

Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Yorktown Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, May 27, 2021; 1300-1400

Attendees:

Name	Organization/Role
Captain Jason Schneider	Commanding Officer, NWS Yorktown RAB Co-Chair
Steven Oyer	Citizen and RAB Community Co-Chair
Cecilia Landin	Navy Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for NWS Yorktown
Jennifer Podbesek	Navy Environmental Director for NWS Yorktown and CAX
Susanne Greene	Public Affairs Officer (PAO) for NWS Yorktown
Jason Oliver	Water Program Manager for NWS Yorktown
Bonnie Roberts	Environmental Compliance Manager for NWS Yorktown
Rashmi Mathur	United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) RPM for NWS Yorktown
Wade Smith	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) RPM for NWS Yorktown
Nate Price	CH2M Activity Manager for NWS Yorktown
Frank Burwell	CH2M Deputy Activity Manager for NWS Yorktown
Amy Brand	CH2M
Caroline Broun	Community Member
Dorothy Guyer	National Park Service/ Stakeholder
John McGlennon	James City County Board of Supervisors/ Community Member
Terri Graves	Community Member
Yvonne Johnson	Community Member
Vicki Simmons	Friends of the Reservation, Descendants of those who occupied what is now NWS Yorktown/ Community Member
Unknown	Two Community Members registered for the call, but did not identify themselves

Attachments:

Attachment 1 is the Public Notice for the RAB Meeting.

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Landin presented opening remarks and introductions to the RAB. The other RAB members and guests introduced themselves. CPT Schneider welcomed the community members and members of the RAB. CPT Schneider complimented the turnout and remarked about the great work being conducted at NWS Yorktown in support of the environmental programs highlighting the recent Secretary of the Navy award for Natural Resources. Mr. Oyer followed by thanking everyone for joining the call and noted that a former RAB member, Mr. Stubbs, had passed away and will be missed during future RAB meetings.

All presentation handouts were distributed prior to the meeting and made available on the NWS Yorktown ERP Public Website.

Community Involvement Plan Overview

Ms. Brand presented the NWS Yorktown/Cheatham Annex (CAX) Community Involvement Plan (CIP) to the group. Ms. Brand presented the objectives of the presentation which were to provide an overview of what a CIP is, how the Navy obtained input from the public despite the pandemic, provide an overview of the results, what the planned community involvement activities are, and provide an overall status of the CIP.

A CIP is a site-specific strategy to enable meaningful community involvement during the clean-up process and is developed using USEPA and Navy guidance. The CIP is developed based on information gathered from the community, review of RAB minutes, public comments, and newspaper articles. Community input from 11 persons was obtained via mailed and emailed questionnaires and telephone interviews for the NWS Yorktown/CAX CIP. Results of the community input indicated that most respondents had lived and worked in the area greater than 11 years and were aware of the mission at NWS Yorktown and CAX while not actually having worked on either installation. Most respondents were aware of the cleanup activities with a primary concern for groundwater and surface water cleanup. Only two respondents were aware of the RAB, with nine respondents interested in attending a future RAB. In addition, most were unaware of the information repository, any public notices advertised in the newspaper or the ERP public website. Respondents recommended advertising via additional communication channels. To ensure meaningful community involvement, the updated CIP outlines the following community involvement activities: 1) publicize the PAO point of contact in all outreach; 2) continually update mailing lists and use electronic communication for advertising public meetings 3) distribute public notices through additional avenues (in addition to the public notices in the newspaper); and 4) continue to develop fact sheets with basewide ERP updates. The Draft Final CIP is with USEPA and VDEQ for review and will be finalized after regulatory comments are successfully adjudicated.

At the end of the presentation, Ms. Broun asked if there was a more recent fact sheet than the August 2020 Fact Sheet and how often the fact sheets are updated. Ms. Landin indicated the August 2020 fact sheet is the most current version of the fact sheet, and the next fact sheet, which is typically updated annually, would be updated in August 2021.

NWS Yorktown ERP Update

Ms. Landin presented the NWS Yorktown ERP Update. Ms. Landin presented the objectives of the presentation which were to provide an overview of the ERP at NWS Yorktown, summary of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, and provide an update on select ERP Sites: Site 1, Site 3, Site 12, Site 22, and Site 34. After presenting an overview of the ERP at Yorktown and summarizing the CERCLA process, individual site updates (below) were presented:

Site 1: A Record of Decision (ROD) is in place for soil with a proposed plan for groundwater, surface water, and sediment in development. The Proposed Plan will include the Navy, USEPA, and VDEQ's preferred alternative to address groundwater which was developed during adoption of the USEPA Adaptive Management strategy. No further action will be the preferred alternative for surface water and sediment. The public comment period for the proposed plan is anticipated for the Fall of 2021.

Site 3: A ROD is in place for soil with a ROD for groundwater, surface water, and sediment in development. The preferred alternative for groundwater is enhanced in-situ bioremediation via groundwater injections, long-term monitoring of groundwater, and land use controls. No further action will be the preferred alternative for surface water and sediment. The ROD is anticipated to be final in the Fall of 2021.

Site 12: A ROD and Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) is in place for Area A, Area B/C, and the Wood/Debris Disposal Area. The remedy at Area A was soil excavation, cap installation, land use controls, and long-term monitoring, while no further action was the select remedy for Area B/C and the Wood/Debris Disposal Area. However, after discovery of surface debris at the Wood/Debris Disposal Area during a 2019 site walk, additional investigation is planned.

Site 22: No Further Action RODs are in place for soil, surface water, and sediment. A remedy optimization work plan is being developed outlining the implementation of a subgrade biogeochemical reactor (SBGR) pilot study to evaluate the remedy as a potential alternative to the remedy included in the current ROD for groundwater. Ms. Landin explained that an SBGR is an excavation backfilled with amendments (mulch, emulsified vegetable oil and/or zero valent iron) infiltrated with extracted groundwater from a downgradient extraction well meant to treat impacted groundwater. Fieldwork is anticipated to begin in early 2022.

Mr. Oyer asked if this reactor had been used in similar soil in the area before. Cecilia indicated that SBGRs had not been employed at NWS Yorktown, but that Jacobs Engineering had deployed the alternative at other facilities, and it had proven effective.

Site 34: Fieldwork supporting the Remedial Investigation at Site 34 was ongoing, with groundwater sampling scheduled to occur the week of June 12.

CPT Schneider asked to be able to go into the field to meet the team members doing the fieldwork. Cecilia indicated that she would coordinate the request.

At the end of the presentation, Ms. Simmons asked if there were any active sites located near any cemeteries on the facility. Ms. Podbesek indicated that a majority of the sites are closer to the York River in the north east side of the facility, and ERP Sites are not located near cemeteries on the facility. Ms. Simmons asked how she could confirm whether any cemeteries are located near any sites. CPT Schneider requested that Ms. Simmons send a message to the PAO for NWS Yorktown via Facebook so that the facility could respond appropriately.

Mr. McGlennon asked how long the entire process will take to reach completion at all sites. Ms. Landin indicated that once remedies are in place, it is estimated that it will take 30 years to clean up sites. For landfills with waste in place, those sites will stay open or remain in long-term management. Mr. McGlennon indicated that he was interested in surface water and potential impacts to surface water used as drinking water. Ms. Landin indicated that when remedies are selected, impacts to surface water bodies are always considered to ensure that it is a part of the planned remedial actions if necessary.

Ms. Simmons asked what Environmental Justice considerations are in association with the Navy's remediation plans. Further explaining that some USEPA plans require Environmental Justice plans. Ms. Brand indicated that the USEPA has an EJSCREEN website that uses census data updated annually. During the CIP, the EJSCREEN was used to determine if there were any sensitive areas around the facility and identified a few areas around the facility that showed up in the 80th percentile of the EJSCREEN. USEPA guidance indicates that Environmental Justice is necessary when in the 95th percentile, indicating that Environmental Justice actions are not warranted at NWS Yorktown or CAX.

NWS Yorktown Five-Year Review Kickoff

Mr. Price reviewed the 2023 Five-Year Review (FYR) Kickoff presentation. Mr. Price discussed the process that will be used for the upcoming FYR. Community Involvement will be incorporated into the process through placing an advertisement in the newspaper upon initiation and completion of the FYR, posting the Final FYR in the

information repository, and although not required, generating and providing a fact sheet to the community. Mr. Price explained that documents will be reviewed, and an emerging contaminant review will be conducted as part of the process. Additionally, a resiliency review will be conducted, which will focus on hurricanes. Finally, site inspections and interviews will be conducted as part of the process. The inspections will be conducted using the USEPA example checklists. The interviews will be conducted with facility personnel, targeting similar interviewees as those interviewed during the previous FYR.

Mr. Price reviewed the content of the FYR and explained that the FYR would be prepared in accordance with USEPA guidance and Navy policy. Mr. Price summarized the sites included in the FYR (Site 1, 6, 7, 12, 19, and 22) and reviewed the schedule of the 2023 FYR.

Mr. McGlennon asked what is happening at the other sites that are not included in the FYR. Ms. Landin indicated that the FYR is conducted to determine if a selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment and are only conducted at sites with a ROD. Mr. McGlennon followed-up by asking how long it normally takes to develop a ROD. Ms. Landin indicated that after entering the Remedial Investigation phase, a ROD could be achieved within five years.

Closing Remarks

CPT Schneider thanked Ms. Landin for leading the discussion and CH2M for preparing for the RAB. He also thanked everyone for their interest in NWS Yorktown and CAX and support for the environmental programs and mission of NWS Yorktown.

Ms. Landin closed the meeting by thanking everyone for joining, asking quality questions, and having an interest in the RAB. Ms. Landin indicated that the next meeting for CAX would be in the fall.

Next RAB Meeting

Date/ Time: May 2022 (exact date/time to-be-determined; will be advertised on the public websites and in the *Daily Press* and *Virginia Gazette* newspapers)

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

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

Ms. Cecilia Landin, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic RPM for NWS Yorktown, cecilia.landin@navy.mil or (757) 341-2014

Ms. Susanne Greene, Public Affairs Officer for NWS Yorktown and CAX, susanne.greene@navy.mil or (757) 752-1304

Public Websites

NWS Yorktown: <https://go.usa.gov/xfP6h>

Attachment 1
Public Notice



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

Thursday, May 27, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Call in Phone Number: 1-469-214-8538

Conference ID Number: 783 811 267#

The Public is Invited to Attend

NWS Yorktown 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, 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.

To join the meeting by telephone only, please call 1-469-214-8538, and enter conference ID 783 811 267#. A link to the virtual meeting and presentations for the meeting will be posted to the public website. To request a mailed hardcopy of the presentations, please contact the Navy's contractor, Mr. Nathaniel Price, at (757) 671-6280.

For additional information regarding the RAB Meeting or the ERP at NWS Yorktown visit our website:

<https://go.usa.gov/xfP6h>

or contact the Installation Public Affairs Officer

Phone: (757) 887-4939

#MissionCleanup – *Clean, Protect, & Restore*

Notice published in the *Virginia Gazette* and *Daily Press* on May 8, 2021. (In addition, post cards advertising the RAB meeting were mailed and emailed to persons on the mailing list and letters advertising the RAB were mailed and emailed to the Community Co-Chair and RAB stakeholders.