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MINUTES OF RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 1996

To: NSB-NLON Public Meeting Attendees and RAB Members (See attached Distribution list)

From: Matthew Cochran of Brown and Root Environmental

Date: December 17, 1996

Subject: RAB and Public Meeting Minutes - November 6, 1996
Installation Restoration Program
Naval Subase - New London (NSB-NLON)
Groton, Connecticut

Attendees of the meeting

Andy Stackpole	NSB-NLON
Mark Evans	Navy
Jeff Dale	Navy
Greta Deirocini	Navy
Kymberlee Keckler	USEPA Boston
Dick Conant	NSB-NLON
Robert Jones	COMSUBGRUTWO
Mark Lewis	CTDEP
Corey Rich	Brown & Root
Colleen Irwin	Brown & Root
Susan Orrill	RAB Co-Chair Member
Deborah Downie	RAB Member
Bart Pearson	Community
Felix Prokop III	RAB Member
Kirk Kanode	NSB-NLON

The attendance sheet is included as Attachment 1.

Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was as follows.

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Review of Minutes from Last Meeting

3. Program Update

4. DRMO Groundwater Monitoring Plan

5. Goss Cove Landfill Feasibility Study

6. Site Management Plan

7. Future Meeting Date/Time

Welcome and Introduction

Andy Stackpole opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all attendees.

Review of August 7, 1996 Meeting Minutes

Andy Stackpole asked if there were any questions on the minutes. The August 7, 1996 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted. Next meeting minutes will be distributed within 2-3 weeks. The RAB was asked if they felt the video shown at the last meeting was productive.

RAB felt it was productive.

Sue Orrill suggested that anyone who signs the video out should be sent future meeting notices. The RAB agreed.

PROGRAM UPDATE

The final Construction Battalion Unit Drum Storage Area - No Further Action Decision Document will be forwarded to the information repositories. No action is required at this site based on the minimal amounts of contaminants found there.

The Area "A" Landfill leachate study has been finalized. It was determined that the landfill is not contributing significant levels of the contaminants into the wetland area. The Navy is also looking at the landfill cap construction impacts on the wetlands. The Navy has awarded a contract to do some preliminary construction work and clean up debris at the site.

On October 22 & 23, 1996 there was a meeting at the base to discuss the Goss Cove site and develop remedial action objectives. Field work was conducted at the Goss Cove landfill on October 22. The Navy is looking at what kind of ecosystem and what receptors exist in the Cove . This will aid in determining how the landfill itself is impacting the Cove. There have been reports of various animals being sighted in the cove such as cormorants, etc. The cove has restricted tidal exchange with the Thames

River. There is substantial sediment buildup at the deepest section of the cove which is approximately six feet deep. The water was analyzed for suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, and salinity. Some minnows were seen in the Cove and a bit of rockweed was also evident.

Remedial action objectives were also discussed for the sites at SUBASE. The purpose of this is to determine at what levels to remediate in order to protect human health and the environment.

The finalization of the feasibility study for the Area "A" Downstream site should be completed by December. Recalculation of the risk assessment has been done. Some of the human health issues are borderline on whether a risk exists or not. Preliminary numbers show ecological risk is a concern.

The site management plan will be finalized in the next month or so. Phase II RI will be finalized in January. We will be able to get on with our further investigations after the Phase II RI is complete.

Felix Prokop asked if Goss Cove is standing water, and does it have any flushing action.

Andy Stackpole stated that there is tidal influence in the cove from the Thames River.

Deborah Downie inquired as to the reclassification of groundwater at SUBASE from GA to GB.

Mark Lewis commented that it looks like the public hearing is going to happen in December/January.

Long Term Monitoring for DRMO

A landfill cap was installed at the DRMO site in December 1994. A groundwater monitoring plan will be developed. Contaminants of concern will be formulated in the plan. Remaining contaminants in and underneath the DRMO landfill will be monitored.

Jeff Dale gave a presentation showing the monitoring well locations and the proposed monitoring schedule.

Kymberlee Keckler questioned the location of the wells. Ms. Keckler made a comment that all of the wells do not seem to be depicted on the figure.

Felix Prokop asked if these monitoring wells are for groundwater.

Jeff Dale stated that they are drilled groundwater monitoring wells. They will monitor two different units. The DRMO fill material is placed over a native silt unit.

Andy Stackpole stated that the critical aspect is to take samples at low tide due to the fact that is the worst case scenario for groundwater flow into the Thames River..

Felix Prokop asked how the depth of the wells is determined and if boring samples are taken when installing a well.

Andy Stackpole stated that historical data and previous investigational data is used. Boring samples are taken concurrently with well installation. Criteria will be developed to determine if contaminants are migrating into the river. This system is affected by groundwater tidal influences. If contaminants are found in the river which are originating from the DRMO site, a risk assessment will be performed to determine if the river ecosystem is at risk. Monitoring will be going on at this site for a few years.

Goss Cove Landfill

Corey Rich gave a presentation on the Goss Cove Landfill Feasibility Study. The area is currently used as a parking lot for the Nautilus Museum. There has been an initial assessment and Phase I RI completed at the site. A Phase II remedial investigation has been completed at the site as well. The draft final document was submitted back in March. There is enough data at this time to go ahead with the feasibility study for the surface water and sediment units at this site. However, at the site we found there was some tetrachloroethane contamination on the eastern side. We need to look at both the groundwater and soil to see if there is another source contributing.

The Draft FS is due in March of next year. Evaluation of all the different media will be performed and a determination will be made on what further action may be needed to finalize this FS for delivery in March. Primarily, the contamination problem for the Cove itself is some high levels of TCE in the upgradiant monitoring wells. There is sufficient data within the landfill boundary itself to go ahead and evaluate alternatives in the FS for remedial actions at the site. Further information must be collected to determine the source of the TCE contamination. The same goes for groundwater.

Deborah Downie asked if we will be looking at on-base potential sources.

Andy Stackpole stated that all possible sources will be evaluated.

Corey Rich stated that unacceptable risks to ecological receptors has been calculated in the sediments. The information that was checked during the RI revealed that there are possible toxic effects in the sediments. Toxicity sampling showed that there is some toxicity that would affect organisms that live in the sediments itself. Based on current standards, the current remedial action objectives are extremely low and were deemed impractical to implement. A meeting to discuss this with the regulators and propose a more practical solution was held. It was agreed to perform a supplementary investigation to determine if we have a viable habitat in the Cove, and what remedial objectives would be effective and reasonable.

The supplementary investigation plan is currently being prepared and will be submitted to the regulators for review.

A field investigation was conducted on October 22, 1996. During that investigation some water quality and sediment samples were taken. It was found that the sediments are not conducive to a thriving community. Sediment samples emitted a strong hydrogen sulfide smell, which is decaying organic material, and showed anaerobic conditions exist at the site. Salinity in the Cove itself was found due to the connection of the Thames river. There is a limited connection with the Cove and the Thames River. Organisms were found living in the Cove. These organisms could have been transported into the Cove from the Thames river through the rip rap. Small shrimp, fish, one crab, one mussel, and some seaweed were found in the Cove. There are some storm drain pipes coming into the Cove.

Susan Orrill asked if the stormdrain pipes were changed when the new recreational parking area was built above the Cove.

Andy Stackpole stated that this system still drains into the Cove.

The EPA suggested to do a habitat survey on the Cove. A methodology is currently being developed to document the survey. A reference cove is also being sought to compare data. The FS will be delivered to the regulators by the end of March.

Site Management Plan

Mark Evans gave a presentation.

The Site Management Plan is currently being finalized. This document will be able to be used as a project management tool and will hopefully also develop into something that is going to be useful to people that are indirectly working with the IR program for SUBASE. The environmental office at SUBASE or coordinators in the area will be able to use this plan.

The plan includes a site description of the IR sites at SUBASE. The second section is for those people that are not directly involved in the IR process. It includes an overview of the CERCLA process. The third section deals with site ranking. With the environmental funding shrinking, the department of defense wanted to come up with a better way to obligate funding. Funding will be expended on sites that pose the highest risks. DOD developed a ranking model that incorporates data from the site. The model determines whether the site is high, medium, or low rank. At this time only sites that are high ranked will be funded. The fourth section of the plan details the proposed schedule for each individual site.

In the next three to six months the final design for the Area "A" Landfill should be complete. In December the site will be cleared of debris. The cap construction should begin in March.

Kymberlee Keckler asked how long it will take to finish the cap.

Mark Evans stated that it could take up to two years. Currently the plan is to be done by the end of the year (Dec 1997). The Goss Cove feasibility study draft will be completed in March.

The Federal Facility Agreement we have with the State and EPA will be based on the schedules that are being developed. We want to use those schedules to develop and update the deadlines that are set in the Federal Facility Agreement.

Questions:

Bart Pearson asked if the drums will be removed from the drum storage area.

Andy Stackpole stated that all the drums have been removed.

New Business

RAB Guidelines

DOD has proposed some regulations for the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and put out proposed rules for conducting RAB meetings. The main issue was to establish a mission goal which would define the purpose of the RAB. This is designed to ensure each RAB stays focused on the issues at hand. This will be discussed at the next RAB meeting.

Susan Orrill questioned how we can get the agenda out quicker.

Andy Stackpole: All our correspondence goes out through a central office on the base. We have had a contractor running the administrative office. SUBASE has switched over to military to save on funding. Unfortunately, the RAB agenda letter mailing list was misplaced during this transition. This problem has been corrected. All RAB members should be getting their agendas one week before the meeting.

Bart Pearson asked if Building #31 at the lower base needs further monitoring .

Andy Stackpole stated that the building is next to the quay wall. Excavation could not be completed because of the need to utilize the roadway for the transportation of weapons from the submarines. There are a few sites that have those same contaminants. They will be combined and investigated during the Lower Base Remedial Investigation.

Future Meeting Date/Time

Next meeting will be on February 12, 1997 at the library.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.