

St. Juliens Creek Annex Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Summary: July 12, 2001

RAB Members Present

Bob Mann	Community Co-chair (Geneva Shores)
Jeff Harlow	Navy Chair
Dawn Hayes	LANTDIV
Devlin Harris	Virginia DEQ
Tod Richardson	USEPA
Bill Friedmann	CH2M HILL
Frank Fender	SPAWAR
Kevin Lew	SPAWAR
John Ballinger	Navy Regional Env.
Carl Fisher	Elizabeth River Project

RAB Members Absent :

Marty Costello	Community Rep
Fred Foster	Community Rep
Robert Keys	Community Rep
Glen Manning	Community Rep
Jessy Overton, Jr.	Community Rep

RAB Participants

Donna Caldwell	CH2M HILL
Lynn France	CDM
Wandy Browne	Management Edge

FROM: William Friedmann/CH2M HILL

DATE: January 10, 2002

LOCATION

St Juliens Creek Annex Chesapeake, Virginia

Attached: Background Presentation
Trenching Presentation
SSA Presentation

Meeting Summary

Mr. Jeff Harlow presented opening remarks and introductions. Mr. Harlow reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Brief on Current Issues

Mr. Harlow addressed conflicts with schedules for the next RAB meeting and noted the schedule has been revised and the next RAB meeting is to be held October 18, 2001.

Background Sampling

Donna Caldwell (CH2M HILL) presented a summary of the base wide background investigation conducted for SJCA. The purpose of the investigation is to provide data to establish background conditions of soil and groundwater quality for use in comparison to site data. This information will be used to better identify site-related releases and identify potential constituents of concern in support of risk management decisions.

Questions/Comments:

Dr. Carl Fisher asked about the prevalence of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and noted that they are not naturally occurring. Dr. Fisher acknowledged he has noted PAHs in Skuffeltown Creek and in the Elizabeth River adjacent to Atlantic Wood Industries. He also noted arsenic was prevalent in the area. Ms. Caldwell responded with concurrence noting that because PAHs are prevalent in the environment from numerous non-site sources such as roadways and treated lumber used for telephone poles and railroad ties, it is important in the CERCLA process to be able to distinguish anthropogenic (man-made) sources from CERCLA site releases for use in the remedial decision process.

Trenching Activities

Mr. Bill Friedmann (CH2M HILL) presented a summary of the trenching activities recently conducted at four sites at SJCA (Sites 2, 3, 5, and 6). Mr. Friedmann summarized the findings of the investigation and extent of waste identified at the sites.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Fender asked what size shells (ordnance) were found during the investigation. Mr. Friedmann noted the largest were 3" shells found in some areas but mostly pieces of smaller spent shells. In response, Mr. Harlow offered a brief description of Site 5 burning operations.

Dr. Fisher asked about the nature of Site 2 and the presence of fragmities marsh grass in the marsh area. Mr. Friedmann noted the marsh was heavily covered with fragmaties as the primary marsh vegetation.

Mr. Fender asked if samples were collected below the water table. Mr. Friedmann responded that some of the trenching at site extended below the water table.

Mr. Fender also questioned if an effort was made to look for contamination in St. Juliens Creek since the pond at Site 2 drains into St. Juliens Creek. Ms. Hayes responded that the IR program will look at the creek but noted that the trenching effort was specific for these sites to define the limits of waste.

Dr. Fisher expressed the need to look further into the creek. Ms. Hayes noted that based on findings of site risk assessments, the Navy would follow site contamination as necessary.

Dr. Fisher asked if it was planned to conduct removal in the wetlands. Mr. Harris responded that the team was considering an action similar to New Gosport, which was a blast grit removal action by the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

Mr. Fender noted that during construction of SIMA, some of the wetlands were disturbed, noting that the NAVY was required to compensate by creating more wetland areas. Mr. Fender also noted that sandblast operations were conducted at SIMA. Dr. Fisher commented that the wetlands were very effective in preventing grit from entering into the water.

Site Screening Assessment

Ms. Lynn France (CDM Federal) presented a summary of SSA investigation conducted to address all sites identified for review at SJCA. The purpose of the SSA is to identify those sites that require no further action, those that require further study, and those that may require remedial measures.

Questions/Comments:

Site 20-Dr. Fisher noted that with regards to Site 20, there are significantly high PAH concentration in sediment across the Elizabeth River and that from his work on the Elizabeth River Project it appears that PAHs are being transported across the river.

Dr. Fisher also noted there is a natural sediment cap in the area. The area has been naturally filled with perhaps up to 15 feet or more, noting the area was historically much deeper for navigation of ships and is now only a few feet deep.

AOC 8- Mr. Fender clarified the building number as 176.

AOC 12-Mr. Fender asked if drainage and ponding of water would inhibit plant growth on the sand area. Ms. Hayes noted where grass was present there is sediment build at the plant roots and that may reflect ponding and could prohibit vegetation.

Dr. Fisher question the no further action proposal for Site 20. Mr. Harris noted the action is an institutional control action to prohibit dredging, and that the regulators will work with LANTDIV on institutional control issues for the area, Mr. Harris noted the site will get further consideration. Ms. Hayes added that the Navy will further evaluate the site from a health and safety perspective.

Roundtable / Q&A

Mr. Harlow noted the change in schedule for the next RAB meeting.

Mr. Harlow asked if anyone was interested in a site visit to any of the sites discussed, and offered the possibility of a helicopter flight for those interested.

Mr. Mann asked where old photographs could be obtained. Mr. Harlow noted Navy has some archived photographs and other sources include the US Geological Survey, local library, and Hampton Roads Planing District.

Dr. Fisher noted he had conducted a trip up Paradise Creek commenting that the tour was limited by shallow water depth near the Peck Iron facility. During the trip he noted crab pots as well as a storm water outflow with an oil boom.

Mr. Friedmann provided the air photos for review.

Mr. Lew asked about the history of SJCA and the number of people that worked at the facility over the years, noting that there were many buildings that have been demolished and many other new ones. Mr. Harris will take the action to research that history. Mr. Harlow noted that weekly publications from SJCA archives may be a source of information.

Next Meeting Schedule

October 18, 2001

Meeting Adjourned