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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 9 FEBRUARY 2009 NCBC
GULFPORT MS
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Gulfport, Mississippi

Minutes
NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi
February 9, 2009

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at The Harrison County Health Department Conference Center on February 9, 2009:

Gordon Crane	Ron Schmidting
Bob Fisher (Navy Co-Chair)	Cherie Schulz
David Marshall	Joyce Shaw
Skip McDaniel (Community Co-Chair)	Philip Shaw

Administrative and technical support for the meeting were provided by:

Mike Hawkins, AFCEE
Yarissa Martinez, Tetra Tech NUS
Bob Mims, NCBC Gulfport Public Affairs
Jon Overholtzer, CH2M Hill
Nancy Rouse, Tetra Tech Technical Services

Community Members

James Black	Jennifer Raabe
Fred Boykin, Jr	Tim Tanner
Paul Francis	Jennifer Walker
David Holt	

Welcome

Gordon Crane opened the meeting and made announcements about some staffing changes on the Navy team. Bob Fisher, the former project manager from Tetra Tech NUS, is now the Navy RPM and will be the Navy Co-Chair of the RAB. Yarissa Martinez is the new Tetra Tech NUS project manager.

Results of Groundwater Sampling North of 28th Street

Yarissa Martinez presented the results of off-base sampling. Phase 1 off the off-base sampling was completed between September and November 2007. A second phase of sampling includes soil, sediment, surface water, and ground water sampling. The six Areas of Concern (AOCs) include

- AOC 1 – Drum Disposal Area
- AOC 2 – Turkey Creek Excavation Piles
- AOC 3 – Trench Disposal Areas
- AOC 4 – Soil and Sediment Disposal Area
- AOC 5 – Turkey Creek Sediment
- AOC 6 – Landfill Drainage System

Results of the Phase 1 sampling were presented at the November RAB meeting. An additional groundwater sample was collected in response to a previous sample result that contained dioxins in concentrations higher than the MDEQ screening level. Four groundwater samples were collected to evaluate that elevated level.

Additional investigations being planned to further investigate the AOCs identified above include:

- AOC 2: Additional samples of the Turkey Creek Pile
- AOC 3: Sediment sampling will be expanded and surface water will be sampled.
- AOC 5: Additional sediment samples will be collected from Turkey Creek.
- AOC 6: Surface water and sediment sampling to further investigate the landfill drainage.

Question: Human health is the highest concern. Are you sharing information with the County Health Department?

Answer: Yes

Question: What about Turkey Creek?

Answer: The swamp served as a settling pond to hold the contaminated sediment until we could get in there and clean it up. A limited amount of dioxin contaminated sediment made it into Turkey Creek. The northern extent of the dioxin contamination was limited by the surface water flow to the south and east.

Question: How deep has the dioxin gotten into the sediment?

Answer: The dioxin has been found as deep as three feet in areas where there has been a lot of filling.

Question: If water flows to the south, how did dioxin get north to Turkey Creek?

Answer: Water flows north from the coast and then south north of Turkey Creek. The water then combines at Turkey Creek to move to the east.

Question: Where is AOC 4?

Answer: We have not been able to link the oral history to a probable contaminated area in the vicinity of AOC 4. We monitored the streams and ditches in an effort to identify any contamination issues in that area.

Question: What was your sampling method?

Answer: We used decontaminated stainless steel augers and sent the samples to a laboratory for high resolution analysis (EPA Method 8290).

Question: Do you use a different lab to cross check samples?

Answer: No.

Question: How do we get access to the testing that you're doing? Can another chemist get a split of the sample?

Answer: Rev Black will coordinate with Gordon Crane to figure out how to split samples with Rev Black's chemist.

Remedial Action at Site 5 Heavy Equipment Training Area

Jon Overholtzer of CH2M Hill presented an update of the activities at Site 5, the Heavy Equipment Training Area.

The project will involve constructing an embankment and installing culverts in Canal 1, constructing a grouted rip rap drainage ditch in Canal 1, and covering the 5.5 acre former landfill. The project is projected to be completed in May of this year.

Question: What is the history of the groundwater?

Answer: Dioxins from burning on the south side of the landfill showed the dioxin OCDD. TCDD, the dioxin found in Herbicide Orange, was not found.

Question: Who will be sampling the groundwater monitoring wells?

Answer: The Navy has not yet determined who will be conducting the sampling. The wells are intended more to as a compliance measure than to keep track of a plume. The cap helps keep the contaminants from being flushed into the groundwater and surface water.

Question: Are the monitoring wells all at the same depth and will they intercept the contaminants?

Answer: No, the wells will be installed at different depths to straddle the groundwater level. Deeper well will be installed closer to the confining layer.

Question: Is there any chance that the dioxins contamination would merge with the creosote dioxins north of the base?

Answer: That is very unlikely because of the distance between the sites.

Question: What about contaminated fish?

Answer: Fish tissue studies found detectible levels but were too low to merit posting warnings. An eel found in the bottom was more contaminated, but still below the advisory.

Question: Is there any danger with the methane (combustion)?

Answer: The amount of gas was not enough to consider it to be a hazard. Samples will be collected to confirm this is true.

Question: If you sink an artesian well in the area, will you be at risk of finding TCDD contamination in the groundwater.

Answer: No. The artesian water came from 100s of miles north.

Installation Restoration Program/Administrative Order Update

Gordon Crane, the acting Navy Co-Chair of the RAB, provided the following overview of all of the environmental restoration projects currently underway at NCBC Gulfport:

Site 1 – Disaster Recovery Disposal Area: Site 1 is an inactive landfill where a mock disaster recovery training area is currently located. The landfill was used from 1942-1948. A Remedial Investigation is near completion and the report is underway. A Feasibility Study is underway and funds have been requested for the Proposed Plan, Decision Document and Remedial Design.

Site 2 – World War II Landfill: Site 2 is an inactive landfill where general refuse generated at the base was disposed. The landfill was used from 1942-1948. A Remedial Investigation is planned to begin early 2009.

Site 3 – The Northwest Landfill and Burn Pit: Site 3 is an inactive landfill that was the primary disposal area from 1948-1968. A burn pit on site was used for fire-fighting training from the mid-1950's to 1966. A Remedial Investigation has been completed and the report is in review. A Feasibility Study is underway and the Proposed Plan, Decision Document and Remedial Design are funded.

Site 4 – Golf Course Landfill: Site 4 operated as a landfill from 1966-1972. A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study have been completed and the reports are in review. The Proposed Plan, Decision Document and Remedial Design are underway but waiting for RI/FS approval and planned for FY09.

Site 5 – Equipment Training Area Landfill: The landfill located at Site 5 operated from 1972 to 1976. The site was used for heavy equipment training. A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study are complete and awaiting final approval. The Proposed Plan and Public Comment Period are complete and the Decision Document and Remedial Design have been completed. The contract to clean the site was awarded and work is scheduled to begin in December 2008.

Site 6 – Fire Fighting Training Area: Site 6 contained two fire-fighting training pits which operated between 1966 and 1975. An enhanced bioslurper system has ended productive removals. The bioslurper has been dismantled and the site has been restored. Long-term monitoring to evaluate the progress of natural attenuation at the site has begun and one year of monitoring is complete. Results will be evaluated when all data is in.

Site 7 – Rubble Disposal Area: This 3-acre site reportedly received only construction rubble from 1978-1984. A Remedial Investigation is planned for early 2010.

Site 8 – The Former Herbicide Orange Storage Area: This project includes sampling, delineating, removing, transporting, stabilizing, and capping contaminants associated with Site 8. The most recent activity addresses low concentrations of dioxin-contaminated material found along Canal Road. An engineering evaluation was completed and the contaminated soil has been excavated, transported to Site 8, compacted and solidified with 14% Portland cement to prevent erosion. Other areas along the Canal/Turkey Creek are under investigation and a second sampling plan is planned.

Site 10 – Parade Ground Ditch: PCB's were found in the ditches of the NCBC Gulfport parade ground. Remedial Actions were taken in 1999 to remove the source of PCB

contamination. A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and a Remedial Design have been completed. Remedial Actions are contracted but the site remedy is under review.

Question: Has there ever been a total estimate of the Agent Orange spillage?

Answer: No, but it would be nearly impossible to estimate. The total volume was probably fairly low, however.

Comment: A recommendation was made to develop a fact sheet about dioxins to have at every meeting that would show the history, dioxin action levels, and how much was removed.

Conclusion

The next RAB meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2009.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm