

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 14, 2013; 1300-1500**

Attendees:

Name	Organization/Role
Captain Lowell Crow	Commanding Officer (CO), WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX (RAB Co-Chair)
Steven Oyer	Citizen (RAB Co-Chair)
Jim Gravette	Navy's Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for WPNSTA Yorktown
Scott Park	Navy's RPM for CAX
Mark Piggott	Navy's Public Affairs Officer (PAO) for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX
Trevor Manning	Navy's Environmental Director for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX
Wade Smith	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) RPM for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX
Jerry Hoover	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) RPM for CAX
Marlene Ivester	CH2M HILL Program Manager for CAX
Stephanie Sawyer	CH2M HILL Deputy Program Manager for CAX
William Friedmann	CH2M HILL Program Manager for WPNSTA Yorktown
Brian Wachter	CH2M HILL Field Team Leader for WPNSTA Yorktown
Dorothy Geyer	National Park Service - Colonial National Historical Park at Yorktown
Carl Ruf	Community Member with Richard Brady & Associates
Chuck Roadley	Community Member with the Williamsburg Environmental Group

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

Mr. Gravette and Mr. Park started the meeting with introductions and welcoming everyone, especially the new community members in attendance, and then gave the floor to Captain Crow for opening remarks. Captain Crow said he was retiring from the Navy and there would be a new CO for WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX in early 2014; therefore, today would be his last RAB meeting. He thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to environmental clean-up at WPNSTA Yorktown and CAX. Mr. Oyer thanked Captain Crow for his interest and attendance at the RAB meetings. Mr. Manning presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Captain Crow for his support of the CAX and WPNSTA Yorktown environmental programs.

PRESENTATIONS – CAX

Site Visit Recap and Program Update

Mr. Park mentioned yesterday's environmental site visits at CAX with Captain Crow and RAB members. It was a good outing, despite the cold, windy day. Mr. Park next 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 2013 RAB meeting, and what CAX environmental work is currently in progress. Mr. Oyer asked if there were any surprises with the CAX ERP since the last RAB meeting and if the government shutdown/sequestration had any effect on the ERP. Mr. Park replied there were no surprises since the last meeting, and the recent shutdown did not have a significant impact on the CAX ERP. Mr. Park redirected the shutdown question to Captain Crow and Mr. Manning for their input. Captain Crow said environmental restoration money is "fenced in," meaning ERP budgets are set aside and available; however, all budgets are losing about 10% of their available funds. The main impact of the recent shutdown was not so much on funding, but on staffing, and he pointed out that all environmental staff, except for Mr. Manning, were placed on furlough. Mr. Gravette added that the Department of Defense was only on furlough for a couple of days, but the EPA was out for about two weeks.

At the conclusion of the Program Update, Ms. Ivester informed the public that the URL for the CAX (and WPNSTA Yorktown) public website has changed. The correct URL for each base is within the RAB handout and reflected on the business cards available on the table at the back of the room.

Area of Concern (AOC) 8 Remedial Investigation Field Investigation Summary

Ms. Sawyer led the discussion, starting with a brief description and known history of AOC 8. It is believed to have been a borrow pit at one time and later used as a disposal area. Captain Crow asked if it had been excavated, then backfilled in the 1950's. Ms. Sawyer said that is the assumed history. Captain Crow asked if there was debris at 20 feet deep. Ms. Sawyer replied yes and in some areas deeper (past the reach of the excavator); however, it is believed to be no deeper than the water table (~20 feet). Captain Crow asked if the site was near the shoreline stabilization area. Mr. Manning replied no, the site was to the south of shoreline stabilization area. The shoreline restoration is near Site 7 and northward, toward Morale, Welfare, and Recreation's building. Ms. Sawyer next discussed the depths where debris was found during the

Site Inspection (SI) and the type of debris found. Captain Crow asked if it dated back to the Penniman City era (C. early 1900s to WWI). Ms. Sawyer replied no, that the debris dated to the 1950s. Ms. Sawyer continued, stating the AOC 8 SI recommended a remedial investigation (RI). She next reviewed a CERCLA process flow diagram and the RI work completed to date at AOC 8. She provided an update that sample SS/SB19 had been collected on November 12th and was at the lab for analyses. With the collection of this last sample, all sampling for the AOC 8 RI is complete. Part of the RI fieldwork also involved test trenching to refine the subsurface waste delineation to the east and south. The RI test pits revealed the debris delineation was pretty much the same as the SI debris delineation. Ms. Sawyer next presented pictures of the types of debris found at Test Pits (TP) TP-34 and TP-39 (the only two test pits where debris was found), and then the anticipated schedule for receiving data and completing the RI report. Ms. Geyer asked about volatile organic compound (VOC) detection. Ms. Sawyer replied during the SI, trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected in one location above screening criteria; however, the EPA has since raised the TCE screening level and that detection is now below the screening level. Ms. Geyer asked if it was an isolated detection. Ms. Sawyer replied permanent groundwater wells were installed and sampled for the RI; however, the data is not back from the lab, so she cannot confirm at this time if the VOC detection was isolated.

After the discussion, Mr. Roadley asked if there was any issue with amphibians (e.g., salamanders) because of the standing water at sample location SS/SB19. Ms. Sawyer replied no. Normally, there is no standing water there for any length of time; however, while the water was there, the mosquitoes were bad and there was some frog activity. Mr. Manning added the Mabee salamander is present at WPNSTA Yorktown.

CAX AOC 6 Remedial Investigation Field Investigation Summary

Ms. Sawyer began the discussion with a description of AOC 6. It is comprised of five subareas that are remnants of the World War I Penniman Shell Loading Plant, and the focus of this discussion would be the two trinitrotoluene (TNT) subareas. Captain Crow clarified to the new RAB attendees that the Penniman Shell Loading Plant was an ordnance facility built and operated by DuPont for the war effort. It shut down and dismantled after the war and CAX now occupies part of its former property. Ms. Sawyer then discussed the results of the AOC 6 SI and that the SI recommended an RI for the two TNT subareas. She described the two TNT subareas and directed the attendees to the related pictures within the handout. She next reviewed a CERCLA process flow diagram and the RI work completed to date at AOC 6. Lastly, she presented the anticipated schedule for receiving data and completing the RI report. Mr. Oyer asked what the average well depth was. Ms. Sawyer replied it is around 20 feet below ground surface.

PRESENTATIONS – WPNSTA YORKTOWN

Program Update

Mr. Gravette presented the overview of the ER program at Yorktown. He informed the RAB that there are about 30 environmental sites, one-third of which have been closed. Captain Crow

asked if the Indian Head facility (Site 8) will be transferred into an environmental program once it is decontaminated. Mr. Gravette responded that it would be investigated under the ERP once decontamination of the buildings is completed. Mr. Gravette provided an update that field work has started at Site 26. Captain Crow added that as a conservative measure, a vapor intrusion investigation will be completed at Site 26 and asked Mr. Gravette if there had been any building access issues. Mr. Manning mentioned that the occupants of the building have been cooperating. Captain Crow wanted to confirm there were no access issues. Mr. Ruff asked if the Navy has determined the migration of the contaminant plume at Site 26. Mr. Gravette answered yes, it's to the northeast.

Mr. Gravette concluded the discussion with a summary of work completed since the May 2013 RAB meeting.

Site 12 Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) Update

Mr. Friedmann provided an update on the recent field activities conducted at Site 12 since the May 2013 RAB meeting. Site 12 is a former landfill that was in operations from 1925 until the mid-1960s. Mr. Friedmann informed the RAB that following several historical investigations, a cover was placed over the waste and monitoring of groundwater began. While to date there have been no indications of a release from the landfill, a new monitoring well was installed downgradient of the landfill in 2013 to improve the ability to identify potential releases from the landfill. Site 12's LTM is conducted every 5 years, and the last LTM sampling event was in 2008; therefore, the LTM groundwater sampling was conducted this past October.

The October 2013 LTM sampling involved the collection of groundwater samples from eight monitoring wells to analyze them for the constituents of concern (ten metals, one explosive, and one dioxin). The groundwater data is expected late 2013, and a report will be available in spring 2014.

UXO-3 Site Inspection

Mr. Friedmann discussed the upcoming site inspection (SI) for UXO 3, which is the pier area in the York River. UXO 3 is comprised of three areas: former Pier R-1, Structure R-2, and current Pier R-3. The investigation being conducted is using side-scan sonar and a bathymetric survey to determine if munitions (from ship munitions loading) are lying on the York River sediment surface adjacent to Pier R-1 and Structure R-2. Pier R-3 is not being investigated at this time, because it is currently an active, in use pier; therefore, SI activities are deferred until munitions loading operations in this area have ceased. In addition, the area surrounding Pier R-3 is dredged every five years, so it is believe if any munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) were in this area, they would have already been brought to the surface.

Field work at UXO-3 is scheduled to be conducted the week of November 25th. Following the side-scan sonar investigation, a digital geophysical mapping (DGM) investigation will be conducted in December 2013. The purpose of the DGM investigation is to verify metallic anomalies in the river that may be related to MEC. These results may eventually lead to the verification of these items using different technologies, such as remote operated vehicles or divers. The first phase of the SI will be completed by the end of 2013, with the verification portion expected to be completed in mid- to late-2014. Mr. Gravette noted that this site is a

good example of the type of coordination needed to conduct an investigation. Good coordination is needed to minimize disruption to a ship's operation and loading activities. Captain Crow mentioned the York River's current is approximately 3 knots and divers have reduced visibility; therefore, only those anomalies that are determined by the DGM investigation to be significant will be investigated further.

Final Comments Closing Remarks

Both Captain Crow and Mr. Oyer again thanked the RAB and its members for its support and commended the proactive nature in which both bases address environmental concerns. Captain Crow mentioned that he has no idea how involved the new CO will be but appreciates all the help Mr. Gravette and Mr. Park have provided him over the years. For Captain Crow, participating in the RAB meetings has been a great learning experience that has given him the opportunity to work with some great people. Mr. Oyer encouraged the Navy to keep up the good work at both bases.

Action Items: Add an acronym list to the RAB handout (following the agenda).

Next RAB Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2014, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Yorktown 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 or (757) 341-0481

Mr. Jim Gravette, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Remedial Project Manager for WPNSTA Yorktown, james.gravette@navy.mil or (757) 341-0477

ATTACHMENT 1

Public Notice



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

Thursday, November 14, 2013 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 9 and 10, 2013, 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



**NOTIFICATION: THIS PAGE CONTAINS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED
INFORMATION WHICH IS PROTECTED BY THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

***FOIA Exemption 6 (5 USC 552(b)(6))
Personal information affecting an individual's privacy***

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

**Commanding Officer, NAVFAC Mid Atlantic
Attention: Public Affairs Office
9742 Maryland Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23511-3095
Telephone: 757-445-8732
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