

## Meeting Minutes

**Naval Weapons Station (WPNSTA) Yorktown  
Yorktown, Virginia and  
Cheatham Annex (CAX), Williamsburg, Virginia  
Environmental Restoration Program (ERP)  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting  
Yorktown Library  
Thursday, November 13, 2014; 1300-1500**

**Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Role</b>
<b>Captain Paul Haebler</b>	<b>Commanding Officer (CO), WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX and RAB Navy Co-Chair</b>
<b>Steven Oyer</b>	<b>Citizen and RAB Community Co-Chair</b>
<b>Bryan Peed</b>	<b>Navy Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for WPNSTA Yorktown</b>
<b>Scott Park</b>	<b>Navy RPM for CAX</b>
<b>CDR Stephen Fichter</b>	<b>Navy Public Works Officer for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX</b>
<b>Mark Piggott</b>	<b>Navy Public Affairs Officer (PAO) for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX</b>
<b>Jennifer Podbesek</b>	<b>Navy Environmental Director for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX</b>
<b>Wade Smith</b>	<b>Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) RPM for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX</b>
<b>Jerry Hoover</b>	<b>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) RPM for CAX</b>
<b>Marlene Ivester</b>	<b>CH2M HILL Program Manager for CAX</b>
<b>Stephanie Sawyer</b>	<b>CH2M HILL Deputy Program Manager for CAX</b>
<b>William Friedmann</b>	<b>CH2M HILL Program Manager for WPNSTA Yorktown</b>
<b>Brian Wachter</b>	<b>CH2M HILL Field Team Leader for WPNSTA Yorktown</b>
<b>Drew Robins</b>	<b>NAVFAC Yorktown</b>
<b>David Crow</b>	<b>NAVFAC Yorktown</b>
<b>William Stubbs</b>	<b>Community Member</b>
<b>Robert Medford</b>	<b>Community Member</b>
<b>Laurel Boucher</b>	<b>The Management Edge</b>

[Note: Attachment 1 is the Public Notice for the RAB Meeting. Attachment 2 is the RAB Meeting Sign-in Sheet.]

Mr. Peed and Mr. Park started the meeting with introductions and welcoming everyone to the meeting. Mr. Peed gave the community members information on his background since this was his first RAB meeting as the Yorktown RPM. Mr. Peed and Mr. Park then gave the floor to Captain Haebler for opening remarks. Captain Haebler informed the RAB that the purpose of these meetings was to inform the public of the environmental activities taking place at WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX. He said that the environmental issues we are addressing today may have occurred before the Navy owned the property, but it is the Navy's responsibility to be a good steward and to be open and transparent to the community. Mr. Oyer said that he felt the Navy was always transparent and encouraged the Navy to keep up the good work. Mr. Oyer mentioned he has had several people ask him about environmental restoration at WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX after RAB meetings, and he is always able to give them good information.

## **PRESENTATIONS – Community Involvement Plan**

Mr. Peed and Mr. Park presented an update to the Community Involvement Plan (CIP), which is generally updated every five years (previous update occurred in 2009). Mr. Peed informed the public that the Navy received 118 survey responses out of approximately 2,700 mailed surveys, and two interviews with public officials were conducted. Mr. Peed said multiple efforts were made to interview other public officials, but no response was received. Mr. Oyer said he was very disappointed with respect to the two public officials who did not respond and said he'd take an action to look into it. Mr. Peed reviewed the results of the CIP survey. Captain Haebler asked if we knew why the percentage of respondents who were unaware of the Navy's environmental efforts decreased between 2009 and 2014. Ms. Ivester said she thought it was because of the public websites. Public websites for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX did not exist when the 2009 CIP update was completed. Captain Haebler said we need to focus on the 77% of people who were unaware of the Navy's environmental efforts and find a way to get information to them. It was suggested that the Navy reach out to local homeowners' associations, as they typically send out neighborhood newsletters. Mr. Peed took an action to follow up with Mr. Piggott and Captain Haebler to find other ways to get information out to the community. Mr. Park then continued the discussion by presenting remaining results of the CIP interviews. Following the interview results, Ms. Sawyer informed everyone that the CIP would be available in the York County Library for public review early next week (week of 11/17/14).

## **PRESENTATIONS – CAX**

### **Program Update**

Mr. Park presented an overview of CAX's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP), including the status of each CAX ERP site within the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, what environmental work had been completed for CAX since the May 2014 RAB meeting, and what CAX environmental work is currently in progress. During the presentation, Mr. Stubbs asked what it meant to clean up a site. Mr. Park informed him that "clean up" means that an action has been taken to reduce site contamination to reduce or eliminate human health and/or ecological risk.

### **Site 4 Status Update**

Ms. Sawyer led the discussion. She reminded the RAB attendees that the last Site 4/Youth Pond update was during the November 2012 RAB, after the remedial investigation (RI) fieldwork had been conducted. For today's topic, Ms. Sawyer reviewed the objectives of the presentation - to update the RAB members on RI report prepared from the data collected during the RI fieldwork. Ms. Sawyer provided a brief site background/history for both Site 4 and Youth Pond and noted that since Youth Pond is downstream of Site 4 and Site 4 is the only source of possible contamination into Youth Pond, the two sites were evaluated together in one RI report. She then discussed the data evaluations conducted for the RI report and presented the report's conclusions and recommendations. The next step for Site 4/Youth Pond will be preparation of a Feasibility Study (FS) to evaluate the estimated cost and assumed effectiveness of various remedial alternatives to address site contamination. Ms. Sawyer then reviewed the schedule and provided an update to the presentation slide in the handout – EPA and VDEQ had approved the draft final document, so the final RI report will be submitted before the end of 2014 (late November or December). Preparation of the FS will begin in December 2014. Ms. Sawyer informed the RAB that once the RI report was final, it will be submitted to the CAX administrative record and available for public download at CAX public website; she also warned that it is a large document and will take some time to download.

Mr. Oyer asked for an example of an EPA comment on the RI report (something more than a grammatical comment). Mr. Hoover responded, stating that Site 4 is not a "bad site," not toxic, so EPA's main concern (and comment) is that the Navy addresses the debris areas (normally they are capped with soil or removed entirely, and may involve some groundwater monitoring). No additional questions were asked, so Ms. Sawyer moved on to the next topic.

### **CAX AOC 8 PCE Delineation**

Ms. Sawyer led the discussion. She pointed out AOC 8's location on a map and provided a brief site history. A site inspection was conducted for the site, which recommended an RI. The RI fieldwork was conducted in fall 2013 and an update provided at the November 2013 RAB meeting. Tetrachloroethylene (also known as tetrachloroethene or perchloroethylene and is abbreviated as PCE) was detected in the groundwater from three of the six site monitoring wells. Since the source and extent of the PCE concentrations are currently unknown, an additional groundwater investigation is needed to fulfill the objectives of the RI (i.e., determine the extent of contamination at AOC 8). Ms. Sawyer described the groundwater sampling plan and pointed out the proposed sample locations on a site figure. She then reviewed the schedule and provided an update to the presentation slide in the handout – the Navy has reviewed the draft sampling plan and it was submitted to the EPA and VDEQ today (11/13). The CAX Team is working on expediting the site schedule, so the fieldwork may be conducted in January instead of March 2015. The draft AOC 8 RI report is currently on-hold and will be completed once we have these additional groundwater data.

No questions were asked, so Ms. Sawyer said there would be a 10-minute break, followed by WPNSTA Yorktown's presentations.

## **PRESENTATIONS – WPNSTA YORKTOWN**

### **Program Update**

Mr. Peed presented the overview of the ERP at Yorktown. He informed the RAB that there are about 30 environmental sites at Yorktown, about half of which have been closed. Mr. Peed concluded the discussion with a summary of work completed since the May 2014 RAB meeting and work currently in progress.

Captain Haebler asked how the process would work for the UXO-3 site since it is an active handling area. Mr. Peed said the active pier cannot be addressed while it is in use. Captain Haebler asked if the site could be separated into two sites, the active pier and the inactive pier, so that the active pier investigation does not hold up the inactive pier close out. Mr. Friedmann said the separation could not happen because the site is underwater and it is difficult to prevent future movement of items into an area that may be considered closed. Captain Haebler then asked how far the inactive pier can go through the CERCLA process if the active and inactive piers are not spilt into separate investigations. Mr. Friedmann said the inactive pier can go as far as an RI, but would not progress to any clean up while the active pier is operational because of the potential interference with loading activities. Mr. Hoover informed everyone that the EPA and DEQ are working with the Navy to try to help get this site through the CERCLA process. Mr. Friedmann said that if the site boundary changed to exclude Pier R-1, at some point in the future, then the active pier could be split off. Mr. Friedmann said to do this a discussion would have to incorporate the extent of operations at the current UXO-3.

### **Yorktown Site 3 Record of Decision**

Mr. Friedmann led the discussion on the Site 3 Record of Decision (ROD). Mr. Friedmann informed the RAB the ROD was not completed as originally planned, because during the review process for the ROD, the Navy, EPA, and DEQ discussed the potential that arsenic and manganese in groundwater might be naturally occurring instead of from construction debris that had been present at the site. Captain Haebler asked the origin of the remediation goals outlined in the presentation. Mr. Friedmann said first a screening against regulatory established screening levels and base-specific background values, is conducted and then from there site-specific screening numbers are developed. Captain Haebler then asked what background values were. Mr. Friedmann said a background study of soil and groundwater at WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX was conducted. Soil and groundwater samples were collected and a statistical analysis of the data was performed and background concentrations for natural and anthropogenic constituents were established. These background concentrations (or values) are used for comparison to site data to support the identification of a CERCLA release. Mr. Friedmann then informed the RAB that statistical comparisons of site data to background values generally work for most sites; however, the WPNSTA Yorktown background values may not apply to Site 3 due to its proximity to a wetland, since there currently are no background groundwater monitoring wells located near wetlands (thus, no background values established for this scenario). Mr. Oyer asked if this issue (not having useable background values) has occurred before, at other areas on the base or at other sites. Mr. Friedmann said we are currently evaluating that. Mr. Friedmann said since there are no background values for wells next to wetlands, the Navy essentially needs to establish another set of background values. Mr.

Hoover informed the RAB that, nationally, the clean-up values for metals have been a moving target therefore, the question whether or not metals are naturally occurring has come up at this stage of the process (the ROD), as opposed to during the RI. Mr. Stubbs asked what happened to the debris at Site 3. Mr. Friedmann said all the debris was taken offsite to a landfill and soil confirmation samples were collected and analyzed to prove the area was cleaned up.

### **Yorktown Site 24 Engineering Estimate/Cost Analysis**

Mr. Friedmann led the discussion on the Yorktown Site 24 Engineering Estimate/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). He informed the RAB what an EE/CA is, the type of contamination at Site 24, and what the removal action objectives, removal areas, and removal alternatives are for Site 24. Mr. Stubbs asked how a soil cover (Alternative #2) would help eliminate groundwater contamination. Mr. Smith replied a soil cover does not eliminate groundwater contamination, but it can slow the process of rainwater infiltration and movement of soil contamination to groundwater; however, groundwater monitoring would still be needed.

Mr. Oyer asked if the base knew the contamination existed when the JIEDDO Battle Course (current site use) was constructed. Mr. Friedmann said the base did know about the site and buried debris; however, the course was constructed on the ground surface with no below surface digging. Also, CH2M HILL was included in the site preparation meetings. Mr. Oyer asked if the buried debris impacted the course in any way. Captain Haebler responded that he did not know of any and has not heard any complaints about the course. Mr. Friedmann pointed out that for the most part, the course is built away from the waste areas. Mr. Oyer then asked why the “no action” remedy would not be the choice since there are no groundwater issues. Mr. Friedmann replied the “no action” remedy would not remove any waste and, therefore, use restrictions would be placed on the land. Captain Haebler said there is limited building space on the base without cultural and environmental concerns, so even though there are no plans to change the site use now, there could be in the future, so it would be to the Navy’s benefit to not have use restrictions if possible.

### **Final Comments Closing Remarks**

Captain Haebler thanked the RPMs for the presentations and appreciated everyone’s efforts over since the last RAB meeting (May 2014). He noted environmental restoration is a long-term process.

Mr. Oyer encouraged the Navy to keep up the good work at both bases.

### **Action Items:**

- CH2M HILL – Create name tag for Jennifer Podbesek.
- Mr. Steven Oyer – Look into why some public officials did not respond to multiple requests for CIP interviews.
- Mr. Bryan Peed – follow up with Mr. Piggott and Captain Haebler to find other ways to get information about the ERP out to the community.

**Next RAB Meeting:** Tentative date - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** York County Public Library

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

Mr. Scott Park, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Remedial Project Manager for CAX, [scott.park@navy.mil](mailto:scott.park@navy.mil)  
or (757) 341-0481

Mr. Bryan Peed, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Remedial Project Manager for WPNSTA Yorktown,  
[bryan.peed@navy.mil](mailto:bryan.peed@navy.mil) or (757) 341-0480

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Public Notice**



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

Thursday, November 13, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
York County Public Library - Yorktown  
8500 George Washington Memorial Highway  
Yorktown, Virginia

**The Public is Invited to Attend**

The Naval Weapons Station Yorktown & Cheatham Annex RAB meets to inform the local community about Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) site cleanup activities. This is your opportunity to participate in the process by providing direct input about site cleanup activities.

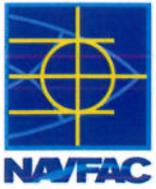
For additional information regarding the RAB Meeting or the ERP cleanup programs at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown or Cheatham Annex, please contact:

Mr. Mark Piggott; Public Affairs Officer  
160 Main Road  
Yorktown, VA 23691-0160  
(757) 887-4939

Notice published in the *Virginia Gazette* and *Daily Press* on November 8 & 9, 2014, 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**



# Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Yorktown, Virginia and Cheatham Annex, Williamsburg, Virginia



## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
York County Public Library - Yorktown (Meeting Room)

### Attendance Sign-In

Name	Organization	Phone	Email
MARLENE IVESTER	CH2M HILL	(757) 671-6282	
SS Sawyer	CH2MHILL		
Jennifer Padbesek	NAVFAC - Environmental	757-887-4086	jennifer.padbesek@navy.mil
Mark Piggott	WPNSTA Yorktown	(757) 887-4939	mark.piggott@navy.mil
CAPT Paul Haebler	WPNSTA Yorktown	757-887-4981	paul.haebler@navy.mil
STEVE OYER	CITIZEN, YC	757-888-0049	ALTHROTTLEANDSOME BOTTLE @YAHOO.COM
CDR STEVE FICHTER	NAVFAC HL, PWD YORKTOWN	757-887-4636	stephen.fichtere@navy.mil
Drew Robius	NAVFAC/WPNSTA	757, 887, 4977	harlowb.robius@navy.mil
William Stubbs	Citizen	757-887-2563	Teacher.stubbs@gmail.com
Robert Medford	Citizen	757-880-2650	medfordrsc@navy.mil
DAVID CROW	NAVFAC Yorktown	757-887-4637	david.crow@navy.mil
Laurel Boucher	The Management Edge	703.407.1030	lboucher@up.net
SCOTT PARK	NAVFAC MILITANT	757-341-0481	SCOTT.PARK@NAVY.MIL
Wade M. Smith	Virginia DEQ	(804) 698-4125	Wade.Smith@deg.virginia.gov
Brian Wachter	CH2M HILL	757-671-6289	
Bill FRIEDMAN	CH2M HILL	757 671-6223	wfriedna@ch2m.com
Jerry Hoover	EPA Region 3	215-814-2077	hoover.gerald@epa.gov
Bryan Peed	Navy	757 341-0480	bryan.peed@navy.mil

The ship in the background photo is The USS Simpson (FFG-56). It conducted the first frigate to frigate weapons transfer.