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October 31, 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: RAB Meeting Minutes

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Enclosed is a copy of the October 15, 1997 RAB meeting minutes.

RAB members should bring a COMPLETED priorities matrix to the November 19 RAB meeting. Although it was enclosed with the draft minutes, please use the version attached with these final minutes. This one has the correct relative risk ranking for Tank Farm Five and Gould Island.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at 978-658-7899.

Very truly yours,

Betsy Horne
Community Relations Specialist

BH:ib

Enclosure

c: Dr. D. K. Abbass (w/enc.)
Mr. Alfred Arruda, Jr. (w/enc.)

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c: Ms. Mary A. Blake (w/enc.)
Dr. David W. Brown (w/enc.)
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. Tom Nicholson (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.)
Mr. Brian Bishop (w/enc.)
Sister Annie Marie Walsh (w/enc.)
Brother Joseph (w/enc.)
Mr. William McLaughlin (w/enc.)
Mr. Joe Migliore (w/enc.)
Newport Public Library (w/enc.)
Ms. Joanne Gorman, Middletown Free Library (w/enc.)
Portsmouth Free Public Library (w/enc.)

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Mr. R. Boucher, NORTHDIV (w/o enc.)
Ms. Diane McKenna, B&RE, Wilmington (w/enc.)
Mr. Garth Glenn, B&RE, Philadelphia (w/enc.)
Ms. Meg Price, B&RE, Philadelphia (w/o enc.)
File 5278-3.2 w/o enc./9.4 w/enc.

**NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 1997**

MINUTES

On Wednesday, October 15, 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 7:05 pm and ended at 9:19 pm.

Eight of the 18 RAB community members attended: Kathy Abbass, David Brown, Beth Everett, Joe McEnness, T. R. McGrath, Howard Porter, 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, and David Sanders, PAO, were present. Mary Philcox from the Aquidneck Island Citizens Advisory Board (AICAB) was also present, with the TAG technical advisor, David Egan, and his colleague, Tom Nicholson. Sarah White, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator and D. Crimmons from NUWC attended. Mary Blake, Tony D'Agnenica, Byron Hall, Tom McGrath, and Paul Russell provided notice of their absence. Al Arruda, Paul Cormier, Mike Foley, Liz Mathinos, 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 those who were present for the first time to introduce themselves. He heard no response. The minutes were adopted as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee - Dave Brown expressed concern that his committee needed broader representation, particularly from Portsmouth. He also needs feedback from the Planning Board members of the three communities. Chuck suggested the towns could play a role in establishing cleanup levels for IR sites. Dave mentioned that the AICAB met three times since the last RAB meeting and came to some interesting conclusions concerning site priorities. Dave stated he would lead the site priorities discussion later in the meeting.

Public Information Committee - Claudette Weissinger mentioned that the Sakonnett Times recently published a story about the Tank Farm Four implosions.

Project Committee - Kathy Abbass stated that Ken Anderson of the Coastal Resources Management Council would address her committee at 6 pm before the next RAB meeting; he will also be on the RAB agenda for that evening. She mentioned that Jon Wyman was

scheduled to give the IR presentation Brad developed to the League of Women Voters on November 6. Kathy also thanked the NETC staff for conducting the site tour on September 30.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Brown initiated the discussion begun at the last RAB meeting about how the RAB can provide input to the IR site cleanup priorities. At the start of this exercise, Jim Shafer emphasized that no site cleanup work was being postponed awaiting RAB deliberations. Brad Wheeler reminded the RAB that its determination on cleanup priorities is advisory only; the recommendation will be reviewed with the regulators before the list is offered for public comment. RAB members will have a second opportunity during that comment period to offer suggestions.

Jim also wanted the RAB to know that the existing relative risk rankings for each IR site are not cast in concrete; the exercise was conducted years ago, and more recent data or removals at several of the sites have provided better information that would alter the ranking or reduce the potential risk. He is sure that the initial rankings at sites like Gould Island and Tank Farm 5 will change as a result. The existing rankings are being revisited; Jim agreed to provide the new rankings, and identify the sub-rankings that comprise the overall rank, at the next RAB meeting. These changes will not affect the amount of money NORTHDIV is allocated.

Kymerlee concurred, stating that the three groundwater monitoring events at Tank Farm 5 have shown no contamination. Clearly, that site's rank would change. She did, however, raise a difficult issue: the rankings have been skewed by lack of data. A site may be ranked low because no data exists to rate it high, not because there is no contamination present.

Jim restated that risk is based on three issues. These include the presence of contamination, receptors for that contamination, and whether a pathway exists for the contamination to reach the receptors.

Todd Bober from NORTHDIV reminded the RAB that the Navy's relative risk ranking exercise is a screening system and is only used to allocate cleanup funds. Jim and Brad told the RAB that NETC is expecting to release its Comprehensive Use Plan in July 1998. It will specify what the Navy plans to do with its property. NETC staff will review the plan to determine how it impacts the IR program and the FFA. Brad also cautioned the RAB that if it becomes clear which IR sites may be excessed, Aquidneck Island communities will not necessarily be at the top of the list to receive them unless they have a well thought out plan and presentation. Other federal and state agencies will be competing for the land, as is stipulated under federal excessing regulations.

Dave resumed his matrix discussion by highlighting the TAG discussions on site priorities. Both Chuck and Joe McEnness attended one or more of these sessions, as did the Town Manager of Portsmouth. Instead of spotlighting the relative site ranking, the TAG changed its focus to possible site uses. Dave thought this approach resulted in a perspective that advanced the site priorities thought process.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to this discussion. It became clear that several community members wanted to use site risks to allocate cleanup resources. Others were more interested in assigning priority to sites that could be excessed for civilian use.

Kathy expressed frustration at the low turnout of community members at a RAB meeting that would be making the most important decision yet presented to the group. Of the eight members present, only half had spoken during the meeting; the ten absent members should also be given a chance to weigh in on the RAB decision. She recommended that the outcome of tonight's meeting be a trail balloon that could be finalized at the next meeting with input from more RAB members.

Howard Porter felt the Navy should continue working on those sites that are already well advanced in the cleanup process. Jim concurred, stating that the sites the Navy could most use the RAB's thoughts on are those that have had little or no work begun. He also mentioned that discussions of future civilian uses would be most helpful before an FS was begun.

Brad reminded the RAB that the cleanup process is not an ideal activity. The exception is when it goes smoothly; usually it proceeds in fits and starts because of unexpected difficulties [bad weather, much more contamination than anticipated, discovery of new kinds of waste, or utility complications]

Comment: Kathy asked if the Navy had received any queries from the communities about using the tanks at the tank farms for civilian use.

Response: Brad mentioned that a study had been undertaken at the behest of Congressman Jack Reed to determine if the tank farms could be used for aquacultural purposes. Two companies and URI determined the tanks would not be feasible for this purpose. However, a recent article in the Providence Journal discussed their potential for aquaponics (fish farming). These same sites, however, could be used for industrial activities.

Of the eight RAB community members present, sentiment appeared to be about evenly split between focusing on retaining sites, particularly the tank farms, as open areas; the other half appeared to be interested in pursuing various types of development possibilities.

Beth Everett and Claudette Weissinger expressed support for keeping the tank farms as open areas, particularly since Aquidneck Island has less open space than Manhattan Island. Open spaces would require little or no municipal maintenance costs. The towns need to speak up about wishing these areas to remain as open space.

Kathy stated that the Town of Portsmouth wants to turn Tank Farm One into an industrial site. She said Dave had wanted to tell the RAB about how the TAG had addressed the site priorities issue. Mary Philcox indicated that Dave had also led the TAG group's discussion on site priorities and they came up with their own rankings based on the types of uses to which sites might lend themselves (handout entitled "Possible On/Off Shore Uses NETC Sites if Made Available"). Mary clarified that the AICAB members who are also town officials come

to meetings as citizens only, not as elected or appointed representatives of their communities. AICAB meetings are open to the public; the group is looking for more citizen input. Chuck stated that both he and Joe McEnness attended some of these meetings to ensure that a conflict did not arise between the RAB and the TAG group. Chuck receives TAG meeting minutes and can share them with the RAB. Kathy expressed concern that the RAB process was providing an opening to other groups to effect the Navy's decision about site priorities.

Howard raised the issue of whether RAB members should poll their individual constituencies about reuse issues. Brad suggested that that would be effective only if the Public Information Committee redoubled its efforts to educate the public about the cleanup process and possible future options.

Jim asked if his sense of the meeting was accurate: that the tank farms should have a higher priority for cleanup than areas like Gould Island or NUSC. The response he received reflected the division among the community members about whether risk or reuse should drive cleanup funds allocation. Kymberlee indicated that she thought that the Gould Island Electroplating Shop and the NUSC Disposal Area may pose greater threats to human health and the environment than the tank farms. Kymberlee also suggested that some sites, like Coddington Cove Rubble Fill and the NUSC Disposal Area, might become priority cleanup areas because they are small and are likely to cost relatively little to remediate.

Comment: It seems as if what the Navy is looking for is input on how to deal with the "new start" sites; consensus seems to be that those sites that are already undergoing some form of cleanup will continue to be funded. However, as data become available, what ability is there to change the FFA schedules to reflect what may be new priorities?

Response: Kymberlee stated that it depends on the nature of the change and that minor changes to the FFA schedules can be amended by concurrence among the FFA parties.

Jim mentioned an effort he has been pursuing for the Gould Island Electroplating Shop. According to Paul Kulpa, the island contains approximately 40 potential sites. There are 14 known sites that are under the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jurisdiction. Cleanup work on the island is particularly costly because everything, including heavy equipment, has to be barged in. Jim inquired whether the Corps might be interested in conducting the remediation for the Electroplating Shop at the same time they are addressing their own sites. NETC would have to pay for the work but it would be less expensive than remediating the one site by itself. In addition, it would be impossible for any off-shore study to differentiate which of the sites may have impacted the marine areas. Only one comprehensive off-shore study should be pursued, which would include both the Navy site and the Corps sites. The Corps does not have a schedule to do the work; all their Gould sites are low priorities since the Corps just lost all its cleanup funding. However, the Corps indicated it would be willing to do the work at the appropriate time but did not want to be bound by an FFA schedule it could not meet. Jim reiterated that it is the Navy's preference to include the Electroplating Shop in the Corp's study of Gould Island because a more comprehensive study could be completed at a lower cost.

Chuck ended the meeting with a request that each RAB member attend the November RAB meeting with a completed version of the matrix attached entitled "RAB Member Homework Assignment". Each member should fill out the two blank columns. The Cleanup Priority column should contain a number from 1 to 12 in each cell to denote your vote for cleanup priority status. The number 1 indicates the site should be given the highest priority for cleanup; the number 12 is a vote for the lowest cleanup priority site. You should also fill in the column listed as Aquid Use Potential to indicate your sense of which sites would be most desirable to be transferred from the Navy for community use. Because at least five sites will definitely not be released from Navy possession (indicated by NA), only seven sites have empty cells. Please fill those in with the numbers 1 through 7, with 1 indicating the most desirable and 7 the least desirable for transfer to civilian use.

NEXT RAB MEETING

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19. The agenda will include a presentation by Ken Anderson, CRMC; completion of discussions of site prioritization; and presentations on the Gould Island and NUSC Disposal Area work plans.

Handouts:	RAB Review Dates Calendar Dave Brown's use matrix (September 17, 1997) NUSC and Gould Island work plan fact sheets NUSC and Gould Island presentation overheads EPA's e-mail on FDA advisories and setting cleanup standards
Promises:	Jim will have the new relative risk rankings at the next RAB meeting
Enclosures:	RAB Member Homework Assignment matrix

**FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSING SITE PRIORITIES
RAB MEMBER HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

Site	Planned ROD	Current Ranking	Cleanup Priority 1-12	Aquid Use Potential 1-7				
Derecktor: onshore (19)	Mar 1998	H						
McAllister Point (1)	Feb 1999	H						
Tank Farm 5 (13)	Apr 1999	M						
Derecktor: offshore (4)	Dec 1999	H				NA		
Old Fire Fighting TA (9)	Apr 2000	H				NA		
Gould Island Electro (17)	Dec 2001	M				NA		
Tank Farm 4 (12)	Nov 2003	H						
NUSC Disposal Area (8)	Jan 2004	L				NA		
Tank Farm 1 (7)	Nov 2004	M						
Tank Farm 2 (10)	Nov 2004	L						
Tank Farm 3 (11)	Nov 2004	L						
Coddington Cove Rubble (4)	Feb 2005	L				NA		