

**NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) ALAMEDA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Paden School  
Alameda, California**

**Tuesday, April 1, 1997**

**ATTENDEES**

See the attached list.

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**I. Introduction and Minutes**

Ardella Dailey, the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) community co-chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Dailey asked for comments on the March 4, 1997 RAB meeting summary. The change in meeting location to the Paden School, was noted and the minutes were approved reflecting this change. Attachment A provides the agenda, Attachment B provides the attendance list, and Attachment C provides the presentation handout materials.

**II. Co-Chair Announcements**

Ms. Dailey, the community co-chair made the following announcements:

- Ms. Dailey said that the subcommittee produced a prioritized list of issues which was presented at the last BCT meeting. She noted the need to ensure that the RAB works within the same document response time line. The priority areas identified were human health risk assessment: background; the ecological investigation and assessment; the remedial investigation process; the radiological report; the draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA); and discussion of the work plan for site 15 and 16 soil. These were identified as the key upcoming issues for the next 6-8 months.
- Ms. Dailey said that discussion also focused on the recognition that additional time will be needed by the RAB to get through the issues and keep within the time frame. She noted that there are plans to schedule two Saturday workshops to deal with agenda items.
- Ms. Dailey mentioned that a new member orientation was held last Friday to include a tour of the base and a general overview of the Alameda RAB.
- Ms. Dailey also announced that both Standard Operating Procedures and Community Acceptance Criteria are on the agenda. These two items were identified as priority by consensus of the subcommittee.

Steve Edde, Navy co-chair, made the following announcements:

- Mr. Edde distributed copies of the new covers for the BRAC Cleanup Plan (BCP).
- Mr. Edde provided a UST soil pile status report, noting that all piles had been removed and utilized to fill in low lying areas on base. The ten piles that didn't meet the Water Board's criteria were sent off base to the Vasco Road landfill.
- Mr. Edde noted that he will keep a copy of the Environmental Baseline Survey Phase II documentation in his office and arrangements can be made through him to review it.
- Mr. Edde provided a 2nd Quarterly update of the IR Program status matrix dated April 2. These will continue to be released on a quarterly basis.
- Mr. Edde addressed concerns regarding the impact of base closure on the RAB library. The library will be moved to Conference Room B of Building 1, on the 1st floor, south side of the building, center wing by the end of April. The conference room, currently located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, will eventually be moved downstairs to the room next to the library. All services will be consolidated into Building 1. Between now and the 25th of April when the base initially closes, there should be no problem getting on base; however, it's a little unclear as to the access procedure when the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority (ARRA) takes over the gate. Mr. Edde also discussed a change in 24 hour access stating that various options are being considered. Access will likely fall within normal business hours, 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., and will try to extend access to the RAB library and conference room until about 10:00 p.m. Weekend access is also being considered. **Action Item:** Mr. Edde will update the board on the status of the public access hours at the next meeting.
- Mr. Edde updated the members on removal of the funnel and gate soil piles, and the iron filings. The estimated completion date to remove them is by the end of April. **Action Item:** Mr. Edde agreed to determine whether data from the samples taken from these sites was still available.
- Mr. Edde introduced Darlene Brown of GPI and informed the group that she is a representative and main point of contact for the Navy's new community relations contract. In addition to providing RAB meeting support, her company may also be able to provide additional services such as assistance with the RAB library, workshops, fact sheets, and facilitator services. Ms. Dailey asked if the RAB can request particular services. Mr. Edde encouraged RAB members to identify and recommend services, which he can then present to the BCT. **Action Item:** Mr. Edde said he expects to learn more about additional services by the May RAB meeting and can report his findings at that time. Karen Hack recommended two items of interest: technical assistance, and coffee for the RAB meetings. Mr. Edde briefly discussed Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) and the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) rule being proposed by DoD. He explained that the Commanding

Officer will administer the TAPP money locally, and that money may be available as early as FY98 (October), with a \$7 million ceiling posed for all RABs. James Ricks, U.S. EPA, asked what the ceiling is for each RAB. Mr. Edde responded that it is \$100,000 per RAB lifetime and \$25,000 maximum per year. Norma Bishop suggested that the community relations contract may also be able to provide project tracking and project management assistance.

### **III. Fire Fighter Issue**

Steve Sorgen and Charles Gross of the Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC), Norfolk, VA, were introduced. Mr. Sorgen provided a brief presentation about the role of their agency, which is to address public health issues relating to environmental cleanup. Their primary goal, he stated, is to ensure protection of public health. NEHC was asked to address the RAB to share information about health risks from exposure to several contaminants. Exposure concerns to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, and furans were expressed by firefighters in a presentation made at the previous RAB meeting. Mr. Sorgen's discussion focused primarily on PCBs because all three compounds are of a similar nature. He clarified, however, that PCBs are an intentional product, whereas dioxins and furans are unintentional byproducts of industrial processes. He also explained the chemical structure of each of the three compounds and discussed known health effects.

Mr. Sorgen stated that chloracne, a resistant, acne-like disease similar to adolescent acne, is the only known effect from exposure to these compounds. He noted that these compounds are suspect carcinogens, meaning that there is sufficient evidence in animals but insufficient evidence in humans that they cause cancer. Dioxins and furans are considered probable human carcinogens. Ninety percent of human exposure to these compounds comes from the diet. PCBs and dioxins are widely distributed over the world. They are extremely stable compounds and stay in the same chemical form for a long period of time. Mr. Sorgen traced the pathway these compounds travel to get from incinerator emissions released into the air, to being deposited onto the soil, then carried into the water through runoff and erosion, to ingestion by marine animals, which concentrates in fat tissue up the food chain, eventually to humans.

Mr. Sorgen announced that they were here to address the concerns from the firefighters about work they performed on Sites 14 and 15. He explained that his role is to access public health data about the activities and nature of work performed. They are working with firefighters to determine what activities took place on the sites, how often they took place, and how long the workers were on the sites to reach a conclusion about the potential for exposure. Mr. Sorgen stated that they expect to have initial information within two weeks.

Malcolm Mooney asked if individuals will be tested to determine exposure. Mr. Sorgen said they would not be tested due to the highly invasive procedures required for tissue testing, and that blood testing would yield only recent exposure.

Mr. Ricks asked if the NEHC had undertaken a similar task at other locations. Mr. Sorgen responded that previous risk assessments conducted by NEHC have been for hypothetical populations.

Jo Lynne Lee asked for clarification about exposure levels to which Mr. Sorgen responded that exposure is a function of the concentration of the contaminant, the length of time of the exposure, the method of contact and whether it was absorbed. Mr. Sorgen noted that there is a threshold level with the majority of chemicals within which exposure does not pose a risk to the normal healthy adult.

Mr. Ricks asked whether results of the risk assessment regarding chemical exposure by firefighters would modify the determination of non-exposure by the Commanding Officer. Mr. Sorgen responded that this was a possibility and they would make a recommendation to the Command based on the results of their assessment.

Brook Beasley expressed his appreciation that the issue is being investigated thoroughly by the Navy and noted that he considered the determination of non-exposure by the Command to have been made prematurely and without all the facts at hand.

#### **IV. Standard Operating Procedures and Community Acceptance Criteria**

Ms. Dailey announced that the board had identified Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Community Acceptance Criteria as two priority issues for the RAB. Lyn Stirewalt briefed the RAB on the need to form a subcommittee to work on the SOPs. She suggested that members of the Organizational Focus Group subcommittee could take on the SOPs, and passed around a sign up list. Ms. Stirewalt offered to act as convener for the group, and noted that there are lots of ideas about SOPs, and that one task would be to research the SOPs of other RABs. Ms. Dailey mentioned that components of the SOPs would address how to conduct meetings and how to deal with the general processes of the RAB. She said that the subcommittee would have to meet monthly in addition to the regular RAB meeting. The intent is to complete the work by September when it will be presented to the RAB. Ms. Stirewalt and Ms. Dailey agreed to initiate the first subcommittee meeting before the next scheduled RAB meeting.

Ms. Dailey discussed plans to also initiate a Community Acceptance Criteria subcommittee that would identify the issues and concerns important to the community. Ms. Dailey offered to convene this group and passed around a sign up list.

#### **V. Background Presentation**

Camille Garibaldi, Lead Remedial Project Manager, gave a presentation on the Navy's Background Determination (see Attachment C) She explained that background is the level of minerals or other substances located in the soil; it can occur naturally or from anthropogenic (human-made) sources. She explained that background determination is important because the information helps to identify site-related releases and to establish cleanup levels. Ms. Garibaldi said that the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) data set had been selected to provide background data, and that Navy personnel had met with regulatory agencies on February 27, 1997 to discuss the data set. A confirmation letter was sent out on March 27, 1997 (see Attachment C). She noted that the Navy is proceeding with evaluations and referenced two

documents located in the RAB library: Document #1252, a Technical Memorandum, and Document # 1253, a Human Health Work Plan. Ms. Garibaldi said that results would be available in the Operable Unit (OU) Remedial Investigation Reports, and that workshops are being planned to go through the review process as these reports go out. A schedule of comment periods for each OU is included in the handout.

Ms. Garibaldi encouraged more involvement throughout the decision making process and stated that early involvement in the issues is one important function of the RAB; early community input helps guide decision making. She referred members to important tools in the BCP to help identify time frames for decision making. Doug deHaan asked if the community felt comfortable with the criteria used to determine the background methodology, stressing that it becomes the baseline of information. Ms. Garibaldi responded that the process was reviewed by the RAB in 1995, and the process involved a variety of technical experts who exchanged data and arrived at similar results. Ms. Dailey requested a summary of the background data sets. **Action Item:** Ms. Garibaldi agreed to provide summary background data sets and to keep the RAB informed about the process. She will also provide a copy of the March 27 letter to be included with the minutes.

Tom Lanphar stated that Alameda is mostly fill material brought in from other areas. He questioned whether elevated levels of metals had been found, and how it compared to regional levels. Ms. Garibaldi responded that most of the fill falls within the range of regional levels, although some concern has been raised about high levels of Arsenic and Beryllium. Marie Rainwater of PRC mentioned that she would bring a fact sheet containing helpful information on the history of NAS Alameda to the next RAB meeting. Karen Hack asked about the outcome of the PAH disagreement between the Navy and DTSC. Ms. Garibaldi stated that PAHs would be treated like inorganics with low frequency of detection in the background. PAH numbers will be used as reference values in the risk assessment. Mr. Beasley commented that of the two human risk assessments being performed, one is looking backward in time (the fire fighters exposure concern) and the other forward (based on the background determination).

## **VI. Community Comments**

There were no community comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 1997, at Paden Elementary School, Alameda.**

## ATTENDANCE LIST

01 APRIL 1997 RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING SUMMARY

THE ABOVE IDENTIFIED LIST IS NOT AVAILABLE.

EXTENSIVE RESEARCH WAS PERFORMED BY  
SOUTHWEST DIVISION TO LOCATE THIS LIST.

THIS PAGE HAS BEEN INSERTED AS A  
PLACEHOLDER AND WILL BE REPLACED  
SHOULD THE MISSING ITEM BE LOCATED.

QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

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