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July 9, 1996

Project Number 5278

Mr. James Shafer  
Remedial Project Manager  
Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82  
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62472-90-D-1298  
Contract Task Order 218

Subject: RAB Meeting Minutes

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Enclosed is a copy of minutes from the RAB meeting on June 19. Please note that the agenda for the meeting on July 17 includes an overview of historical activity at the Newport Naval Complex, discussing member expectations of the RAB's role, and determining standing committee responsibilities.

If you have any questions about this, please contact me at 508-658-7899.

Very truly yours,

Betsy Horne  
Community Relations Specialist

Enclosure

c: Dr. D. K. Abbass  
Mr. Alfred Arruda, Jr.  
Mr. Robert Belenger  
Ms. Elizabeth Bermender  
Ms. Mary A. Blake  
Dr. David W. Brown  
Mr. Anthony D'Agnerica  
Mr. W. E. Fenton

Mr. James Shafer  
Northern Division  
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c: Mr. Francis J. Flanagan  
Hon. June Gibbs  
Mr. Dennis F. Klodner  
Mr. Joseph McEnness  
Mr. Howard L. Porter  
Mr. Paul D. Russell  
Mr. Charles Salmond  
Mr. Keith Stokes  
Mr. John Torgan  
Ms. Claudette Weissinger  
Mr. Paul Kulpa, DEM  
Ms. Kymberlee Keckler, US EPA  
Ms. Sarah White, US EPA  
Ms. Mary Pothier, CDM  
Mr. Tim Prior, USF&WS  
Mr. Ken Finkelstein, NOAA  
Capt. Bogle, NETC  
Mr. James Barden  
Capt. Wyman, NETC  
Mr. James Shafer, NORTHDIV  
Mr. David Sanders, NETC  
Mr. Brad Wheeler, NETC  
Newport Public Library  
Middletown Free Library  
Portsmouth Free Public Library  
Mr. John Trepanowski, B&RE, Wayne  
Mr. Michael Turco, B&RE, Wayne  
Mr. Liyang Chu, B&RE, Wilmington  
Mr. Gordon Bullard, B&RE, Wilmington  
File 5278-3.2 w/o enc./9.4 w/enc.

NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 19, 1996

MINUTES

On Wednesday, June 19, 1996, the NETC Newport Installation Restoration Program Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met for a field trip to visit the high priority sites being studied under the IR program. Ratification of the charter was also scheduled, after the site visit.

Twelve of the 18 RAB community members attended: Kathy Abbass, Bob Belenger, Liz Bermender, Mary Blake, David Brown, Tony D'Agneica, Billy Fenton, Joe McEnness, Howard Porter, Paul Russell, John Torgan, and Claudette Weissinger. Also attending were Paul Kulpa from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; Sarah White, EPA Community Relations Coordinator, representing EPA Remedial Project Manager Kymberlee Keckler; Navy personnel Captain Jon Wyman (Navy Co-chair), David Sanders (NETC Public Affairs), Robert Krivinskas and Jim Shafer (Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northern Division), and Brad Wheeler (NETC Environmental Affairs). Community members absent were: Al Arruda, Frank Flanagan, June Gibbs, Dennis Klodner, Chuck Salmond, and Keith Stokes.

The group gathered at the NETC Officer's Club, and began the tour at 5:05 pm. Agenda items are denoted in the minutes by the underscored headings.

TANK FARM FOUR

John Kerry, representing Foster Wheeler, the Tank Farm Four construction contractor, joined the group to provide answers to detailed questions. Tank Farm Four consists of 12 concrete, 50 year old tanks, located in a former cow pasture. The tanks are tied together through piping. One tank, Tank 42, was cleaned last year, and decommissioned and closed. The remaining tanks are in the process of being cleaned. All tank water will be drained into Tank 43; that water will be pumped to an on-site water treatment facility and discharged to the City of Newport sewage treatment plant. The remaining soil will be sampled to determine its type to ensure that the steam cleaning and biodegradation approach used for each tank is appropriate. Once cleaned, the tanks will be ballasted to ensure the water table does not undermine their stability, and closed according to RI UST requirements. A decision has yet to be made whether the tanks will be demolished. Whatever the final disposition, a soil cover of 5 to 6 feet will be placed over the tank area. The final closure plan will define the monitoring activities the Navy must follow.

Comment: How much sludge remains in the tanks? Is it safe for people cleaning the tanks to work?

Response: Approximately 10 feet of residuals are in each tank. Workers begin in level B (self-contained breathing apparatus, usually carrying a tank on one's back) and move to level C (face mask with a canister), if conditions allow. Some of the residual material will be shipped to a recovery facility for recycling.

Comment: How large are the tanks?

Response: They held 2.5 million gallons and are 35 feet deep.

Comment: Isn't it redundant to have both the Navy and the State involved in the closure?

Response: Petroleum wastes are excluded from regulation under Superfund, so dealing with petroleum-related waste has become the purview of the states. Inspections are conducted by both the Navy and the State.

Comment: What kind of emissions are coming from the tanks?

Response: The heavy petroleum that was stored in these tanks was not particularly volatile so there would have been few air emissions. Those that existed would have evaporated over the years.

Comment: If emissions aren't a problem, why spend the money closing the tanks?

Response: The potential contamination concern involves groundwater, not air pollution. Each tank could have leaked up to 2.5 million gallons through cracks or leaks, which we cannot detect because the tanks are underground. The principal threat of contaminated groundwater is to Narragansett Bay, not drinking water sources.

Comment: Is there any explosion potential during cleaning?

Response: The explosion potential is measured in the air before the concrete is cut. Different size blades are used depending on where rebar is situated in the concrete.

#### MELVILLE NORTH LANDFILL

The facility is now owned by Melville Marine Industries, although the Navy is cleaning it up, as the responsible party. It was a small landfill that contains PCBs and metals. The hazardous waste was stabilized. Non-hazardous dirt went to either Central Landfill or a facility in Massachusetts. A portion of it was placed under the McAllister Point Landfill cap, a move that saved the project approximately \$100,000. The remaining material is covered and on site. The Town of Portsmouth is constructing a boat landing facility.

#### MCALLISTER POINT LANDFILL

A RCRA Subtitle C cap is under construction to keep approximately 2 to 6 million gallons a year of water (rain and melted snow) out of the landfill (that would pick up landfill contaminants and expose them to Narragansett Bay) and to protect the bay from exposure to landfill debris. Brad explained the roll of the various cap layers to isolate the material from external exposure, repel water, drain surface runoff, and stabilize the mass by planting vegetation. The project also involved constructing a revetment along the landfill-coast interface and installing gas vents to release methane produced by the breakdown of landfill material. The Navy will monitor the cap for 30 years, which is the cap's expected lifetime.

Comment: Will the gas from the vents create any pollution problem?  
Response: Another operable unit established for McAllister Point Landfill by the ROD for the cap will evaluate the 18 gas vents as well as sediments and the groundwater entering the landfill from its landward side. That information is from 2 to 4 years away.

Comment: How high is the watertable?  
Response: Some of the landfill material is sitting in the groundwater. We are not sure how far down the landfill extends.

Comment: How will the capped landfill fare during hurricanes?  
Response: The cap was constructed according to Army Corps of Engineers standards.

Comment: Will the public be able to use the capped landfill area for recreation?  
Response: No public or vehicular activity was envisioned during development of the FS or the ROD.

#### DEREKTOR SHIPYARD

Robert Derektor built government contracted and private boats at the leased facility during the 1980s. He left behind barrels of waste product material containing PCBs, strippers, and acids, as well as asbestos-containing material. All obvious contaminated material has been removed. However, sandblast waste was dumped in the bay. An off-shore study is reviewing the extent of this contamination. A study of the on-shore impacts has been funded and will begin soon.

Comment: What chance is there that the "Newport Marine Terminal" will be able to convert Pier 1 to commercial use?  
Response: Lots of questions remain to be answered. The Navy still thinks there may be buried material that would have to be identified and properly disposed before the area can be used for any public purpose.

#### OLD FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING AREA

Part of the area is now used for picnicking. The mound next to the recreation area may still contain buried contaminated material. The type of training conducted when the facility was operating resulted in the creation of PAHs. The day care facility that formerly stood nearby was moved to a new building at NUWC. Before that move could take place, however, the children were not allowed to play outside to ensure they were not exposed to the PAHs in the soil. An off-shore investigation is underway; one round of sampling has been conducted.

## RETURN TO THE OFFICER'S CLUB

Sandwiches and refreshments were available for a light supper. After a few minutes to allow for meal selection, Captain Wyman, the Navy Co-chair, brought the meeting to order. He indicated that the site tour would be completed at a date to be determined. The off-shore area (Gould Island Electroplating Shop) can only be reached by boat so we need to ensure vessel availability.

Captain Wyman then recognized Bob Krivinskas. Bob is being reassigned from NORTHDIV to NETC. Bob introduced his replacement, Jim Shafer, who shared some of his background. Several years ago he was remedial project manager on projects such as Brunswick Naval Air Station. He then worked on housing issues related to naval installations.

Betsy Horne lead the RAB in confirming the changes made to the charter at the last meeting and in ratifying the document. The last two pages were circulated for signatures.

Joe McEnness, the Community Co-chair, announced a proposed order of business for RAB meetings (call to order; approval of previous minutes; committee reports; unfinished business; new business; speaker/presentation; adjourn.) Joe also outlined the four standing committees (and their chairs) that are being formed: project (Bill Fenton); planning (Dave Brown); membership (Paul Russell); and public information (June Gibbs). Bill Fenton asked the RAB members to let him know if they had a particular interest on which the RAB should focus.

A question was asked about a proposed bicycle path for Burma Road (Defense Highway). Captain Wyman indicated that the project was not within the RAB's jurisdiction. However, the Navy is matching the studies conducted by moving structures and paving the path. The Navy is also asking Rhode Island to pursue matching federal intermodal transportation funds to support the project.

Kathy Abbass mentioned that the area communities were pulling together their calendars for 1997 and suggested that NETC activities might be included. Captain Wyman asked her to have them contact David Sanders in the Public Affairs Office.

Paul Kulpa stated that new soil and groundwater standards for priority pollutants were out for public comment. Anyone interesting in commenting should contact Paul at 277-3872, ext. 7111.

Captain Wyman announced several upcoming events. On the 4th of July, the Officer's Club will host a lobster cookoff and free concert on the lawn, followed by the Newport City fireworks display. The next day, the Navy Band will play at 6 pm.

## NEXT RAB MEETING

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17. The meeting concluded at 7:45.