



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE
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NWS EARLE
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IN REPLY REFER TO

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From: Commanding Officer, Naval Weapons Station Earle
To: Distribution

Subj: MINUTES OF NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE RESTORATION ADVISORY
BOARD (RAB) MEETING OF 14 DECEMBER 2000

Encl: (1) RAB Briefing Charts, 14 December 2000
(2) Suggestions for RAB, NWS Earle and Notes from Department of Defense (D.O.D.)

1. A meeting of the Naval Weapons Station Earle RAB was held on Thursday, December 14, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in Building C-2 (Conference Room), Naval Weapons Station Earle. The following Station and community representatives attended:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
CAPT Claude B. Shaw	Commanding Officer, NWS Earle
CDR Charles Caudill	Executive Officer, NWS Earle
August L. Hermanni	Supervisory Environmental Engineer, NWS Earle
Gregory Goepfert	Environmental Engineer, NWS Earle
Lester Jargowsky	Monmouth County Health Department
Jessica Mollin	U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
Robert Marcolina	New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection
Mary Lanko	Howell Resident
John Kolicius	NORTHNAVFACENGCOM
Russ Turner	Tetra Tech NUS
Janet Coakley	Howell Township Environmental Commission
Michael Heffron	Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation
Rich Goldbeck	Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation
Will Stephan	Howell Resident
Merwin Kinkade	Borough of Tinton Falls

2. All RAB members introduced themselves; Captain Shaw introduced himself as the Commanding Officer of Naval Weapons Station Earle [relieving Captain Honey]. Briefing charts are provided as enclosure (1).

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3. Mr. Goepfert pointed out several corrections to the minutes of the September 14, 2000 meeting, as follows: the Environmental Protection Agency did send comments to the Navy regarding the feasibility studies for Sites 10 and 13 on April 5, 2000, and Mr. John Vasile did attend the September 14, 2000 RAB meeting. An outstanding action from the previous meeting was to place the Community Relations Plan on an official Navy internet/web site. The Public Affairs Officer will follow up.
4. Mr. Kolicius stated that the Battelle Labs bioslurper operations study is complete. Based on the recommendations of the report, a contract for the installation of additional wells from which the bioslurper will draw is being assembled.
5. Mr. Kinkade led a discussion regarding his attendance at the Department of Defense Stakeholders meeting, held in St. Louis, MO. Mr. Kinkade's written comments are attached as enclosure (2). The discussion items focused on the following points:
 - a. Other RABs were concerned with military bases where contamination was known to have traversed off-site, and where property turnover to the local community was at issue.
 - b. Other bases had known problems with buried unexploded ordnance (UXO).
 - c. Key points are to encourage public participation on the RAB and assure dissemination of information to the public regarding restoration program actions.
 - d. Some ideas to improve the NWS Earle RAB included: becoming more available to the public, host RAB meetings elsewhere (such as at the town hall of a local municipality, and/or hold the RAB as part of a local council meeting), use the internet to post RAB meeting minutes and to post updates between meetings. Mr. Stephan agreed that having some of the meetings off-Station may be more appealing; further, it may be possible to invite other towns. Mr. Jargowsky suggested that we reach out to our local academic community to invite participation on the RAB. Captain Shaw mentioned that Mr. Roy Smith of the Packaging, Storage, Handling and Transportation (PHS&T) Center had recently participated in a local Science Fair. Mr. Jargowsky stated that the Asbury Park Press was planning to prepare an article regarding Superfund sites on or about December 23rd, 2000. Ms. Coakley stated that much interest has not been generated in the NWS Earle RAB since it wasn't "exciting" enough [with regard to the issues addressed].

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e. Mr. Goepfert mentioned that it was very difficult to effect public involvement and volunteerism today, but it would be worth a try to enhance participation on the RAB.

f. Mr. Kinkade had suggested that we develop measures to assess and evaluate the success of the NWS Earle RAB. Messrs. Kolicius and Goepfert thanked Mr. Kinkade for attending the DOD Stakeholder's Meeting. Mr. Goepfert suggested that our RAB meet again (sooner than the usual three month period between meetings) to devise a plan of action to enhance the participation on the NWS Earle RAB.

6. Mr. Kolicius advised that the scope and cost of remediation work at Site 10 has been reduced, because NWS Earle eliminated the future use requirement of the site as a scrap metal storage yard. Therefore, a revised Proposed Plan for Sites 3 and 10 will be drafted and submitted for public comment within two months. Mr. Kolicius noted that in order to expedite remediation work within budget constraints, this Proposed Plan does not include Site 13 as was previously intended. Mr. Jargowsky asked if there was newer groundwater data on Site 13. Mr. Goepfert advised that no further sampling had been performed since the remedial investigation (RI) in 1995/1996 timeframe. Mr. Jargowsky asked what compounds were found in the sampling round? Mr. Goepfert responded that vinyl chloride was found in groundwater; Mr. Kolicius pointed out that one soil sample revealed perchlorethylene (PCE). Mr. Goepfert recognized Ms. Coakley's previous concern that Site 13 should not be forgotten about, and assured the RAB that remedial work will take place on Site 13 in the future. Mr. Kinkade suggested that some newer technologies, such as use of an oxygen releasing compound (ORC) be looked at as a remedial alternative at Site 13.

7. Mr. Goepfert presented the idea of considering monitored natural attenuation as a remedial choice for the remaining eleven (11) sites for which no remedial action has been taken, thus far. Mr. Goepfert distributed the U. S. EPA. publication entitled "A Citizen's Guide to Natural Attenuation." Mr. Jargowsky emphatically stated that monitored natural attenuation would have to be put in the perspective of other remedial alternatives, with regard to its risk as a remedy selection. Mr. Goepfert noted that institutional controls such as fencing, surveying points, identifying the site in the Station Master Plan would all potentially be included in the monitored natural attenuation alternative. Mr. Jargowsky cautioned that he was not pleased by how some of the State's "brownfields" had been handled [with regard to environmental monitoring]. Mr. Stephan indicated that as a taxpayer he was concerned about keeping remedial costs low, but only after seeing a detailed cost / benefit analysis. Mr. Jargowsky reiterated the need to "prove it" (with data) that monitored natural attenuation would address any potential risk posed by these sites.

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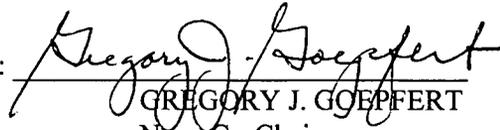
8. Mr. Goepfert proceeded with presenting the status of studies and remedial actions underway. He noted that the two vertical pipes found in the Wayside Area were vents of a septic tank. Samples from the sludge and leaching field were taken for analysis. The septic tank will be closed in accordance with State regulations. With regard to the operation of the bioslurper, Mr. Stephan asked if all the wells were active? Mr. Heffron answered that the wells are used on a rotated basis for withdrawal of groundwater. Mr. Marcolina asked where did the break in the underground piping happen? Mr. Goepfert answered that actually two leaks are evidenced: one near Building C-16, and just north of building C-50, where there was once a fuel dispensing station. The briefing charts show the decrease in fuel thickness over time since the bioslurper started operating. Mr. Goepfert mentioned that the Mine Battery site investigation would commence at the end of January 2001.

9. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

10. Milestones

Mr Goepfert will arrange for a special RAB meeting to serve as the public meeting for the Proposed Plan for Sites 3 and 10, as well as to examine the opportunities for RAB public outreach.

Submitted by:



GREGORY J. GOEPFERT
Navy Co-Chair

Restoration Advisory Board

Approved by:



C. B. SHAW

Captain, US Navy

Distribution:

RAB Members/Attendees