

MEETING MINUTES

Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Yorktown Yorktown, Virginia and Cheatham Annex (CAX), Williamsburg, Virginia Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Yorktown Library

Thursday, November 7, 2019; 1300-1430

Attendees:

Name	Organization/Role
LCDR Jonathon Horner	Public Works Officer, NWS Yorktown and CAX
Steven Oyer	Citizen and RAB Community Co-Chair
James Gravette	Navy Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for NWS Yorktown
Bryan Peed	Navy RPM for CAX
Jennifer Podbesek	Navy Environmental Director for NWS Yorktown and CAX
Leslie Jones	United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) RPM for CAX
Bob Stroud	USEPA RPM for CAX
Wade Smith	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) RPM for NWS Yorktown and CAX
Stephanie Sawyer	CH2M Hill (CH2M) Program Manager for CAX
Betsy Collins	CH2M Deputy Program Manager for CAX
Adrienne Jones	CH2M Program Manager for NWS Yorktown
Brian Wachter	CH2M
Debra Trent	NAVFAC
Frank Burwell	CH2M
Amy Brand	CH2M

Attachments:

Attachment 1 is the Public Notice for the RAB Meeting.

Attachment 2 is the RAB Meeting Sign-in Sheet.

Welcome and Introductions:

Mr. Bryan Peed presented opening remarks and introductions to the RAB. The other RAB members and guests introduced themselves. LCDR Horner explained he was attending the meeting in Captain Schneider's place and stated the importance of environmental restoration to the captain. Mr. Peed noted that for the last several years, RAB participation has been low which triggered the group to reevaluate the approach to RAB meetings. Mr. Oyer and LCDR Horner agreed that low RAB attendance is a good sign of information flowing freely. Mr. Oyer said that

he discusses the content of the RAB meetings freely with the public and noted there is additional information available to the public online.

All presentation handouts were distributed.

Path Forward for the RAB

Mr. Peed presented the proposed path forward for the RAB. He reminded the RAB that there were no attendees at the June 2019 RAB meeting and because of that, Captain Schneider had requested an evaluation of the current meeting location, time, frequency, and length. The evaluation indicated the following:

- The location of the meeting (Yorktown Library) is in good proximity to the bases and RAB members. The meeting room is free and easy to reserve.
- The length of the meeting (typically two hours) is overwhelming to new members. Mr. Oyer agreed that an hour would be more manageable.
- The 1300 to 1400 timeframe is best for current RAB members. Mr. Oyer agreed.
- It would be best to hold separate RAB meetings for CAX and NWS Yorktown to help keep each meeting shorter and better target the public around each location. The May meeting will be for NWS Yorktown and the November meeting will be for CAX.

Ms. Amy Brand suggested placing an advertisement for the RAB in the Yorktown Library. Mr. Oyer and LCDR Horner agreed it was worth looking into. Mr. Oyer indicated he did not feel strongly either way about using social media to get the information out. Ms. Podbesek stated that before the last RAB meeting information about the RAB was provided to base housing.

Mr. Oyer suggested attending a board of supervisors meeting to provide a brief overview of the ERP and review the facilities' fact sheets. Ms. Podbesek said that she is not sure if Mr. Drew Robins already attends the board of supervisor meetings, but she can look into that.

Mr. Oyer asked if the RAB would still organize field trips to the facilities. Mr. Peed responded that field trips would still take place. Mr. Gravette indicated Mr. Oyer was welcome to attend a trip being planned for the Captain to tour the ERP sites at NWS Yorktown.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP) Update

Ms. Brand provided an overview of CIPs and the path forward for updating the CIP for NWS Yorktown and CAX. A CIP is a site-specific strategy to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the CERCLA cleanup process. It is considered an "essential and integral component" of the Department of the Navy's ERP. The Navy generally follows EPA's Superfund Community Involvement Handbook (2016) and the Navy's community involvement requirements are more comprehensive than the minimum CERCLA requirements. CIPs are "living documents" and should be reviewed and updated periodically (typically every 3-5 years).

The CIP includes the scope and objective of the Navy's ERP, site history (including environmental history), key demographic information about the affected community, background and history of community involvement at the site, and community involvement activities the Navy plans to implement. The CIP addresses community needs, concerns, and expectations as identified through community interviews, questionnaires, and interactions with stakeholder groups.

The process for updating a CIP is as follows:

- Develop a preliminary list of community stakeholders for community interviews
- Develop questions for interviews and written or online questionnaire
- Mail a letter of introduction and then call to schedule interviews
- Conduct interviews to determine community concerns and information needs

- Publicize availability of a written and/or online questionnaire
- Analyze results of interviews, questionnaires, and other sources of information about community concerns
- Review and update community involvement methods as necessary
- Update the CIP

The anticipated path forward for the 2020 CIP update is as follows:

To date	Developed questions for interviews and fillable .pdf of written questionnaire Developed draft list of potential interviewees and letters of introduction
November 2019	Conduct RAB presentation
January 2020	Mail letters and postcards Post written questionnaire
February 2020	Conduct personal interviews
May 2020	Submit preliminary draft CIP for Navy review
TBD	Submit draft CIP for regulatory agency review
TBD	Finalize CIP

Ms. Brand explained written questionnaires or online surveys such as Survey Monkey can be used to give the community other opportunities to provide input. Ms. Brand noted the questionnaires are used in a subjective way. Ms. Brand stated Survey Monkey is being considered as a possibility for the NWS Yorktown-CAX CIP questionnaires, and if used, there will also be a way to request a written copy of the questionnaire. Mr. Oyer indicated Survey Monkey is a good idea and suggested sending hard copy surveys in addition to online surveys to increase responsiveness. He also thought the fillable PDF was an option. Ms. Brand noted the fillable PDF requires some level of technical knowledge to download, save, and fill out.

CAX ERP Update

Mr. Peed presented an overview of the active CAX sites, including work completed since the last RAB meeting and work currently in progress at Site 4, Site 7, Site 9, Area of Concern (AOC) 1 North and South, AOC 6, AOC 8, and AOC 9. Mr. Peed explained AOC 9 originally started as Penniman Lake but has branched out into the entire industrial area around the lake. The team is trying to get an idea of daily inputs to the lake from those surrounding areas. The work plans are in progress now and there will be more information to update the RAB on by the next meeting. There is a potential the investigation could result in identification of new sites.

Action Item: Add flowchart of the CERCLA process back into the CAX ERP Update Presentation for future RAB meetings

Action Item (from November 2018): Add DGM to the acronyms and abbreviations list

CAX Site 7 Field Work Update

Ms. Stephanie Sawyer reviewed ongoing groundwater investigation activities at Site 7. Between 2011 and 2017, several groundwater investigations were conducted to determine the nature and extent of the contamination upgradient of Site 7. In total, 20 shallow monitoring wells and one deep monitoring well have been installed and sampled since 2011. In addition, 11 direct push technology (DPT) borings were advanced and groundwater samples were collected from each boring in May 2017. Since groundwater investigations conducted at the site had not been able to fully determine the extent of the trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination, a membrane

interface probe (MIP) investigation was conducted in April/May 2019. Nine MIP borings were installed within and upgradient of locations where TCE contamination was identified during previous groundwater sampling activities. MIP Results were inconclusive. Because current groundwater data is not available, a sampling plan to collect groundwater samples from existing monitoring wells is being developed. Additional monitoring wells will be installed if needed. Mr. Oyer asked about the timeframe for sampling. Ms. Sawyer responded the sampling plan for groundwater is with the Navy for review, so groundwater sampling is expected to occur in the next 6 months or so, and the results should be available by early 2021.

NWS Yorktown ERP Update

Mr. Gravette provided an overview of the NWS Yorktown ERP, focusing on the active sites. One site, Site 24, is in the removal action phase. The removal action is on hold due to discovery of radiological items. Sampling is being planned to characterize the waste being removed from the site to help complete the soil/debris removal or shift to a cover option. Eleven sites (Site 6, 7, 8, 9/19, 23, 25, 26, 31, 33, 34 and UXO 2) are in the RI phase. Two sites (Sites 1 and 3) are in the PP phase. One site, Site 22, is in the remedial design phase. Soil, sediment, and surface water have been closed out at Site 22, and groundwater still needs to be addressed. There are volatiles, solvents, metals, dioxins from burning, and perfluorinated compounds at Site 22, which makes it complicated from a remedy perspective because different compounds respond to different treatments. One site, Site 12, is in the response complete/long term management phase. Mr. Gravette indicated that we will consider setting up a site tour for Navy leadership and members of the RAB in 2020.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Overview

Mr. Gravette provided an overview of PFAS. PFAS, which is increasingly in the news, is a family of thousands of man-made compounds used in many household, commercial, and industrial products. They are extremely persistent in the environment. The Navy is looking across all of their bases to identify areas of concern. The timeframe in which an area was used is important because if the area was only operational before PFAS was first made, then it would not need to be sampled. Some of the main sources of PFAS at Navy installations are firefighting foams, landfills and disposal areas, electroplating, and paints. The EPA has classified PFAS as an emerging contaminant and set a Lifetime Health Advisory in drinking water of 70 parts per trillion for two of the compounds. The State of Virginia currently has no regulatory requirements. Mr. Wade Smith said VDEQ is currently deferring to the EPA levels. Mr. Gravette said there are a couple drinking water wells at NWS Yorktown that have been sampled but PFAS was not detected in the wells, but there is a potential that PFAS is in the groundwater at some sites. The first step in investigating PFAS on Navy sites is to conduct a preliminary assessment. The preliminary assessment for CAX and NWS Yorktown is underway and the results are expected in mid 2020. The report will identify any sites with the potential for these types of contaminants, and the next step would be to sample at those sites to determine if PFAS is present.

Mr. Oyer asked if the current MIPs can identify these compounds, and Mr. Gravette answered no. Mr. Gravette explained that because PFAS is used in so many products, the tubing, sampling devices, and gloves typically used in our investigation could contain it, so the Navy, contractors, and labs have identified specific procedures for PFAS sampling. Mr. Oyer said he understands there are time stamps when things were buried, but there are always surprises, and there will have to be educated guesses on where to look and where not to look. Mr. Gravette explained where there is a lack of information generally, the recommendation is usually to sample. Ms. Podbesek asked what the PFAS impacts are to humans, and Ms. Sawyer responded that the EPA is still doing toxicity studies. Ms. Brand said the EPA has fact sheets on PFAS.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Oyer indicated he had given himself a couple action items that he will follow up on. Mr. Peed said he appreciated the conversation on the path forward for the RABs. Ms. Podbesek stated she appreciated the effort that goes into all the ERP work. LCDR Horner said he cannot help but appreciate what the government does to fix past mistakes and the effort to be as transparent as possible to the community. Mr. Peed said the next RAB

meeting would be for NWS Yorktown. Mr. Gravette explained the goal would be to hold the next meeting the same time as the public meetings for the NWS Yorktown proposed plans; therefore, the date had not been set, but would probably be in late spring or early summer. Mr. Gravette said he would look into scheduling a site tour for Navy leadership and the RAB in 2020.

Next RAB Meeting

To-be-determined (Will be advertised on the public websites and in the *Daily Press* and *Virginia Gazette* newspapers)

Location: Yorktown Library (location subject to change)

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

Mr. James Gravette, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic RPM for NWS Yorktown, james.gravette@navy.mil or (757) 341-0380

Mr. Bryan Peed, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic RPM for CAX, bryan.peed@navy.mil or (757) 341-0480

MS. Susanne Greene, Public Affairs Officer for NWS Yorktown and CAX, susanne.greene@navy.mil or (757) 887-4939

Public Websites

NWS Yorktown: <http://go.usa.gov/DynG>

CAX: <http://go.usa.gov/DynP>

Attachment 1
Public Notice



**Public Notice of
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
for Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Yorktown & Cheatham
Annex (CAX)**

Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
York County Public Library – Yorktown Branch
8500 George Washington Memorial Highway
Yorktown, Virginia

The Public is Invited to Attend

NWS Yorktown & CAX are 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, & Restore.

For additional information regarding the RAB Meeting or the ERPs at NWS Yorktown or CAX, visit our websites:

<http://go.usa.gov/DynG> (NWS Yorktown)

-or-

<http://go.usa.gov/DynP> (CAX)

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

#MissionCleanup – *Clean, Protect, & Restore*

Notice published in the *Virginia Gazette* and *Daily Press* on November 2 and 3, 2019, respectively. (In addition, post cards of the notice are mailed to the Community Co-Chair and community members on the mailing list.)

Attachment 2
Sign-in Sheet