

Meeting Minutes

Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Yorktown
Cheatham Annex (CAX), Williamsburg, Virginia
Environmental Restoration Program (ERP)
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
Yorktown Library
Wednesday, November 15, 2023; 1300-1400

Attendees:

Name	Organization/Role	Attendance
Captain Daniel Patrick	CAX Commanding Officer	In person
Jeff Kissler	CAX Environmental Program Director	In person
Bryan Peed	Outgoing Navy Remedial Project Manager (RPM)	In person
Melissa Cushing	Incoming Navy Remedial Project Manager (RPM)	In person
Sarina Howell	United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) RPM	Virtual
Wade Smith	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) RPM	In person
Stephanie Sawyer	CH2M HILL Inc. (CH2M) Program Manager	In person
Megghan Smith	CH2M Deputy Program Manager	In person
Max Lanzasida	CAX Public Affairs Officer	In person
Jon Aglio	Tetra Tech Project Manager	In person

Ms. Stephanie Sawyer began the meeting by providing an overview of the agenda, which included an update on the Environmental Restoration Program Update and a technical presentation on recent perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) investigations at the base. Ms. Sawyer reviewed the virtual meeting logistics and instructions for attendees participating by Microsoft Teams and informed the attendees that the meeting will be recorded.

Mr. Bryan Peed introduced himself as the outgoing NAVFAC RPM for CAX and that Ms. Melissa Cushing would be taking over this role. In addition, Mr. Peed stated this is the first hybrid in-person/virtual RAB meeting since 2019, prior to COVID. Mr. Peed asked the representatives attending in person and virtually, to introduce themselves.

CAPT Patrick provided opening remarks and welcomed the attendees. CAPT Patrick stated that environmental stewardship is a priority to the base and looks forward to sharing a quarterly update with the public.

All presentation handouts were distributed prior to the meeting and available on the [CAX ERP public website](#).

Environmental Restoration Program Update

Mr. Peed provided the agenda for the ERP Updates as follows:

- Overview of the ERP at CAX

- Update on select ERP sites that had a milestone achievement or significant work over the last fiscal year, which included: Site 4, Site 7, Site 9, Site 24, AOC 1 South, AOC 6, AOC 8, and AOC 9.
- Review of the emerging chemical PFAS

Mr. Peed provided an overview of the ERP at CAX and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. Mr. Peed identified where each of the CAX sites are in the CERCLA process and stated the Navy, EPA, and VDEQ meet quarterly to discuss each site as needed to move forward. Mr. Peed provided the following individual site updates:

- Site 4 (Outdated medical supply disposal area): Site 4 contains two waste burial areas. The northern burial area consists of construction debris and is located adjacent to Upstream Pond. The southern burial area contains medical supply waste. Drainage channels are present in and around the southern burial area. Surficial debris has been removed from the site for safety reasons. The two burial areas were grouped together due to near proximity to each other. There is a sediment concern for Upstream Pond. Youth Pond, located to the northeast of Upstream Pond, has identified a concern in fish tissue. Since the last RAB meeting, team has completed the Preliminary Draft Feasibility Study (FS) for all site media. The FS is currently in preparation for regulatory review for all site media. Following the finalization of the Feasibility Study, the site will move into the Proposed Plan and Record of Decision phase for all media.
- Site 7 (Old DuPont Disposal Area): The original Site 7 (Site 7 Proper) area has been addressed and waste has been removed. The site is NFA for soil and sediment. During the groundwater investigation, the contamination plume was expanded to southwest of Site 7 to the wooded area north of CAD13. Culturally sensitive areas have been identified within wooded area. The Navy is currently working with the state historic preservation office (SHPO) for additional guidance prior to land disturbing activities. Since the last RAB meeting, team has initiated planning field activities for the groundwater investigation. Mr. Jeff Kissler stated that the base is aware of the culturally sensitive areas and that tribal communication has been completed for the Site 7 investigation area. Mr. Kissler inquired if there is contamination in Cheatham Pond. Mr. Peed stated that further investigation is warranted to identify the source and extent of contamination of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and groundwater flow direction. Historically, groundwater flows to the east, towards York River. Following the Site 7 groundwater investigation, a new Site will be opened for all media to include Site 7 Proper and the identified plume to the west of Site 7. Ms. Sawyer stated that the contamination of concern is VOCs in the groundwater, which will dissipate into the atmosphere and not contaminate Cheatham Pond or accumulate in fish tissue.
- Site 9 (former Transformer Storage Area): The Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) has been completed for field investigations for soil, groundwater, and sediment for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). There are high PCB concentrations between CAD 6 and CAD 16, drainage lines, and outfall, which leads to a wooded area, wetlands, and the York River. Concentrations of PCBs decrease towards the York River. The team is currently preparing to scope the Remedial Investigation (RI) Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP) in preparation for field investigations.

- AOC 1 South (former Scrap Metal Dump): The site consists of construction material and surficial debris located throughout the site. Since the previous RAB meeting, the team has finalized the RI report and has initiated drafting the FS report. The path forward consists of removal of the surficial waste and long-term monitoring (LTM) for groundwater.
- AOC 6 (Trinitrotoluene (TNT)/Ammonia Settling Pits Subareas): The site consists of a TNT Graining House, Catch Box Ruins, and Former Sump. A Non-Time Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) is currently in progress for soil. The Navy is currently working on finalizing the NTCRA Work Plans and anticipate field work to be performed in January. The site has been prepared for removal action activities and vegetation clearance has been performed. Following the removal, a construction completion report will be completed.
- AOC 8 (Area South of Site 7): AOC 8 consists of an old borrow pit that was filled in with waste. Removal of Areas A through E have been completed. The current investigation is to ensure that groundwater has not been impacted by the removal actions. The team has completed the Draft-Final RI Addendum (RI-A) report documenting groundwater delineation field activities and is currently working on preparing the Final RI-A. Path forward is anticipated to be no further action or LTM of groundwater.
- AOC 9 (Penniman Lake Historical Industrial Areas): Penniman Lake is a primary deposit area for historical and current industrial land usage to the north of the lake. Prior to remedial activities at Penniman Lake, sources located up-gradient to the lake will need to be addressed. Soil and groundwater samples have been collected from watersheds that feed into Penniman Lake. Watersheds have been grouped into new sites based on historical use, location, and topography. Since the previous RAB meeting, the team has completed the Draft ESI Report to document field investigation activities and is currently continuing collaboration with the USEPA and VDEQ to determine a path forward for the site and to initiate the RI.
- Emerging Chemical (PFAS): A general overview of what PFAS is, general uses, and on a basewide Preliminary Assessment (PA) that was performed was provided. The objective of the PA was to identify and document all potential or actual PFAS sources, identifying any area that requires further PFAS investigation, identify receptors and migration pathways (on and off base), and to determine whether an expedited response is warranted. Drinking water contamination was not identified. The Fire Station was identified for further investigation due to aqueous firefighting foam (AFFF).
 - Fire Station (Site 24) – Site Investigation field work has been completed for soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment for PFAS. Historically, AFFF has been stored on fire trucks and was previously used in the grassy areas surrounding the fire station to test and clear hose nozzles. There was an inventory of AFFF concentrate on site, which was removed in 2016. Since last RAB meeting, all SI field work (soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment) and reporting have been completed. The Navy is currently preparing the RI SAP in support of future RI fieldwork and moving forward with the CERCLA process.

PFAS Update

Mr. Jon Aglio reviewed the site background and stated that there is no record of PFAS release at the fire station. The SI consisted of collecting surface and subsurface soil and groundwater sampling. Soil samples were analyzed for the 18 PFAS compounds (EPA Method 537.1). Mr.

Aglio reviewed the soil and groundwater screening values for the PFAS compounds. The PFAS compound PFOS was detected in the six surface and subsurface soil samples and exceeded the screening values in three of the six wells, located to the east of the fire station. Additional PFAS compounds were identified in the soil below the screening values. PFAS was identified in the six groundwater samples, which exceeded the screening values for PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, PFHxS, and PFHxA. Based on the findings, an RI is recommended. There are no water supply wells located within a mile downgradient of the fire station. An off-base drinking water investigation is not warranted currently.

Final Comments/Closing Remarks

Mr. Peed thanked everyone for participating and for the work being done. Mr. Peed reviewed contact information for the base Navy Project Manager, Environmental Program Director for CAX, and Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Yorktown Public Affairs Office, and the public website.

Next RAB Meeting: November 2024
(Exact date and time will be advertised on the public websites and in the *Daily Press* and *Virginia Gazette* newspapers)

Location: To be determined (the meeting will be advertised on the public website, and the *Daily Press* and *Virginia Gazette* newspapers.)

Points of Contact for Questions, Comments, or to Request Additional Information:

Ms. Melissa Cushing, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic Remedial Project Manager for CAX, melissa.m.cushing.civ@us.navy.mil or (757) 341-0483

Public Websites:

[Cheatham Annex \(navy.mil\)](#)

ATTACHMENT 1

Public Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Yorktown Cheatham Annex (CAX)

Wednesday, November 15, 2023
1:00 – 2:00 P.M.

Yorktown Library
8500 George Washington Memorial Highway
Yorktown, VA 23692

The Public is Invited to Attend

NWS Yorktown CAX is inviting the community to participate in the RAB meeting to be informed of Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) issues, investigations, and cleanups. The ERP addresses past contamination to protect human health and the environment and relies on public awareness and engagement in the process. This is your opportunity to participate by providing direct input during this meeting. NWS Yorktown CAX, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are committed to the RAB, which symbolizes our commitment to maintaining open dialog with impacted communities as we work together to clean, protect, and restore the environment. ***Please note: Although the RAB is open to the public, there will only be a limited amount of time for public questions following the scheduled RAB presentations.***

This meeting will be held in-person and online. The public is welcomed to attend the RAB in-person, by phone, or virtually through the free webinar tool Microsoft (MS) Teams. Virtual attendees will be able to join the webinar up to 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. For those using the MS Teams application, please allow time for downloading to your computer or mobile device. If you do not wish to download the application, attendees may also choose "Continue in Browser" to access the meeting.

Virtual Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/CAX-November-2023-RAB>

Meeting ID: 232 541 100 112

Passcode: 26xrKA

Call in Phone Number: (469) 214-8538

Phone Conference ID: 535 931 866#

A link to the virtual meeting and presentations for the meeting will be posted to the public website under Community Outreach. For additional information regarding the RAB Meeting or the ERP at NWS Yorktown CAX visit our website:

<https://www.navfac.navy.mil/Divisions/Environmental/Products-and-Services/Environmental-Restoration/Mid-Atlantic/Cheatham-Annex/>

or contact the Installation Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (757) 887-4939

Notice published in the *Virginia Gazette* and *Daily Press* on November 11 and November 12, 2023, respectively. (In addition, notification letters are mailed to the Community Co-Chair and community members on the mailing list.)

