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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
FOR
NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE

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Colts Neck, New Jersey
Tuesday, October 5, 2004

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Meeting held in the above-captioned matter at Colts Neck Library Meeting Room, One Winthrop Drive, on the above date, beginning at approximately 7:00 p.m., before Kimberly A. Overwise, a Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Shorthand Reporter, and Notary Public.

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PRESENT:

Russ Turner

Michele DiGeambeardino

Gus Hermani

Bob Marcolina

Jessica Mollin

Alicia Hartmann

John Mayerski

Mary Lanko

Raymond Walton

Donald Olson

Hinitner Kastkon



1
2 MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: My name is
3 Michele DiGeambeardino and I am the
4 remedial project manager out of Lester,
5 Pennsylvania, for EFA Northeast, the
6 Navy. I am the representative for Naval
7 Weapons Station Earle. Alicia Hartmann
8 will be taking over for Larry Burg if you
9 had known him previously. She's going to
10 be my environmental counterpart at the
11 Base. Russ Turner is our contractor. He
12 will be presenting Sites 1 and 11 and 6,
13 12, 15, and 17 to you. There are two
14 proposed plans which we're presenting
15 this evening. Bob Marcolina is here from
16 New Jersey DEP. And, unfortunately, I
17 don't know if EPA is going to make it
18 this evening. So if Jessica Mollin does
19 come in, I'll introduce her. Okay?
20 There's Gus Hermani and he is head of
21 environmental as well from Naval Weapons
22 Station Earle.

23 MR. TURNER: Of the original 28
24 or so sites that we started working on at
25 Earle, Superfund sites under the



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Installation Restoration program for the Navy, these -- hang on a second.

MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: This is Jessica Mollin from EPA.

MS. MOLLIN: Sorry I'm late. Got a little lost.

MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: That's perfectly okay.

MR. TURNER: We just got the lights on about ten seconds ago, Jessica.

Okay. What we were saying is as part of the Installation Restoration program, there were originally about 28 sites. This is No. 20 more or less. These five sites we're talking about tonight pretty much are through approximately 75 percent completion, something like that. These sites now, for people who have the history, these sites are less contaminated I guess, if you will, than some of the earlier sites, less interesting. And we have the public interest commensurate with the amount of risk apparently to the public. They're



1
2 low-risk sites to the public, I guess.

3 But we're going to talk about
4 two operable units under the Installation
5 Restoration program. The Navy and EPA
6 agreed to group similar sites together as
7 operable units. Tonight OU 7 is a
8 groundwater contamination plume,
9 groundwater plume. That's OU 7. It's
10 concurrent with OU 3 if anyone remembers
11 OU 3, the site at Building 26. Is that
12 Building 26? GB-1, Site 26.

13 MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: That's
14 correct.

15 MR. TURNER: Building 26 on the
16 facility. The other four are waterfront
17 sites out at where the piers are. So I'm
18 going to start with OU 7. But before
19 that, I'll tell you what I would like to
20 talk about: the location of each of the
21 sites; I'll give just a quick summary of
22 past activities, landfill, whatever it
23 was the facility was used for, sludge
24 disposal, battery storage, et cetera; and
25 I'll give a summary of proposed actions



1
2 for each site.

3 But in preparation for that, I
4 wanted to talk a little bit about the
5 EPA-prescribed program that we're under.
6 Under the Superfund program, the National
7 Contingency Plan, owners of Superfund
8 sites are required to do investigations,
9 propose plans for cleanups, have public
10 meetings. This is a public meeting for
11 that purpose. It goes to a record of
12 decision that the Navy administrator and
13 EPA administrator will sign off on. And
14 then the remedial activity at the site
15 will occur. So today we're proposing
16 remedial plans for five sites, two
17 operable units, five sites within that
18 program. And it's important that the
19 community have a chance to comment so
20 we're also coincidentally in a 30-day
21 public comment period. It was published
22 in the newspaper. Some of you saw it in
23 the newspaper. Probably all of you saw
24 the newspaper advertisement. So feel
25 free, please, to take a copy of the



1
2 proposed plan before you leave. Some
3 have gotten those already. And get
4 comments in. They would go to Michele.
5 They could go to Alicia Hartmann.
6 There's an address in there for public
7 comments to the public affairs office at
8 Naval Weapons Station Earle.

9 Sequence of events, once all
10 the public comments are in, received, we,
11 the Navy contractor, will incorporate
12 those comments and any changes that are
13 decided are necessary in the plan into
14 what's called a record of decision which
15 we mentioned that will be signed and
16 become an agreement on the federal level.

17 Does that sound about right?

18 MS. MOLLIN: That sounds about
19 right.

20 MR. TURNER: Any questions,
21 Jessica probably could handle those, EPA.
22 That's their strength.

23 Okay. First I'd like to talk
24 about the OU 7 site. It's on the
25 mainside and it's really right in the



1
2 middle of the Base. It is a groundwater
3 contamination issue with
4 perchloroethylene, PCE. The history here
5 is that there is a building GB-1 where
6 historically -- and this is one we don't
7 have a good time line for, but
8 historically operations there using
9 solvents, apparently dumped solvents in
10 some sort of a drain that went to a
11 leachfield, actually a vault, and from
12 that vault spread out. So the thing
13 about Site 26, the biggest thing is, of
14 course, it's in the middle of the
15 facility. There are surface water drains
16 to the west to the streams which end up
17 going to the south. That's the
18 Mingamahone, I think. Groundwater,
19 however -- well, groundwater also flows
20 in generally the same direction,
21 south-southwest. Okay. At Site 26, I'll
22 give you bearings here. This is Macassar
23 Road and Midway, the two major roads out
24 there. The buildings which historically
25 were the facility where the solvent



1
2 disposal was is here and the tank was
3 right here. And so there was a resultant
4 trichlorethylene and PCE plume here.

5 Now, to give you an idea of the
6 concentrations in the plume, we've had I
7 think we mentioned up to about
8 77 micrograms per liter, so parts per
9 billion was the maximum we saw of PCE.
10 Most are lower. Most are in the range of
11 3, 5, couple of 50s, those kind of
12 ranges. However, this is the plume and
13 the scale here is that's 200 feet, so
14 that plume is 500 by 400 feet, something
15 like that. The thing that's happening
16 out there is that the TCE in the
17 groundwater has been under remediation
18 with a rather complicated groundwater air
19 sparge soil vapor extraction system since
20 January of 2002. So since that's
21 underway it has a real bearing on the
22 alternatives.

23 What precedes the process, the
24 step that precedes the PRAP, the proposed
25 remedial action plan, is an engineering



1
2 evaluation of the alternatives. And we
3 looked at three alternatives for this
4 site. We looked at others as well and
5 technologies but zeroed in on three
6 alternatives for this site. The first
7 one is no action. That's required by law
8 for a baseline. Second alternative is
9 limited action. Essentially that's just
10 long-term monitoring, five-year reviews
11 just to watch and see what happens. And
12 Alternative 3, limited action with
13 institutional controls and long-term
14 monitoring with classification exception
15 area.

16 In New Jersey, based on the
17 water quality designation of your
18 groundwater, you may be required if you
19 do not comply with groundwater quality
20 standards -- we're proposing in this case
21 submitting some paperwork in a regular
22 routine to be followed to ensure that the
23 groundwater is not consumed by humans or
24 used for any purpose other than
25 monitoring.



1
2 MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: Excuse me
3 for one second.

4 (Discussion off the record.)

5 MR. TURNER: Now, the deal here
6 is that in this particular case, there
7 are no dollar signs attached to those
8 alternatives. Usually they cost money,
9 50,000, 100,000. In this case since the
10 Navy is already operating a remedial
11 alternative out there, a cleanup
12 alternative out there, we looked at the
13 cost and we said, you know, there's
14 enough budget in the ongoing program to
15 cover these costs so that's what we
16 suggested. And the Navy is suggesting --
17 the Navy with EPA, and the State has
18 concurred, is suggesting the Alternative
19 3 to ensure groundwater isn't consumed by
20 humans or can affect the environment,
21 long-term monitoring, classification
22 exception area under New Jersey law, and
23 five-year reviews to ensure the adequacy
24 of the selected alternative.

25 MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: I just



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want to chime in -- go ahead, sir.

THE AUDIENCE: In relation to the previous chart you had up there with the area, are you just talking about strictly groundwater? How deep have you looked at wells? Down 60, 100, 300 feet, things like that?

MR. TURNER: This particular site is --

THE AUDIENCE: We can discuss this more, but it's groundwater you're talking about, just the initial surface water?

MR. TURNER: No. I think I can put your mind to ease on this one. In this site, we've looked at -- because of what's going on with the other operable unit 3, we spent a lot of time, put a lot of borings out there, and we've determined that there's a complete clay layer at about 35 to 50 feet and it's impervious. So we know that the whole plume covers this area looking down and down to the clay.



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THE AUDIENCE: Are you checking to the south also?

MR. TURNER: Yes, we did. What happens is there's a tributary to the Mingamahone I think it is. We've checked up and down that stream to ensure there's no contribution.

THE AUDIENCE: We have wells south of that.

MR. TURNER: Yeah. Your wells to the south would be about a mile and a half.

MR. MARCOLINA: And you see the small specks outside of the colored plume. Those were wells that were sampled as well. The reason why they're not colored is because there were no contaminants found in them.

MR. TURNER: Exactly. That's a good point. In fact, we went on the other side of the stream to ensure we were bounding because sometimes you can have flow that comes up the stream and might even go under the streambed, but we



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checked on the other side.

THE AUDIENCE: The head of Shark River starts right down where we are.

MR. TURNER: Almost everything starts at the weapons station, yeah. Locally all the rivers start right here, but there's no impact on that. I can tell you that right now.

Okay. So that's really it. That would take us to the waterfront sites. There are four waterfront sites we wanted to talk about tonight. Let's get our bearings. You guys, can you see where that is, the bay and you can see -- does anyone need help getting their bearings on this? This is the bay. The pier would be out here. I forgot the name of the road. What's the main road?

MR. MARCOLINA: 36.

THE AUDIENCE: That's the main drag.

MR. TURNER: That would be this guy I guess here. Okay. So you guys



1
2 know that a lot better than I do. The
3 first site -- well, let me cover all
4 four. Real quickly, we have Site 6 here
5 on the northern end. This is the main
6 road out to the pier. This building is
7 essentially a physical fitness type of
8 building, tennis courts, basketball
9 courts. That's Site 6, former landfill.

10 Site 12 is a small area of
11 asphalt in the paved parking area here
12 where forklift batteries were stored for
13 a number of years and spills occurred I
14 suppose and degradation of the batteries
15 occurred there.

16 Site 15, if you guys recognize
17 that along the State Highway 36, that's
18 the main gate that's adjacent to the main
19 gate to the waterfront. It was a sludge
20 disposal area where some oily bilge water
21 from ships was dumped.

22 Site 17 is another landfill.
23 It's adjacent to the marsh and swampy
24 area out there. You know, it seems to me
25 like the whole area out there is probably



1
2 built on a fill and our borings support
3 that. These happen to be a couple things
4 that were essentially municipal waste
5 type landfills.

6 Okay. At Site 6 in particular,
7 there formerly was a water treatment
8 plant. This tank has been removed. What
9 year was Foster Wheeler out there to do
10 the stabilization? Four years ago would
11 have made it 1999, 2000 or so, 1999.
12 Four or five years ago the Navy had a
13 contractor in after we had already done
14 the remedial investigation and identified
15 some risks here, namely, that the
16 landfill surface was deteriorating. They
17 came in, regraded, put in soil mats,
18 regrassed, put in fences, things like
19 that. But this landfill was used from
20 approximately 1943 to 1965. It's
21 composed of about 4 acres, received
22 lumber from essentially pack material. A
23 small amount of paint solvents were
24 reported. You know, these were reported
25 in interviews given to personnel. And



1
2 apparently burning -- and we're talking
3 about back in the '40s and '50s, some
4 burning of waste occurred there as well.
5 We estimate 2,500 tons of municipal type
6 wastes were disposed there.

7 The compounds of concern in
8 this case are in the groundwater because
9 the soil's been stabilized and include
10 arsenic, cadmium, manganese, and iron.
11 And the media of concern is groundwater
12 as well.

13 The alternatives considered,
14 the full range of treatment as well, but
15 the first one is no action as required by
16 law again, and the only other alternative
17 that was actually feasible -- you know,
18 sort of pump and treat is not feasible
19 for the kind of concentrations we're
20 talking about of these metals -- is
21 institutional controls, long-term
22 monitoring, classification exception area
23 because of the isolatedness of the site
24 and the fact that fences exist there
25 already. The Navy is proposing



1
2 institutional controls, long-term
3 monitoring.

4 Another point to point out here
5 is that there are numerous sites around
6 the Base. And in this case with the
7 earlier maps showing all these sites are
8 so close together, the Navy already is
9 maintaining groundwater monitoring in the
10 area. So there was some logic in
11 continuing that and maybe expanding it is
12 what it's going to end up looking like
13 eventually. So the Navy's proposing that
14 Alternative 2, long-term monitoring,
15 classification exception area as we
16 described for Site 6 PCE plume.

17 Any questions? Am I covering
18 the important points that I should be?
19 Okay.

20 THE AUDIENCE: That is still an
21 active area? Is that building being
22 used?

23 MR. TURNER: Oh, sure. Naval
24 personnel are in there daily doing
25 physical fitness training. The roads are



1
2 used for transit of all the -- whatever
3 transit goes out to the pier. And then
4 there are maintenance facilities. This
5 whole waterfront area is pretty tightly
6 packed with maintenance work,
7 administration work, all kinds of Navy
8 needs.

9 Site 12, which was the battery
10 storage area, was about 7,500 feet and it
11 was in this part of the parking lot here,
12 paved parking area. I'm going to have to
13 speed it up a little bit. We did not do
14 groundwater sampling there because it's
15 already for the other groundwater
16 exception area classification area that
17 we have at the waterfront for building
18 R5. That groundwater is already being
19 monitored so it already has a
20 classification exception area underway
21 there. And at Site 12, in addition to
22 that, sediments and soils had some
23 metals, lead, and they've been removed.
24 The Navy performed a removal action
25 confirmation sampling accepted by EPA and



1
2 DEP. So we can propose no further action
3 for Site 12. That's what the Navy's
4 proposing tonight.

5 Site 15 along State Road 36,
6 it's essentially a little wetland area
7 where there was a railroad siding right
8 here where some unknown amount of oily
9 sludge was disposed of. The compounds of
10 concern are the PAHs, some metals. And
11 in this case it's a surface soil issue,
12 but this is a highly secure area and
13 there's a double fence around it. And so
14 the Navy is proposing here -- looked at
15 no action, once again same reason,
16 proposing Alternative 2, institutional
17 controls.

18 This would be a little
19 different than the others we're talking
20 about because this is a case where
21 there's exceedences of the NJDEP surface
22 soil quality standard. So in this case
23 sort of a deed restriction, something
24 will be placed on the Base master plan to
25 ensure that those fences remain intact,



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and there will be regular monitoring to ensure that. So that's what the Navy is proposing there, to access restrictions in the form of fencing essentially and limits on the land use.

Now, I'm going to have to keep moving. Is that okay with everybody? There's the proposal alternative for 15.

MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: I told them we need an extra five minutes.

MR. TURNER: Site 17, these are from historical aerial photography. There's a similar issue at Site 6 where the landfill was deteriorating at the edges and things were protruding through. The Navy at the same time it did the work at landfill 6, Site 6, their contractor came through and stabilized the landfill edge and placed barriers, heavy wooden barriers so that vehicles couldn't be pushed up to the edge. It was vehicle parking and things that were causing the deterioration at the edge and sloughing off into the marsh area on the side. And



1
2 so at this point the concerns at Site 17
3 are once again groundwater issues. The
4 compounds are some of the same metals
5 that we talked about before, essentially
6 arsenic. Alternatives, wide range
7 considered but we ended up narrowing it
8 down to these alternatives. The concern
9 is exposure to groundwater so the Navy is
10 proposing Alternative 2, institutional
11 controls, long-term groundwater
12 monitoring, initiation of the
13 classification exception area monitored
14 by NJDEP.

15 Future events we kind of
16 covered already. If these RODs are
17 accepted, it will go to remedial design
18 and then action meaning construction of
19 the fences, implementation of the
20 classification exception area, annual
21 groundwater monitoring, quarterly,
22 whatever is proposed and accepted by all
23 parties.

24 And that's it for me. Sorry to
25 run through it so quickly. The main



1
2 thing was make sure everyone gets a copy
3 of the proposed plan, read through it if
4 you're interested and contact the people.
5 I think what we're going to do is retire
6 to the other room for questions if that's
7 okay with everybody.

8 MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: I have a
9 question. Does anyone have questions? I
10 hate to reconvene into the other room
11 unless you have any further questions.
12 Do you feel comfortable with the
13 information you received?

14 THE AUDIENCE: I was mainly
15 concerned about how deep the monitoring
16 went. As you said, if it was just
17 groundwater, they're saying it went
18 35 feet to 50 feet down, the clay layer,
19 how thick is this clay layer? It is
20 impervious?

21 MR. TURNER: It's not the same
22 here at the waterfront.

23 THE AUDIENCE: But I'm talking
24 about the 26 site.

25 MR. TURNER: Yes. There would



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be no need to monitor below. The clay layer is very tight. We looked in there many times. There's nothing in there. It just hasn't penetrated in there. And it's continuous. We have geologists look at it and it's just -- you know, it was deposited over time. That is some 25 feet thick. I think it's 25 feet more or less.

THE AUDIENCE: I got two geologists in the family. Both have Master's degrees.

MR. TURNER: They'll understand that. When this coastal geology, it's typical, not uncommon. This one's a 25-foot layer. It's continuous, and maybe not continuous across the Base but certainly in the region of that site.

MR. MARCOLINA: And if you wanted to look at the geology in any level of detail, the remedial investigation report for this site is available at the county library in Shrewsbury, so you could go there and



1
2 peruse it at your will. It's a big,
3 thick detailed document, gives you the
4 geology for every single --

5 THE AUDIENCE: What's it titled
6 under, the document?

7 MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: It's
8 called remedial investigation.

9 MR. TURNER: It's under the
10 administrative record. Speak to Mary
11 Jane Kehoe, K-E-H-O-E. She's the
12 administrator of the repository. This is
13 Shrewsbury. Is that what you're
14 mentioning?

15 MR. MARCOLINA: Yes.

16 THE AUDIENCE: How's she spell
17 that?

18 MR. TURNER: K-E-H-O-E. That's
19 who I send the stuff to.

20 MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: Any
21 further questions?

22 (No response.)

23 MS. DiGEAMBEARDINO: Thank you
24 all for coming. Next time we'll have a
25 RAB meeting. How's that? Thank you.



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(Whereupon the meeting
adjourned at 7:30 p.m.)

- - -



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2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
4 proceedings, evidence, and objections are
5 contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 meeting taken on October 5, 2004, and
8 that this is a true and correct
9 transcript of same.

10 

11 _____
12 Kimberly A. Otherwise
13 Registered Professional Reporter
14 Certified Shorthand Reporter
15 Notary Public
16
17

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19 this transcript does not apply to any
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