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**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

NORTHERN DIVISION
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
10 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY
MAIL STOP, #82
LESTER, PA 19113-2090

IN REPLY REFER TO

5090
Code 1821/JC

04 DEC 1999

MEMORANDUM

FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) FOR THE INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM AT NAVAL WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT (NWIRP) BETHPAGE, NEW YORK

Enclosed are the minutes from the Restoration Advisory Board meeting held on September 30, 1999. These minutes were paraphrased from the meeting's official transcript. In addition, the meeting agenda and a copy of the presentations given have also been included as attachments to these minutes.

A copy of both the meeting minutes and the official transcript will be available for review at the Navy's Information Repository located at the Bethpage Public Library.

The next RAB meeting has not yet been scheduled but will be discussed at the upcoming site tour that will be held at the Navy's Bethpage property on Saturday December 4, 1999. Once a date has been selected, additional details as to the time and location of the next RAB meeting will be included in subsequent correspondence.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed minutes or need to discuss other issues, please call either your community co-chairperson, Mr. Jim McBride, at (516) 681-6920, or myself at (610) 595-0567, extension 163.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Colter".

JAMES L. COLTER
Remedial Project Manager
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosure

Copy to:

NAVAIR, Judith Hare/Joe Kaminski

J.A. Jones, Al Taormina

NYSDEC (Albany), Steve Scharf/John Helmset

NYSDEC (Stony Brook), Stan Farkas

NYSDOH, Bill Gilday

DCMC, Marty Simonson

Northrop Grumman, John Cofman

H2M, John Molloy

Nassau County, Tim Kelly/Mr. Thomas Clark

Nassau County DOH, Bruce Mackay

Town of Oyster Bay, Hon. John Venditto

Community Co-Chair, Jim McBride

Community RAB Members, Hon. Edward Mangano/Ms. Linda Mangano

Community RAB Member, Edward Resch

Community RAB Member, Charles Bevilacqua

Community RAB Member, Roy Tringali

Community RAB Member, Rosemary Styne

Community RAB Member, John F. Lovisolo

3/15/99

**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
NAVAL WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT BETHPAGE
BETHPAGE COMMUNITY CENTER, BETHPAGE, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 30, 1999**

The Meeting began at 7:00 pm and ended approximately 9:30 pm. RAB members attending were: Community members Jim McBride, Edward Mangano, Linda Mangano, Edward Resch, Roy Tringali, John Venditto (represented by Rick Fender); Martin Simonson representing Defense Contract Management Command (DCMC); Tim Kelly representing the Nassau County Department of Public Works (NCDPW); John Lovejoy representing the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH), and Steven Scharf representing New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC); and Navy members Joe Kaminski and Jim Colter. Members absent include community members Charles Bevilacqua, Thomas Clark, and Rosemary Styne and representatives from Bethpage Water District, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region II.

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Joe Kaminski, on behalf of Ms. Judith Hare, the Navy Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the first RAB meeting for NWIRP Bethpage. Mr. Kaminski explained that Ms. Hare was not able to attend the RAB meeting because of an emergency permit hearing at a Navy facility in Texas that Ms. Hare was required to attend.

Mr. Kaminski reviewed the agenda, indicating that the meeting would deviate slightly from the agenda provided. Mr. Kaminski wanted to explain the RAB and RAB operating procedures before the Community RAB members selected the Community Co-chair. Mr. Kaminski also explained that although he realized there may be many questions, because this is an introductory meeting, the Navy may need to address many of the specific questions at future meetings (see Discussion of Future Meeting Topics).

Mr. Kaminski mentioned that one of the Navy's primary goals for NWIRP Bethpage is to transfer the property to Nassau County for economic redevelopment. For the transfer to occur, the Navy must meet the appropriate environmental regulations to ensure the property is suitable for transfer. Through the RAB, the Navy hopes the process for the transfer will proceed at a quicker pace.

Mr. Kaminski explained the background of the development of the RAB concept. The evolution from Technical Review Committee (TRC), which includes the Navy and regulators, to RAB came about to better meet the Department of Defense (DOD)'s need to provide more responsive cleanups at their facilities. By providing a forum for community participation in the remedial process, the Navy is better able to address community concerns early on in the process.

Mr. Kaminski discussed the RAB Directory that the DOD publishes annually and explained that once the Community Co-chair was selected, he would get the necessary information so that the Bethpage RAB could be included in the directory. In addition, Mr. Kaminski had a document on the whole Navy Installation Restoration (IR) Program to give to the Community Co-chair.

At the beginning of the meeting, all RAB members were given copies of the RAB Workbook and stenographer's transcripts from the May 24, 1999 public meeting. The RAB members were encouraged to use the workbook to keep handouts and other RAB meeting materials. A RAB Workbook will also be available at the Bethpage Library, which will be kept up-to-date with RAB meeting materials and meeting minutes.

In response to a RAB member's question on whether money was available to have a technical advisor to the community RAB members, Mr. Kaminski replied that while the Navy tries to provide the information/technical needs of the RAB, there is money available for a technical advisor if necessary. The availability and use of the money will be a discussion topic at a future RAB meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

The RAB members introduced themselves providing their names and where they worked or whom they were representing.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES/OPERATING PROCEDURES/ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Mr. Kaminski provided a presentation on the RAB responsibilities and operation. A copy of the presentation is attached. Mr. Kaminski indicated that the RAB was a forum for discussion and exchange of information between the Navy, the regulatory agencies, and the community on environmental restoration issues. Mr. Kaminski stressed that the key word was "advisory"; the Navy advises the community about Navy activities, the community advises the Navy on issues important to the community, and the regulators advise everyone on the appropriate regulations. Also, the RAB is not a decision-making process or body. The RAB consists of members from the existing TRC and the community. There is a Navy Co-chair (Ms. Hare) and a Community Co-chair, who is elected by the community members. The Co-chairs run the meeting jointly and all the members are equal on the RAB.

Mr. Kaminski outlined the responsibilities of the Navy, regulators, and community, the Navy Co-chair, and the RAB Community Co-chair. As part of the Navy responsibilities, Mr. Kaminski noted that the Navy puts together and distributes the meeting handouts, meeting minutes, and other necessary printed material that go to the RAB members before the next RAB meeting. Along with ensuring that state and Federal standards and regulatory issues are identified and addressed, regulators will often speak on various issues having to do with the cleanup of the property. This is where the assisting of educating and training of RAB members comes in.

RAB community members are responsible for providing input to the Navy and the regulatory agencies (e.g., NYSDEC, USEPA, and NCDHS) and for being a liaison between the Navy and community. They review documents as they become available and consider issues relative to cleanup. The community members have the responsibility to pass along the information, as necessary, to neighbors, other

community members, or organizations. Mr. Kaminski indicated that it was very important for all RAB members to attend all RAB meetings and noted that RAB members who can not attend the meeting can provide a substitute; however, the continuity of RAB member attendance is important to the success of the group.

Mr. Kaminski went over the operating procedures, provided in Section 2 of the RAB Workbook. Mr. Kaminski discussed commitment (membership), and indicated that he referred to it as such because the Navy is asking the RAB members to make a commitment. The numbers of Community RAB members and alternatives were left blank in Section 2 to allow the community members to discuss the appropriate numbers later in the evening's meeting. He also indicated that the mission statement was flexible and could be amended when necessary. The effective date for the mission statement and operating procedures is when everyone signs the signature page (which was later passed around to the attending members to sign).

In addition, Mr. Kaminski indicated that the purpose of the RAB meetings is to discuss issues pertaining to the IR Program (the environmental cleanup of the property) and that the RAB meetings were not a forum for discussing other types of issues. Although important, issues not related to the IR Program need to be discussed under the appropriate forum.

SELECTION OF COMMUNITY CO-CHAIRPERSON

During a recess, the RAB community members were asked to select a Community Co-chair and to review the RAB mission statement. The Community RAB elected Mr. Jim McBride as the Community Co-chair. In addition, the RAB community members determined that the number of community RAB members would be nine and there would be one alternative member. Mr. John Lovisolo was selected as the alternative member.

OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AT NWIRP BETHPAGE

Mr. Jim Colter provided a presentation on the environmental program at NWIRP Bethpage. A copy of the presentation is provided as an attachment to these meeting minutes. Mr. Colter provided an overview of the last 14 years when the Navy became involved in environmental investigations and discussed the various steps in the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA) program that the Navy follows for cleanup activities at NWIRP Bethpage.

The Navy's IR Program at NWIRP Bethpage was initiated in 1985 and an Initial Assessment Study (IAS) was completed in 1986. Three sites were identified in the IAS: Site 1 – Former Drum Marshalling Area; Site 2 – Recharge Basin Area; and Site 3 – Salvage Storage Area. Based on the IAS, remedial investigations were initiated for the three sites. Although the USEPA and NYSDEC issued a RCRA operating permit (in 1992) for NWIRP Bethpage, an agreement was made to continue cleanup activities under CERCLA. Remedial investigations were conducted from 1991 to 1993, a feasibility study completed in 1994, and the proposed remedial action plan for soils finalized in 1994. The Record of Decision (ROD) for soils (Operable Unit 1) was signed by the Navy and NYSDEC in July 1995.

The 1995 ROD requires the Navy to conduct various activities to address soil contamination at Sites 1 and 2 and to conduct interim measures to address groundwater contamination. These activities and the actual initiation or completion date for the activities are as follows:

- At Site 1, remediate volatile organic compound (VOC)-contaminated soils using Air Sparging/Soil Vapor Extraction (AS/SVE). The AS/SVE system was installed in June 1998 and is expected to operate through 2000.
- At Site 1, excavate soils with metals concentrations at hazardous levels and soils with PCB concentrations greater than 10 parts per million (ppm). Soil excavation will be initiated upon completion of the operation of the AS/SVE system.
- At Site 2, excavate soils with PCB concentrations greater than 10 ppm. Excavation activities were completed in June 1996.
- Fund construction of a groundwater treatment system for the Bethpage Water District (BWD) Plant 5. Navy reimbursement was forwarded to the BWD in August 1996 and construction of the treatment system was completed in late 1997/early 1998.

The concentrations of chemicals in the soils at Site 3 are below regulatory standards and the Navy is planning to pursue a no further action ROD for soil at Site 3. For groundwater, the Navy was pursuing remediation of groundwater (Operable Unit 2) only on the Navy property, until NYSDEC requested the Navy and Northrop Grumman to come up with a comprehensive remedy for groundwater. Therefore, groundwater contamination is being addressed through a 3-party groundwater approach developed between the Navy, Northrop Grumman, and NYSDEC. To date, Northrop Grumman has paid for treatment systems at BWD Plant 6 (initiated before 1994) and at BWD Plant 4 (initiated in 1995). As provided in the 1995 ROD, the Navy paid for a treatment system at BWD Plant 5. In 1997 as an interim measure, Northrop Grumman constructed and began operation of a groundwater pump and treatment system to contain groundwater. A draft feasibility study to address groundwater (Operable Unit 2) was submitted to the NYSDEC in February 1999. The Navy expects the feasibility study to be finalized by the end of 1999 and a ROD issued in March 2000.

The ROD for groundwater is anticipated to require the 1997 interim measure to be implemented as a final remedy. The Navy and Northrop Grumman would be responsible for implementation of the various activities under the remedy for groundwater. The ROD for groundwater would require that contaminated groundwater within Navy/Northrop Grumman property would be contained through the pump and treatment system. Because some contamination has already migrated beyond the Navy/Northrop Grumman property, treatment systems were installed at the public supply wells that were downgradient of the offsite contaminated groundwater. The public supply wells are monitored regularly and the treatment systems would be used if contamination were detected in the public supply wells. Currently contaminated groundwater has been detected approximately 200 feet upgradient of the public supply wells. Long-term monitoring would be implemented as part of the final action for groundwater and would be used to monitor the efficiency of the groundwater containment system and to determine whether contaminant concentrations in groundwater were decreasing.

Mr. Colter also discussed several areas discovered during investigations as part of the closure of NWIRP Bethpage that will be addressed further under the IR Program.

These areas are: Area of Concern (AOC) 22 – Former Underground Storage Tanks (UST) Location, Drywell 20-08, and Drywell 34-07. Currently remedial investigations are being conducted at these three areas and the Navy will implement any remedial actions determined to be necessary for the three locations.

Several RAB questions related to cleanup activities that Northrop Grumman conducted as part of the closure of NWIRP Bethpage. The activities conducted by Northrop Grumman were not conducted under the Navy's IR Program and Mr. Colter did not have many details on their activities. Mr. Colter indicated that Northrop Grumman's various investigations included collection of over 3,200 soil samples and removal of over 13,000 tons of contaminated soil. As with activities conducted by the Navy, Northrop Grumman consulted with the appropriate regulatory agencies and conducted the activities in accordance with the appropriate regulations. Mr. Colter indicated that information on activities conducted by Northrop Grumman was available through the NYSDEC and he could provide the name and phone number of a contact at the NYSDEC if any RAB members were interested.

There were also various questions about the cleanup levels and the residual risk that would remain at the sites after cleanup activities were complete. Mr. Colter indicated the cleanup levels for soil were based on industrial land use. More time would be necessary to explain how cleanup levels were developed, but the levels are basically developed based on a risk assessment (see Discussion of Future Meeting Topics). The industrial cleanup level for PCBs (10 ppm) is based on New York State/USEPA calculations based on estimates of quantities for exposure from ingestion (eating) of soil, direct contact with soil, and inhalation of dust, as well as exposure duration. The residential cleanup level for PCBs in soil is 1 ppm. PCBs were not detected in groundwater and are therefore not a contaminant of concern for groundwater. Mr. Colter explained that because PCBs adhere to soil, PCBs do not easily migrate into groundwater when the PCBs are spilled on surface soils.

In terms of cleanup activities at NWIRP Bethpage, although the industrial cleanup level for PCBs is 10 ppm, to get to the contaminated soil, the Navy excavated much of the overlying surface soil and backfilled the excavated areas with clean soil. Therefore, surface soil in these areas meet residential cleanup levels. In addition, when the

excavation is complete, the Navy will put either gravel or a soil type covering over the areas. Inside the buildings, Northrop Grumman has conducted cleanup activities. Therefore, Mr. Colter explained that inside and outside the buildings, the public would not be exposed to PCB contaminated soil.

In answer to a question of whether there was a potential for residents living nearby to be exposed to PCBs in soil, Mr. Colter replied that residential sampling was conducted to address nearby residents' concerns. The results were given to the NYSDOH and the results indicated that the PCBs have not migrated to nearby properties.

Mr. Colter also indicated that the Navy is responsible for getting documents together to support the Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST). This FOST will discuss why the Navy considers the property environmentally suitable for transfer to Nassau County. The document will be reviewed by the regulatory agencies. Although preparation of the FOST will be conducted under a different environmental program than the IR Program, the Navy plans to provide the FOST to the RAB for review and to use the RAB as a forum to present the FOST at a public meeting and receive public comment on the FOST. For any transfer of property from the Navy to Nassau County, the Navy would only transfer property where cleanup activities have been completed. The Navy would retain any area where cleanup activities were ongoing and would not transfer those areas until the activities were complete.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Various potential discussion topics for future meetings were discussed. Many of the topics identified would require a full RAB meeting to discuss. Mr. Colter indicated that he would develop a draft agenda and send it to Mr. McBride to review and revise and then a final agenda will be developed and provided to RAB members along with the notice for the next meeting.

Potential agenda items for future RAB meetings include:

- Discussion of independent assistance (likely requires half of a RAB meeting)

- General and site-specific risk assessment discussion – including risk associated with contamination remaining at the facility (likely requires a full RAB meeting).
- More maps to show the sites and site data. The Navy is working on the Graphical Information System (GIS) for Bethpage. The GIS is a computer database that enable the Navy to show all the data on computer. Presentation of GIS materials would likely require one meeting for both soil and groundwater data.
- General understanding of soil characteristics and groundwater modeling (likely require one RAB meeting).
- Presentation of the feasibility study for groundwater (likely require one RAB meeting).

In answer to a question as to whether the Navy would share the GIS with the water district or regulators, Mr. Colter indicated that the Navy typically does share the GIS with those who have the software required to run the GIS.

The RAB members requested a site visit before the next RAB meeting. Mr. Colter indicated that he could make himself available for a Saturday site tour if the RAB was interested and requested the RAB Community Co-chair contact Ms. Hare, the Navy co-chair, to arrange a day for a site visit.

CLOSING REMARKS

In closing, Mr. Kaminski thanked everyone for participating on the RAB. Mr. Kaminski explained that by participating on the RAB, the RAB members were making a serious commitment and showed the public's interest in the activities at NWIRP Bethpage. As a first meeting of the RAB, Mr. Kaminski was pleased with the communication among RAB members and looked forward to even better dialog between the Navy and community at future meetings.

POSTSCRIPT NOTE

Stenographer's transcripts are prepared for RAB meetings to assist the Navy in preparation of meeting minutes. The transcripts are available in the NWIRP Bethpage

Information Repository at the Bethpage Library. To assist the stenographer, RAB members and other attendees at the meeting are requested to speak one at a time for the stenographer to accurately transcribe the meeting discussions.