

Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Yorktown Cheatham Annex (CAX), Williamsburg, Virginia  
 Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting  
 Yorktown Library  
 Thursday, November 14, 2024; 1300-1415

## Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization/Role	Attendance
Captain Daniel Patrick	CAX Commanding Officer	In Person
Jeff Kissler	CAX Environmental Program Director	In Person
Steven Oyer	RAB Community Co-Chair	In Person
Max Lanzasida	CAX Public Affairs Officer	In Person
Saun Eagan	EPA Region 3 Office of Public Affairs Community Involvement Branch Chief	Virtual
Mike Makin	CAX Archaeologist and Cultural Resources Manager	In Person
Bryan Peed	Former Navy Remedial Project Manager (RPM)	In Person
Wade Smith	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) RPM	In Person
Sarina Howell	United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) RPM	Virtual
Martin Gelhaus	EPA Human Health Assessor/Technical Support	Virtual
Kevin Schrecengost	EPA Hydrogeologist/Technical Support	Virtual
Kevin Popowich	EPA Ecological Risk Assessor/Technical Support	Virtual
Stephanie Sawyer	CH2M HILL Inc. (CH2M) Activity Manager	In Person
Megghan Smith	CH2M Deputy Activity Manager	In Person

Ms. Stephanie Sawyer began the meeting by providing an overview of the agenda, which included the Environmental Restoration Program Update, Area of Concern (AOC) 6 Removal Action Update, and the Cultural Resources at CAX. Ms. Sawyer reviewed the virtual meeting logistics and instructions for attendees participating by Microsoft Teams and informed the attendees that the meeting would be recorded.

Mr. Bryan Peed introduced himself as the former Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) RPM for CAX. Mr. Peed asked the representatives attending in person and virtually, to introduce themselves. Following introductions, Captain (CAPT) Patrick provided opening remarks and welcomed the attendees. CAPT Patrick stated the importance of environmental stewardship. These meetings are completed to ensure that the efforts are going where they should be so that the team can bring environmental conditions back to pristine condition.

Steve Oyer thanked the environmental team for their efforts and looked forward to seeing the progress. Bryan closed out the introduction by encouraging the participants to ask questions at the time or by email.

All presentation handouts were distributed prior to the meeting and also made available on the CAX Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) public website

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

Environmental Restoration Program Update

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

- Overview of the ERP at CAX
- Review of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process
- Update on select ERP sites that had a milestone achievement or accomplished significant work over the last fiscal year (FY2024), which included: Site 4, Site 7, Site 9, Sites 20- 24, AOC 1 South, AOC 6, AOC 8, and AOC 9.

Mr. Peed provided an overview of the ERP at CAX and the CERCLA process. Mr. Peed identified where each of the CAX sites were in the CERCLA process and stated the Navy, USEPA, and VDEQ met 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. In Youth Pond (located to the northeast of Upstream Pond), a concern in fish tissue has been identified. Since the last RAB meeting (November 2023), the team has completed the Draft Feasibility Study (FS) for all site media. The Draft FS is currently in regulatory review for all site media. Following the finalization of the Feasibility Study, the site will move into the Proposed Plan (PP) and Record of Decision (ROD) phase for all site media.
- Site 7 (Old DuPont Disposal Area): The original Site 7 (Site 7 Proper) area has been addressed, waste has been removed, and the shoreline was reconstructed. The site is No Further Action (NFA) for soil and sediment. During the groundwater investigation, the Trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination plume expanded to northwest of Site 7 to the wooded area north of CAD 13. The wooded area was identified as a culturally sensitive area. The Navy is currently working with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to ensure regulatory compliance. Mr. Peed stated that an archeological survey has been performed. Cultural resources will be discussed later in the presentation.
- Site 9 (former Transformer Storage Area): There are high polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) concentrations between CAD 6 and CAD 16, drainage lines, and outfall, which lead to a wooded area, wetlands, and the York River. Concentrations of PCBs decrease towards the York River. A topographic survey has been conducted in the vicinity of the site for further investigation. The team is currently preparing to scope the Remedial Investigation (RI) Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP) in preparation for field investigations.

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- 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 submitted the Draft FS report for all site media. 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 a former sump. A Non-Time Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) has been performed. The AOC 6 status will be discussed separately during this meeting.

Participant inquired on the timeline for closing AOC 6. The Navy stated that the soil removal has been performed and the Construction Completion Report (CCR) is in progress. It is anticipated that the AOC 6 PP will be completed in the fiscal year 2026 and the ROD will be completed in the fiscal year 2027.

- AOC 8 (Area South of Site 7): AOC 8 consists of an old borrow pit that was filled with waste. Removal of Areas A through E has been completed. The team is preparing the Draft-Final RI Addendum (RI-A) and regulatory comments are currently in progress.
- 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. PCBs have been identified in the sediment. Prior to remedial activities at Penniman Lake, sources located up-gradient of 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 Final Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) Report to document field investigation activities. Historical industrial areas upgradient of Penniman Lake will be further investigated as Sites 20, 21, 22, and 23. Following the investigation of Sites 20-23, Penniman Lake will be further investigated.

The following watersheds are grouped as the following:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Watershed</u>	<u>Phase</u>
20	A	RI
21	B and C	RI
22	G and H	Site Inspection (SI)
23	J and K	RI

A participant inquired on the source of contamination of AOC 9 (Penniman Lake). The watersheds are being investigated as potential sources of contamination. The investigation is early in the process. However, investigation of historical usage within the watersheds has been performed as a part of the ESI. The sampling of Penniman Lake was initiated in 2001. Contaminants were not identified in the surface water.

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Contaminants were identified in fish tissue and sediment approximately 10 feet below grade. Once the sources of contamination are addressed (Site 20-23 investigation), the Navy will address the contamination in the lake.

- Fire Station (Site 24) – Site Investigation field work has been completed for soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment for per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Historically, aqueous film forming foam (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. The Navy is currently preparing the RI SAP in support of future RI fieldwork.

#### CAX AOC 6 Removal Action Update

Ms. Sawyer provided an update on the removal action for AOC 6. An SI was performed for the site and it was determined that contamination was minimal and was able to go straight into a removal action. Ms. Sawyer provided a quick overview of the historical usage of CAX as the Penniman Shell Loading Plant (PSLP). AOC 6 consists of five different areas of the PSLP G Plant. Operations of the G plant included the manufacturing of explosives in World War I. AOC 6 was identified as five subareas: 1918 Drum Storage Subarea, Waste Slag Material Subarea, TNT Graining House Sump Subarea and TNT Catch Box Ruins, and the Ammonia Settling Pits Subarea. An NFA ROD was completed in 2018 except for soil in the TNT Subareas and the Ammonia Settling Pits Subarea. Surface water and sediment are being evaluated as a part of AOC 9 (Penniman Lake) Investigations. An Action Memorandum was signed by the Navy in July 2020 to remove the soil that exceeded site remediation goals, dispose of contaminated soil, and backfill excavation areas. Ms. Sawyer reviewed the mobilization and preparation activities. Pre-removal samples were collected to define excavation boundaries. Ms. Sawyer reviewed the quantities of soil and tree stumps that were removed from the site. Following soil excavation, confirmation samples were collected from the floor and walls of each excavation area to determine if the cleanup goals were met. Two samples did not meet the cleanup goals and additional excavation was performed. Additional confirmation sampling determined that clean up goals were then met, following the additional excavation. The excavation was lined with geotextile fabric for delineation purposes and backfilled with approved backfill. A NFA PP is anticipated to be made available for public review in 2026.

A participant questioned if the trees were sampled or if they were treated as hazardous. Ms. Sawyer stated that cleanup values include animals and vegetation assessment for human health and the environment as a part of the risk assessment. Concerns would have been identified during the SI. Trees were not sampled.

#### Cultural Resources at Cheatham Annex

Mr. Makin introduced himself as the Cultural Resource Manager and Archeologist for CAX and Naval Station Yorktown. Mr. Makin reviewed the cultural resources laws and regulations. Potentially significant culturally sensitive areas were identified within the Site 7 RI Addendum investigation area. The Navy is consulting with SHPO and an archeological survey has been performed for Site 7. There are several Native American sites at CAX however, burial sites have

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not been identified. Mr. Makin reviewed federal regulation compliance key points. Land disturbance is the most relevant component. There are no historically significant buildings identified at CAX. A total of 30 of the 54 archeological sites identified at CAX require SHPO consultation prior to land disturbance. CAX has sites and artifacts that date back 10,000 years until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when Dupont developed the PSLP circa World War I.

A participant asked how the 54 archeological sites are tracked and if that information is available. The Navy has a geographic information systems (GIS) layer that shows all the sites. The evaluation status is not provided in the GIS data.

Final Comments/Closing Remarks

CAPT Patrick thanked the team for their environmental efforts and stated he is looking forward to seeing all the progress that is made in the following year.

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 NWS CAX, and NWS Yorktown Public Affairs Office, and the public website.

Next RAB Meeting: November 2025  
(Exact date and time will be advertised on the public website 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, Navy RPM for CAX, melissa.m.cushing.civ@us.navy.mil or (757) 341-0483

Public Websites: <https://tinyurl.com/CAX-Annex-Community-Outreach>



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ATTACHMENT 1

Public Notice

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

Thursday, November 14, 2024  
1:00 – 2:15 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: [November 2024 RAB Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 290 014 750 028

Passcode: 4ApeP7

Call in Phone Number: (469) 214-8538

Phone Conference ID: 176 167 035#

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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/>, contact the Installation Public Affairs Officer at (757) 887-4939, or scan the QR Code below:



Notice published in the *Virginia Gazette* and *Daily Press* on November 9 and November 10, 2024, respectively. (In addition, notification letters are mailed to the Community Co-Chair and community members on the mailing list.)