fargo inquired if something is being done about it and was told that for now it is only being monitored. Ponds 1-10 have a liner system. Two air sparge points treated groundwater here.

The removal action using the SVE system to remove VOCs from the soil has been completed. A remedial action plan is being developed in cooperation with the State. Construction could begin next fall.

#### NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE:

##### SITE 6 – MWR MARINA

There is metals contamination in the soil from maintenance of recreational boats (e.g., sanding and painting) since anti-fouling paint (contains copper and tri-butyl-tin) was used on boat bottoms. Excavation begins October 26<sup>th</sup>, and material considered non-hazardous will be disposed of at Miramar. Hazardous material will be sent to a Class 1 landfill. The site will then be backfilled. Mr. Kaupp asked about the cost, and was told that the approval process took two years, and the cost will be between \$600,000-\$700,000. Ms. Fargo inquired about the number of truckloads. Mr. Mach expects about 15 truckloads of new sand, and 30-50 truckloads of excavated sand to travel through Imperial Beach. Mr. Walker queried what would happen if they did not excavate. Mr. Mach explained that the hot spots would be removed and the area monitored, which could eventually cost more than the dig and haul operation.

##### SITES 2 AND 4 – OLD REFUSE DISPOSAL/SANDBLAST GRIT DISPOSAL

Site 2 was a landfill and waste disposal area between the late 1940's to the early 1970's. There are metals and PCBs in the sediment. Metals are present at Site 4, from the sandblasting operations that took place from the mid-1960's to the early 1980's. The Navy is preparing a Work Plan for both these areas. DTSC is interested in further study of the groundwater and sediment.

##### SITE 3 – PAINT SHOP

There was a fueling facility here, as well as solvents from the paint shop. DTSC has recommended no further action for this site, since the human health and environmental risk was below regulatory levels. The Navy is working with the Water Board on a petroleum issue.

##### SITE 1 – BUILDING 603 DISPOSAL PIT

This site is a parking lot. In 1997 the DTSC recommended no further action on this site, which was used for disposal of oils, paint wastes and thinners. There is, however, petroleum on site and this needs to be studied. This site is being worked with the Water Board.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Collins informed the RAB that the draft community relations would be coming out. There is a sixty-day review period. The report will be available in the library, but Mr. Collins will supply a

report to any RAB member who requests it. Ms. Mingay explained that in-person interviews were conducted, and that the plan identifies what the community wants. It is a "reader-friendly" document.

Mr. Van Rooy asked about the article in the Coronado papers regarding contamination from North Beach and whether the Navy was working with the City. Mr. Collins replied that no one from the City has contacted them, and that Site 5 does not have the same kind of contamination problems, since there are no sewers there. Mr. Dittbenner inquired about heavy metals, and Mr. Collins said that there were a few low-level hits.

A copy of the COMNAVBASE personnel, the RAB Charter, and the RAB membership names, addresses, and phone numbers will be mailed out.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT RAB MEETING**

**Community Co-Chair Election:** The elections are held at the last meeting of the year, which is the November meeting. The position of Community Co-chair is open. It is a one-year commitment. The only RAB members who are not eligible are regulators and Navy representatives.

**RAB Charter**

**Mary Masters – TOSC**

**Mr. Mach will check if Dr. Mirat Gurol is ready to report to the RAB**

**Update on NAB Site 6**

**Sites 2 and 9 removal action**

**Upcoming meetings:**

**Thursday, November 19, 1998**

**No meeting in December**

**Wednesday, January 13, 1998**

**Thursday, February 18, 1998**

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.**