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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 1997 NCBC
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NCBC GULFPORT

Restoration
Advisory
Board



NCBC Gulfport

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Minutes

NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Mississippi February 6, 1997 6:40 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board met in the Building 1 Conference Room at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Mississippi, on February 6, 1997

Gordon Crane
Edie Dreher
Steve Dickerson
Joe Halasz
Art Holzweissig

Retha Longmire
Carolyn Rushing
Joyce Shaw
William Spalding
CDR Zink

In addition, the following guests were welcomed from the community:

Pat Choatt
Gayle Frings
Emile Hoskins
Ruth Lizana

Vicki Overstreet
Anita Saujon
Cherie Schulz

Support personnel attending the meeting included:

Penny Baxter, ABB Environmental Services
Nancy Brooks, NCBC Gulfport
Art Conrad, Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Marland Dulaney, ABB Environmental Services
Robert Fisher, ABB Environmental Services
Nancy Rouse, ABB Environmental Services
Michael Smith, NCBC Gulfport
Lt. Carol Womack, NCBC Gulfport

Welcome: Steve Dickerson welcomed the RAB and guests and opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Steve Dickerson polled the audience to see how they heard about the meeting. One person heard through the newspaper article which appeared in the *Sun Herald* that morning; the remaining attendees are on the mailing list and received a flyer.

Steve Dickerson provided a brief overview of the City's sampling efforts at Brickyard Bayou.

Approval of RAB Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the January 1997 RAB Meeting were accepted with two corrections: Carolyn Rushing and William Spalding were incorrectly listed as being in attendance.

New Information on the Exposure Assessment and Community Survey: Dr. Marland Dulaney provided a brief review of the results of the exposure assessment that were previously presented. He then provided new information concerning the city's procedure of delivering soil to residential yards as part of their ditch maintenance activities. He explained that the presence of the soils could present an exposure pathway if the ditches were connected to the Seabee Center's ditch system (which is not necessarily the case). The quantity of sediment deposited onto yards is not known. Steve Dickerson complimented the Navy on the thoroughness of the assessment.

Nancy Brooks, the Seabee Center's Public Affairs Officer, was identified as the single point of contact for information about dioxin and Herbicide Orange.

Some of the questions and answers from the audience are summarized below:

Q: Would dioxin affect plant growth?

A: No, dioxin is not an herbicide such as Herbicide Orange. Further, Herbicide Orange would not affect plant growth if it were found in the sediment. It works only if applied to the leaves and stems of plants.

Q: Are there other sources of dioxin in the community?

A: Dr. Dulaney explained that there are other sources of dioxin. He explained that we need to determine where the dioxin is coming from and what the background levels of dioxin are in the area.

Q: What is the next step?

A: The next step is to develop the long-term biological monitoring plan, which will lay out the method for measuring the concentrations of dioxins in plants and animals living in the area.

Q: Are there other materials (besides dioxin) being tested?

A: Yes, a remedial investigation will be looking for everything else. In addition, the recently submitted groundwater monitoring plan discussed how the Seabee Center will study the groundwater to determine that it is clean.

Q: You're looking at ditches that are top level. What about the buried materials? It's not very far to the water table.

A: Yes, you're correct in stating that the water table is close to the surface. A couple of reports were completed about a year and half ago to summarize the results of the groundwater (water beneath the surface) study at Site 8. The reports, referred to as Technical Memorandum #5 and Technical Memorandum #6, are located in the Information Repository in the public library. The Center is currently investigating the landfills on base to see if dioxins and other contaminants are present. The focus now is on dioxin because it has been found. We want to find out how much and where it is as quickly as possible.

Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Update: Art Conrad and Gordon Crane provided an update on the IRP as summarized below:

- In January, Sites 1 and 5 were investigated using a Terraprobe sample. A report is being prepared which will be available within about 30 days. Site 1 was a general materials landfill. Site 5 was another landfill of the same nature.
- Funding to implement the first three Administrative Order Workplans has been approved but not yet awarded. However, we do not expect any problems in awarding the funding so that we can begin the work of finding the extent and quantity of dioxins in the sediment and groundwater.
- The groundwater monitoring workplan is currently being reviewed by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MSDEQ).

- The exposure assessment is scheduled to be submitted to MSDEQ on March 15, 1997. The biological monitoring workplan must be submitted within 60 days of receipt of MSDEQ comments on the exposure assessment report.
- The Technical Assistance for Public Participation proposed rule would provide funding for training, workshops, and other items through Federal grants. RABs are asked to review and comment on the rule.

The Navy Funding Letter

A draft letter was presented to the RAB for their comments and signature. A guest asked if support from the community at large would give strength and credibility to the request that funding for cleanup at NCBC Gulfport continue. After a lengthy discussion the RAB agreed that community support would be welcome and helpful. The guest added that he would like to be considered for membership on the RAB.

RAB Long-Range Planning: Completion of RAB long-range planning was postponed until the March RAB meeting. Nancy Rouse provided some information for the RAB members to review prior to the brainstorming session.

William Spalding requested that the environmental cleanup program be broken down into a bar graph with a schedule and a percent completion.

Conclusion: Next month's meeting will be held on March 6, 1997, in the Building 1 Conference Room at NCBC Gulfport. RAB long-range planning will be completed, in addition to providing an update on the upcoming on-base and off-base sampling.

The meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.