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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 13 JANUARY 2004 NSWC WHITE
OAK MD
1/13/2004
NSWC WHITE OAK

**Former Naval Surface Warfare Center-
White Oak (NSWC-WO)
Riderwood Village, Calverton, MD
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2004**

RAB Members Present at Meeting

Matthew Amann – Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Bruce Beach – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III
Mark Callaghan – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)/Superfund Division
Hall Crannell*
Walter Legg – U.S. Navy, Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake (EFACHES), Navy Co-Chair
and White Oak Base Environmental Coordinator (BEC)
Barbara Medina
Manfred Reichwein (for Paul Meyer)** – Prince George’s County Health Department
Richard Price – Community Co-Chair
Steven Richard – General Services Administration (GSA)
John Tino – Community Co-Chair

RAB Members Absent from Meeting

Paul DeLeo – Food and Drug Administration (FDA)/National Treasury Employees Union
(NTEU), Chapter 282
John Feustle – U.S. Army Adelphi Laboratory Center
Gary Irby
Mark Symborski*** – Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

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- * Subcommittee 1 – Groundwater, Chairperson
** Subcommittee 2 – Landfills and RI/FS, Chairperson
*** Subcommittee 3 – Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Study Team
(BEST, Chairperson)

**WHITE OAK RAB AND PROGRAM-RELATED DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT
THE WHITE OAK COMMUNITY LIBRARY IN SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND**

1. Welcome/Introductions (John Tino)

Mr. Tino opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Mr. Callaghan announced that MDE is being reorganized and that he may no longer be the White Oak Project Manager; the decision will be made in the next few weeks. Ms. Bretz expressed concern about the caliber of Mr. Callaghan's replacement and Mr. Tino agreed to talk with Mr. Callaghan's management about potential replacements.

Mr. Tino asked for nominations for the 2004 RAB co-chairpersons. Ms. Bretz nominated Mr. Tino and Dr. Price to finish out the current project. The nominations were seconded. Mr. Tino stated that he would not serve another term after 2004; he stated that the RAB chairperson should be someone with an FDA focus because most of the cleanup will be complete and FDA will be nearing their occupancy of the property. Mr. Legg asked for a vote from the floor and Mr. Tino and Dr. Price were unanimously elected to serve a one-year term.

2. RAB Minutes Discussion/Approval (John Tino)

Mr. Tino asked for comments on the recent RAB meeting minutes and updates. No changes were identified for the October 2003 RAB meeting minutes; the minutes were approved as written. Final October 2003 RAB meeting minutes will be distributed at the same time as the draft January RAB meeting minutes.

3.0 BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) Update (Walter Legg, EFACHES)

Mr. Legg provided information on the following NSWC-WO activities:

Site 11 Groundwater

- ROD signature is imminent. Land use control language for RODs has been agreed upon between the Department of Defense and EPA counsels.
- Remedial action (RA) design is ongoing.
- Monitoring plans being developed.

Area of Concern (AOC) 2

- Revised screening report being reviewed (includes 29 sites)
 - Removal completed at:
 - Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 47 – Former Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Removal Planned at:
 - SWMU 87 – Former waste storage area at Building 611. Removal will address groundwater contamination.
 - SWMU 45 – Building 613 Sump; PCB-contaminated soils.
- Screening ongoing at:
 - SWMU 8 – Building 310 Disposal Area
 - SWMU 87 – Building 611 Storage Area

Sanitary Sewer Investigation

- Final report forthcoming.

Site 49

- Draft RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) report being reviewed by BCT.
- Feasibility Study being developed.

Site 3 / Westfarm Branch

- Westfarm Branch Ecological Risk Assessment is being reviewed by BCT.
- Corrective measures are being evaluated.

Sites 10 and 14

- Removal completed, verification sampling data being evaluated.

Operable Unit (OU) 2 (Sites 1 & 2)

- Year 1 Monitoring Report being reviewed.
 - Long-term monitoring ongoing.
- Land Use Control Assurance Plan (LUCAP) and Land Use Control Implementation Plan (LUCIP) are being developed.

OU1 / Site 9

- Pilot Study underway to evaluate in-situ treatment of explosives-contaminated groundwater.

Sites 4 and 7

- ROD being reviewed by EPA/Navy counsel.
- RA design ongoing

Sites 5 and 13

- ROD being reviewed by EPA/Navy counsel.
- RA design ongoing

Site 48

- Removal action completed at Site 48.

Ordnance Shapes

- Demilitarization completed [Mr. Legg discussed this effort at the meeting.]
 - 1,300 shapes (250,000 lbs.)
 - Certified inert
 - Demilitarized
 - Certified destroyed by local smelter

Ms. Bretz asked about “booster pumps.” Mr. Ridgway stated these are part of GSA and they have been removed. Ms. Bretz also asked about the videotapes associated with the water lines. Mr. Nesbit and Mr. Legg confirmed that no videotaping was performed for the water lines.

Ms. Bretz stated that GSA received a letter about placing housing in the area toward the Army property. Ms. Bretz expressed concern that the area has not been cleaned up and that this is the "least desirable site" to place a housing development. Mr. Legg stated that he has also received communication from the Army requesting environmental restoration information regarding property in this area.

4.0 Ordnance Shapes Update (Walter Legg, EFACHES)

Mr. Legg provided an update on the application of Innovative Technologies for Certification and Demilitarization of Ordnance Shapes at the former NSWC-WO, including a discussion of the possible solutions to address ordnance items found at NSWC-WO.

Mr. Legg stated that the Navy has encountered thousands of shapes during the course of the investigations at NSWC-WO. Through investigation, the Navy determined that all of the items (shapes) encountered were inert or not explosive with the possible exception of some fuzes and detonators that were destroyed. All items were "demilitarized," that is, rendered inoperable and unrecognizable as ordnance.

The Navy evaluated several ways to address the shapes including the following:

- Onsite Demolition via Open Burn / Open Detonation
- Shipment to NSWC Dahlgren for disposal
- Onsite Water-Jet / Donovan Blast Chamber
- Onsite Pulsed Elemental Analysis with Neutrons (PELAN) with Water-Jet / Donovan Blast Chamber

Mr. Legg stated that the Navy used the PELAN approach to address the shapes at NSWC-WO. The technology was developed by Western Kentucky University with support from the Navy. This technique is used to identify the chemical makeup of the filler contained in the ordnance shapes. It is important to determine whether the shape contains inert filler in order to cut it up onsite with a water jet.

The Navy evaluated the different ways to address the shapes and concluded the following:

- Use of PELAN is
 - Very quick, cost effective identification
 - 640 items interrogated in 4 weeks (smaller items were not interrogated)
 - All items determined inert – verified inert during Water Jet cutting
- Water Jet
 - Fast cutting even of large ordnance shapes
 - Very safe
 - Used worldwide on thousands of live and inert items without an energetic reaction
- Donovan Blast Chamber
 - Handles items that have less than 15 lbs of TNT (or equivalent)
 - Push a button and a small 'puff' is the result
 - Scrap metal comes out once the blast is complete

At the conclusion

- 1300 total shapes were processed (250k lbs)
 - All were certified inert
 - Shapes were “demilitarized.”
 - Certified destroyed by local smelter

The project cost was about \$ 2.0M. There were no community issues / concerns, no regulatory issues / concerns, and no Department of Defense Environmental Safety Board issues / concerns.

5.0 RAB/Public Discussion (All)

Mr. Tino asked if there were any questions from the attendees. Ms. Bretz asked if the new groundwater technology being used at Site 9 could be applied to Site 11. Mr. Legg referred to the October RAB discussion on innovative technologies (regarding lactate injection and zero-valent iron). Mr. Nesbit explained that zero-valent iron is being applied to Site 13 and this was discussed in October. Mr. MacEwen explained that the technology being applied to Site 9 (sodium lactate) is working well. Mr. Nesbit stated that activities at Site 11 will begin in the spring. Mr. Ridgway suggested that the field team coordinate their site activities with the Building Coordinator.

Dr. Crannell reviewed groundwater data for the RAB attendees. He stated that the data show a downward trend that is slower than that from the data collected in the first two years of sampling. He asked the BCT two questions: 1) Is the Navy going to continue monitoring?; and 2) Is the Navy monitoring for perchlorate? Mr. Legg stated that the first perchlorate sampling occurred in 1999 and the Navy continues to collect samples and analyze them for perchlorate. Dr. Crannell encouraged the BCT to evaluate the data because no perchlorate criteria have been agreed upon by the state or EPA. Mr. MacEwen stated that the highest perchlorate results were in one or two wells at Site 7, whereas most wells do not show any positive perchlorate results. Mr. Nesbit stated that the groundwater monitoring will continue until the remediation goals are met, which could be anywhere from ten to thirty years.

6.0 Closing and Wrap-Up (John Tino)

The RAB agreed to meet in the evening at Riderwood for the April meeting. Mr. MacEwen stated that another Proposed Plan will be presented at April meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

NEXT RAB Meeting: April 13, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Riderwood Village, Calverton, MD

Future RAB Meetings: July 13, 2004
October 12, 2004