



Brown & Root Environmental

N62661 AR 000922
NAVSTA NEWPORT RI
5090 3a

55 Jonspin Road
Wilmington, MA 01887-1020

(508) 658-7899
FAX: (508) 658-7870

C-NAVY-9-97-1044W

September 8, 1997

Project Number 5278

Mr. James X. 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: Final RAB Meeting Minutes

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Enclosed is a copy of the August 20, 1997 RAB meeting minutes. Kymberlee forwarded copies of the 1997 "State of the New England Environment" and requested that they be distributed to the community members with the final minutes.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Betsy Horne'.

Betsy Horne
Community Relations Specialist

BH:ib

Enclosure

c: Dr. D. K. Abbass (w/enc.)
Mr. Alfred Arruda, Jr. (w/enc.)
Ms. Mary A. Blake (w/enc.)
Dr. David W. Brown (w/enc.)



Mr. James X. Shafer
September 8, 1997
Page 2

c: Mr. Paul M. Cormier (w/enc.)
Mr. Anthony D'Agnew (w/enc.)
Ms. Beth Everett (w/enc.)
Mr. Mike Foley (w/enc.)
Mr. Byron J. Hall (w/enc.)
Ms. Elizabeth Mathinos (w/enc.)
Mr. Joseph McEnness (w/enc.)
Mr. Thomas McGrath (w/enc.)
Mr. T. R. McGrath, Jr. (w/enc.)
Mr. Howard L. Porter (w/enc.)
Mr. Paul D. Russell (w/enc.)
Mr. Charles Salmond (w/enc.)
Mr. John Torgan (w/enc.)
Ms. Claudette Weissinger (w/enc.)
Ms. Mary Philcox (w/enc.)
Mr. David Egan (w/enc.)
Mr. Paul Kulpa, DEM (w/enc.)
Ms. Kymberlee Keckler, EPA (w/enc.)
Capt. Jon Wyman, NETC (w/enc.)
Mr. David Sanders, NETC (w/enc.)
Mr. Brad Wheeler, NETC (w/enc.)
Mr. Kevin Coyle, NETC (w/enc.)
Ms. Melissa Griffin, NETC (w/enc.)
Mr. Woody Monaco, NETC (w/enc.)
Ms. Sarah White, EPA (w/enc.)
Ms. Jennifer Hayes, Gannett Fleming (w/enc.)
Mr. Tim Prior, USF&WS (w/enc.)
Mr. Ken Finkelstein, NOAA (w/enc.)
Capt. Bogle, NETC (w/enc.)
Mr. James Barden (w/enc.)
Hon. Paul W. Crowley (w/enc.)
Hon. June Gibbs (w/enc.)
Councilman Dennis McCoy (w/enc.)
Mr. Vincent Arnold (w/enc.)
Dr. David Kim (w/enc.)
Sister Annie Marie Walsh (w/enc.)
Brother Joseph (w/enc.)
Newport Public Library (w/enc.)
Ms. Joanne Gorman, Middletown Free Library (w/enc.)
Portsmouth Free Public Library (w/enc.)
Mr. R. Boucher, NORTHDIV (w/o enc.)
Mr. Liyang Chu, B&RE, Wilmington (w/enc.)

**NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 20, 1997**

MINUTES

On Wednesday, August 20, 1997, the NETC Newport Installation Restoration Program Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) gathered at the NETC Officers' Club for its monthly meeting. The meeting began at 7:17 pm and ended at 9:27 pm.

Ten of the 17 RAB community members attended: Kathy Abbass, Mary Blake, David Brown, Tony D'Agnenica, Byron Hall, Joe McEnness, T. R. McGrath, Paul Russell, Chuck Salmond, and Claudette Weissinger. Other RAB members attending were: Paul Kulpa, the RIDEM Remedial Project Manager; and Kymberlee Keckler, EPA Remedial Project Manager. Brad Wheeler, the NETC IR Program Manager, was present. Mary Philcox from the Aquidneck Island Citizens Advisory Board was also present. Tom McGrath provided notice of his absence. Al Arruda, Paul Cormier, Mike Foley, Liz Mathinos, Howard Porter, and John Torgan were not present.

Agenda items are denoted in the minutes by the underscored headings.

CALL TO ORDER

Chuck Salmond, the Community Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and asked anyone present for the first time to introduce themselves. Bruce Howe, a Newport resident, expressed his interest in the archeological aspects of the RAB's work; Stephanie Seider, a Portsmouth resident, is a summer hire at EPA's Narragansett Laboratory; Pete DuBois works for the Public Affairs Office and is representing David Sanders.

Captain Wyman stated he was glad to be back and was looking forward to participating in the discussion of committee goals and tasks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chuck discussed the EPA-sponsored three-day RAB conference in Amherst, Massachusetts, attended by Chuck, Kathy Abbass, Mary Philcox, and Brad Wheeler. The most vivid sense Chuck took away from the meeting was that the NETC RAB was in good shape relative to other RABs. Much of that is due to the quality of our membership, and the fact that attendance is high and there are no hidden agendas. Chuck sensed a great deal of mistrust within other RABs. Many RABs were not represented, while most others only sent one person to the meeting. Examples of RAB problems include a prohibition from meeting on facility property, and community members' inability to reach IR staff by telephone (at closing/closed bases).

Kathy Abbass commented that the relationships within the NETC RAB is head and shoulders above other RABs represented at the meeting. Other RABs' difficulties in dealing with the Navy range from limiting the amount of time a speaker is allowed to ask questions or state a concern to severely limiting the release of documents to the public. Kathy suggested our RAB's healthy position relative to other RABs was due to the NETC staff, whom she thanked. Mary Philcox heard a great deal of negative comment from other RABs and wondered if the successes experienced by the NETC RAB could be shared with them. Brad Wheeler noticed that Massachusetts and New Hampshire state environmental staff particularly enjoyed a positive working relationship with the facility and EPA staff. He was not sure enough had been done at Otis Air Force Base to convey the seriousness of the water pollution problem to the affected community.

Comment: Was there a representative from EPA's Federal Facilities Office at the meeting? Their staff has been very helpful.

Response: Ms. Fitzsimmons, who manages the Federal Facilities staff, was present. She was very much in tune with RAB issues. The Under Secretary of the Air Force was there but no one represented the Navy brass. Congressman Olver, a member of the U. S. House from western Massachusetts, is on the Appropriations Committee. He strongly recommended that RABs move quickly to use DERA cleanup funds.

Chuck asked if anyone wished to propose changes to the minutes. A motion was made to adopt the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Shafer stated that the Navy had received concurrence from EPA and RIDEM on schedules for each IR site, based on the incremental dates specified in the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA). The priorities for action are based on the relative risk ranking process each site received. The schedules will be published to announce a public comment period of at least 30 days. The notice will appear in the newspaper after the schedules are discussed at the next RAB meeting.

The Navy has recently received approval to proceed with imploding the Tank Farm 4 tanks.

The soil removal action at Derecktor Shipyard's South Waterfront should begin in a couple of weeks. The stockpiled soil, about 1,000 feet long by 40 feet wide, will be sampled before it is removed. If it is sufficiently clean, it will be used to fill the imploded tanks at Tank Farm 4. A separate work plan will address the on-shore hot spots at Derecktor.

A request was made that since all technical reports are sent to the TAG technical advisor, he also needs to receive copies of comments and comment/response letters. The RAB should also receive those materials. A copy of all comments and comment/response letters should be sent to Betsy Horne, who will provide two copies to Chuck Salmond for RAB deliberation. Kymberlee Keckler suggested that this process will use a great deal of paper. Mary Philcox recommended that we begin this distribution and see how it works out.

COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

Chuck asked the RAB membership to regroup into committees for an hour. This time should be used to identify the tasks necessary to carry out the goals established in the last RAB

meeting, the people who should be responsible for implementing those tasks, and the timetable for their completion. Brad announced that Woody Monaco, a civil engineer in the Environmental Division's wastewater section, was present and would be assisting the Public Information Committee. [The goals remain from the July minutes. Discussion to address the goals through identifying specific tasks, responsibilities, and timetables is indicated in ***bold, italics.***]

Membership Committee - Paul Russell

- Goals: ● Contact inactive members to determine their status. Create openings for new members from slots that result in resignations. ***Three inactive members have resigned: Frank Flanagan, Dennis Klodner, and Keith Stokes.***
- Develop and maintain a reserve of from three to five prospective members to fill memberships as soon as vacancies occur. ***Beth Everett, who was present as a prospective member at the last meeting, was nominated, seconded, and approved as a new RAB community member.***
 - Encourage the existing membership to faithfully attend meetings to maximize the RAB's effectiveness.

Public Information Committee - Claudette Weissinger

- Goals: ● Continue to remind the community about the RAB.
- Publicize fact sheets and feasibility studies. ***Fact sheets should include the name and telephone number of an NETC contact. The Public Affairs Office should distribute the fact sheets.***
 - Encourage/sponsor a reunion of Old Fire Fighting Training Area personnel to develop additional site historical information.

Encourage continuation of the school field trip process begun in May. Develop videotapes/slide shows as supplements. ***The committee was uncertain about what school grade level they should focus on. Chuck recommended beginning with the high school level to stimulate interest in future careers. Claudette recommended that she and Chuck meet to discuss this issue further. Captain Wyman mentioned that the Public Works Department had sponsored a get together with schools for Earth Day.***

- Develop a speakers bureau and a speakers' information package. ***We should schedule a presentation on the cleanup status of each IR site and invite the public to the presentation.***
- Cultivate WADK for RAB interviews.
- Encourage members of local environmental groups to attend RAB meetings. ***Compile a list of the area/state environmental groups, with their addresses and telephone numbers.***
- Develop questionnaires to assess the public's level of concern about how their health may be impacted by base IR sites.

A segment on the RAB should be added to the NETC's internet homepage.

The Public Affairs Office should update the Community Relations Plan.

Project Committee - Kathy Abbass

- Goals: ● Update the IR sites schedules (NETC). The RAB has not received revised schedules for many months. ***This task may be addressed by the FFA sites schedules Jim mentioned earlier.***

- Schedule meetings with agency principals to learn more about their roles in the IR process. *The committee plans to ask a principal from each of six state and federal agencies (Navy, EPA, Interior, NOAA, RIDEM, CRMC) involved in the NETC IR program to articulate their responsibilities and authorities individually and as a group. For one hour before the next several RAB meetings, Kathy wants one representative to meet with her committee members to make clear their roles in the IR program. A second effort involves inviting all six representatives (tentatively, to the October RAB meeting) to meet with the RAB as a whole so that other members can hear what they related to the committee and so community members can ask questions concerning overlapping jurisdictions and conflicts in the presence of all agency representatives.*
- Schedule OSHA health and safety training for RAB members so they can participate in site visits. *Brad will arrange the training for some time in the winter. In the meantime, the committee is tentatively scheduling the afternoon of September 30 for a bus tour of sites that do not require health and safety training. Other RAB members are welcome to join the committee on this field trip.*
- Review the history of how each site has come to its present cleanup status (NETC). *The committee wants to coordinate with the Public Information Committee in creating one-page synopses for the sites. Fact sheets should be compiled into a booklet for public review and added to the NETC homepage.*
- Integrate "Chutes and Ladders" with site schedules. *Brad will integrate the status of each site with the "Chutes and Ladders" diagram by the next RAB meeting.*
- Ensure that committee recommendations are consistent with the public's wishes.

The committee will continue to play a watchdog role over IR contracts.

The committee will need to keep an eye on ensuring that they don't overpromise; sufficient money needs to be available to implement the tasks we undertake.

Planning Committee - David Brown

- Goals: ● Reinforce Public Information Committee goals by publicizing pollution status and causes, and soliciting public feedback on potential remediation alternatives. ***The planned implosion of the tanks at Tank Farm 4 (possibly in October) may be an occasion to catch the public's attention about site cleanup work. It is certainly a photo opportunity.***
- Request a more cohesive investigation of future site uses. Encourage the Navy to clarify their intentions about NETC sites. Identify and use information developed by other groups on Island planning and land use for the IR Program. ***URI and geographic information system (GIS) data are being used for Island-wide land use planning. The Navy is developing a comprehensive plan.***
 - Make more effective use of limited cleanup funds. Get the RAB involved early in the budget process to affect priorities and schedules. ***The discussion about the FFA sites schedules provides an opportunity for the RAB to make recommendations on which sites are addressed first. That discussion is scheduled for the September meeting.*** Ensure investigations and cleanup actions do not go too far. Encourage use of innovative remedial technologies. ***The committee is looking into where the RAB can best affect cleanup strategies. An example would be during the presentation on the draft FS for McAllister Point Landfill, tentatively scheduled for the October meeting.***

The committee needs to assist the RAB in focusing on what the key questions are for each issue.

Chuck emphasized that among the Planning Committee's responsibilities is determining priorities for RAB meeting agendas.

"Big Picture" Committee - Chuck Salmond

- Goals:
- Brief congressional delegation staff about RAB activities. ***We need to develop a relationship with both federal and state legislators and attempt to get one of their staff members to attend a RAB meeting at least once a year. A list of organizations needs to be compiled to accomplish this task.***

 - Form a bay-wide water quality committee. Bring together groups focusing on different aspects of the bay to share information and establish synergy. For instance, perhaps excessed Navy property can be used to solve an environmental problem faced by another group. ***We need to schedule a series of meetings with the other "Bay " players, including RIDEM, CRMC, Fish and Wildlife, AICAB, and municipal planners from the communities of Portsmouth, Middletown, and Newport. The goal of these meetings would be to ensure that there is one, comprehensive map that each entity uses that represents a consensus of the water quality status of all areas adjacent to NETC. The goal is to determine whether the Navy's cleanup actions are making a difference. These areas need to be reopened for recreational use. Having a consensus map would enable federal and state authorities to reorder their cleanup priorities.***

 - Focus on keeping RAB member attendance high.

Identify possible alternate RAB meeting sites. ***The RAB should attempt to meet at least once a year at each of the three city/town halls. The public turnout at RAB meetings should increase by meeting in these locations.***

Chuck requested that RAB members think about the tasks discussed this evening and be prepared to report back to the full RAB at upcoming RAB meetings on progress in implementing the tasks.

Comment: A year and a half ago we toured several sites by bus. A contractor was working at one of the tank farms. Is that contractor still working for NETC? Will all the tanks be imploded at Tank Farm 4?

Response: Foster Wheeler was the contractor. They are still under contract to NETC. We have just received the approval for the demolition and are anxious to move the project forward.

Comment: How many of the tanks have been cleaned?

Response: There are 12 tanks each at both Tank Farm 4 and Tank Farm 5 (these tanks have been ballasted with water).

A question was asked about whether the tanks would be subject to environmental regulation once they were demolished. Paul Kulpa indicated they would no longer be subject to DEM regulation, while Brad stated that the Navy would always be responsible for regulating the site under CERCLA.

NEXT RAB MEETING

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17. The agenda will include a discussion of budgeting and site prioritization, based on the federal facilities agreement-driven site schedules that Jim Shafer mentioned, and a presentation on Narragansett Bay surface water classifications.

Tentatively scheduled agendas: **October - Presentation on the Draft Final FS for McAllister Point Landfill**

November - Subsequent discussion on the federal facilities agreement-driven site schedules

Handouts: **RAB Review Dates Calendar**
EPA website information