



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER  
NAVAL BASE NORFOLK  
1530 GILBERT ST. STE 2200  
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2797

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NB NORFOLK  
5090.3a

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090  
N452A/896  
24 AUG 1998

Mr. Randy Jackson  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
1510 Gilbert Street, Bldg. N26  
Norfolk, VA 23511-2699

Dear Mr. Jackson:

SUBJECT: RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING MINUTES

Enclosed please find minutes of the July 15, 1998 RAB meeting. During the meeting, a tour of the Camp Allen Treatment Plant was requested. Unfortunately, at this time, the plant is undergoing repairs. As soon as the plant is operating again, we will schedule a tour of the facility for you.

The next regular RAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-January 1999. A letter and meeting agenda will be mailed to you two weeks prior to the meeting.

Should you have any questions, please call Ms. Dianne Bailey at (757) 322-2900, or Ms. Paula Keicer at (757) 322-2853.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Waligora Cutchin".

SHARON WALIGORA CUTCHIN  
Director, Hazardous Waste Division  
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure: RAB Minutes

**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 15, 1998**

Commander, Naval Base (COMNAVBASE) Norfolk, conducted a Restoration Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 1998, in Building N-26 at the Naval Base. The meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m. with the following people in attendance.

**RAB ATTENDEES:**

Tim Reisch, Navy Co-chair	COMNAVBASE Environmental Programs
Dianne Bailey, Navy Co-chair (new)	COMNAVBASE Environmental Programs
Randy Jackson, P.E.	Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Harry Harbold	EPA Region III
Devlin Harris	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Nathaniel Riggins	Titustown Civic League
Claud "Okie" Thompson	Elizabeth River Project
Robert Galloway	Glenwood Park Civic Club
Paula Keicer	COMNAVBASE Environmental PAO

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Bill Hudson	EPA Philadelphia
Michael Tilchin	CH2M Hill
Howard L. Porter, III	Virginia Department of Health
Curtis Brodnax	Titustown Civic League
Junior Johnson	Titustown Civic League
Aneil Kumar	Old Dominion University Student
Wendy Bridges	Navy Environmental Health Center
Kenneth Teets	Glenwood Park Civic League
Encie Teets	Glenwood Park Civic League
Tom Stukas	ATSDR Region III Phila., PA
Jeff Kellam	ATSDR/DHAC Atlanta
Brian Kaplan	ATSDR Atlanta

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Howard Porter	Public Health/Environmental Health
Bertram Myers	Algonquin Park Civic League
Lee Rosenberg	City of Norfolk, Environmental Service

**RAB Presentation Summary:**

This RAB meeting was held at Naval Base Norfolk to update members on the progress of different sites on the base. At this session, Brian Kaplan from the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry made a presentation. Tim Reisch explained the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) program. Mike Tilchin, CH2M Hill

also gave an update on the Camp Allen well-water monitoring. The meeting also solicited membership from the community for new members into the Restoration Advisory Board. The Restoration Advisory Board is also looking for a co-chair, with the resignation of Jack Ruffin. Getting additional RAB members will help to increase public participation in the Naval Base Installation Restoration Program.

#### Agency of Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Brian Kaplan gave a presentation on what Agency of Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is, and its mission. ATSDR is the principal federal public health agency involved with hazardous waste issues. A part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the agency was created by the Superfund law in 1980. ATSDR conducts public health assessments of NPL sites. ATSDR makes recommendations to the EPA when actions are needed to protect the public's health. Since Naval Base Norfolk is an NPL site, the members of the ATSDR group are working on a health assessment. A final public health assessment document will be published and will be available for review in the public libraries. If there is a great deal of public interest, a public meeting will be scheduled.

*Question:* What determines the priority as far as areas reaching the top of your list?

*Answer:* Sites that have an "Exposure Pathway" to the community or the site workers. We evaluate the risk to human health and determine those areas that need to be worked first.

*Question:* Does the Navy know the sites where Hazardous Waste was stored and is stored today? An example would be Camp Allen, do we know what is buried at that site?

*Answer:* Yes, all the areas of concern have been identified and categorized for the Installation Restoration Program, stated Tim Reisch, IR manager. There have been several assessments that have been done over the years. There was an initial Navy survey conducted in 1983. Eighteen sites were identified. The Navy has additionally added to that. There was an EPA facility-wide assessment done to identify areas of concern. They studied areas that may have been past hazardous and solid waste disposal sites. EPA has studied Aerial photos to determine the historical use of the land. Aerial maps from the 1930 to the 1990 were studied.

*Question:* So Camp Allen has been cleaned up?

*Answer:* Camp Allen has gone through the entire investigative stage. We have viewed possible alternatives. We selected a remediation technology for that site. The Navy last July completed the construction of a \$9 million treatment plant out there. It has been in operation for over a year.

*Question:* Dealing with personnel issues...at the hangers, the water tastes like iron...are they tested? Has there been any investigation on those pipes?

*Answer:* We have spoke with PWC and they said that there are no lead pipes in the drinking water system on base. But there could still be lead elbows in the fountains

themselves. There is a lead and copper testing program in place on the base, run by PWC. As a result of that testing, there have never been consistent elevated lead levels of 15 ppb (parts per billion) – the EPA limit for lead in drinking water. PWC is aware of the pipes used on base as being very old. I don't know if iron is required to be included in the testing program or not.

#### Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

The next topic is a new Department of Defense program. It was finalized in the Federal Register in March or April. TAPP is a program to assist DoD and the public, in addressing the public's concerns in the clean up of federal facilities. All across the country, RAB's are receiving information on how to pursue a TAPP project. It provides funding to assist the public with obtaining independent, third party, clarification of the clean up programs, technical documents, or information studies, if they feel the Navy, EPA and the state are not providing that information. Basically they want the community to participate and be knowledgeable in the clean up process. There is a maximum of \$25,000 that can be spent per project. The money comes out of the funds allocated for the base cleanup program. Information from the prepared DoD report are distributed to the community members and put in an annual report.

*Question:* Let us say that you have an area that has a lot of a certain disease. You (the community) want to study this. This would not be funded by this program (TAPP)?

*Answer:* That is correct, this program is to assist in the interpretation of sampling data, engineering drawings, etc., not how the health of the community is being affected, Reisch said. If there is a health concern like that, ATSDR can look into any complaints. When exposure is identified then ATSDR can do testing. However, there must be a health test to measure the condition (urine or blood test). ATSDR also works with the state and local health departments, Brian Kaplan added.

#### Naval Base Site Update

Randy Jackson, LANTRIV, gave a brief site update for Naval Base Norfolk. A lot of these projects were topics of previous RAB meetings. Most of these have gone through the study phase and are now into the construction phase.

- W-316 – PCB Soil Removal – Removed a total of 817 tons of soil. Backfill, topsoil and seeding were completed in March 1998. A draft closeout report was submitted in June.
- Q-Area Drum Storage Yard AS/SVE System – Construction almost complete, system to start in August 1998.
- LP-20 SA/SVE System – The system has achieved approximately 278 pounds mass removal.
- Camp Allen Salvage Yard – PCB Soil Removal – Pre-excavation sampling completed. Will start removal action.

*Question:* What are we doing with the soil that is being removed?

*Answer:* We are moving it to a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) landfill in New York that is approved to accept PCB soils. We, including the RAB, looked at a lot of alternatives. Removal of the soil was determined to be the best alternative.

*Question:* How is the material transported from here to there? It has got to cost a lot of money to transport it to New York.

*Answer:* The soil is transported by trucks. And we follow all of the Department of Transportation regulations while shipping waste. It costs a lot of money to haul it. Any alternative is going to be expensive. The cost of treating the soil in place is \$140 per ton. With most of these cleanups, there is just no cheap way to do it.

*Question:* If you incinerated it and got rid of it for good wouldn't that be better than trucking it, storing it in a landfill and eventually cleaning the landfill?

*Answer:* There are special landfills designed to handle materials like this. They have double liners and leachate collection systems. If we incinerated the soil, there would be the question of putting PCBs in the air. When we presented the data to the public we laid out all the options. But, you are right, it is expensive.

- Camp Allen Treatment Plant – A ground water treatment system was started in July. It was running really well at first. Then a lot of little problems developed. We decided to shut it down and fix the problems.

*Questions:* Tim Reisch came to our meeting at Glenwood Park last fall and I asked him this question and I want to ask it again. You are taking the water out of the aquifer and treating it. Then it is being pumped into the bay. My question is, why put the water in the bay, why not back in the aquifer? If we keep drawing this aquifer down and not replacing it, over a period of time with the amount of volume it is pumping, we will drain the aquifer and leave a hole. The hole could possibly collapse. If it is clean enough to put back in the bay why is it not clean enough to put 200 feet down back in the aquifer.

*Answer:* Even though we don't have to, we are treating the water to ground water (drinking) standards, so we could put it back into the ground. But part of the treatment system is to contain the plume of contamination. By pumping out the water, the contaminated plume will be drawn into the extraction system. If we put the water back down into the aquifer, it may push the contaminants away. Also design changes would have to be made to plant to change anything at this point. The other thing to answer your question is the water flows from Bousch Creek and into the bay, the aquifer naturally recharges itself. The system is designed to only pump when there is water in the well. But if the aquifer gets down to a certain point in the extraction wells it quits pumping from that well.

*Question:* The reason I am asking this is because the Long Beach Naval Shipyard had to abandon an area because they were pumping oil out of the ground and eventually the ground sank. I don't know how fast the water is being pumped out.

*Answer:* We have several wells out there, but they are spread over a large area. When you look at how much water we are pumping from the area it is not enough to cause a problem. We are trying to treat, but not deplete the aquifer.

*Question:* What is the volume of the treatment at the Camp Allen Plant.

*Answer:* It is designed to treat 300 gallons a minute. However, it is only operating at half of that capability. We are running at 150 gallons. It is a long process.

*Question:* It sounds like something isn't quite right with this, because, you are talking about treating this water forever.

*Answer:* This process will be running for many, many, many years. That is the problem when it comes to environmental clean up. There are no quick fixes. It is mostly volatiles in the ground water and we are measuring parts per billion. A laboratory has to test the water. We are treating it to groundwater standards, so we could put it back on the ground. The interesting thing is that as we pump it up, the discharge criteria for volatile are a lot different from groundwater, it is a lot less conservative. A lot of this stuff we could pump out, without running it through the treatment system and discharge them. We are treating it. The treatment system has several processes, including a metal removal process to remove the iron. It has sand filters, bag filters, and an air stripper to take out volatile.

*Question:* I had heard the volume was a lot higher than that?

*Answer:* The flow of groundwater is very slow.

*Question:* Is there any possibility of the land sinking?

*Answer:* No. Groundwater fluctuates anyway, seasonally. After millions of years with groundwater going up and down, the land is pretty much stable. We are not talking about a solid river underground, it is water flowing through soil underground.

- Slag Pile – This was a project where subsurface soils had lead contamination. Our concern was the ecological side of the problem. Through the partnering effort we were able to sit down with the EPA and everyone to clean it up. Our intent is to do sediment removal and subsurface cap on the soil.

*Question:* Have you ever tested the sediment/water that goes from the naval recreation center to the north of the railroad tracks? The water runs from your side of the track, by the ball field under the railroad tracks. It comes up behind the Jack Rabbit Storage on Hampton Boulevard. Then it disappears behind the apartment complex. It once again comes up in my front yard on Rogers Avenue. I am just wondering, because there is something that looks like tar. It doesn't smell or look good.

*Answer:* We have not tested the water there, but we can. If you want, we can come out and look at the site.

- Pesticide Disposal Site – At the previous meeting we advertised our Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis. We had a meeting and went over the project. It is an area where they had a pesticide shop. We did several studies. We decided to quit studying it and clean it up.

*Question:* When they were building the Camp Allen Treatment Plant , we were told that when it was completed we would receive a tour.

*Answer:* We can plan that for the next RAB meeting.

### CH2M Hill

Mike Tilchin presented the objectives of the “long term monitoring” of the Camp Allen project. The investigation of Camp Allen began in 1991. The Feasibility Study was conducted and the outcome was a groundwater extraction and treatment system. CH2M Hill was tasked with doing an independent evaluation of how the system was operating or a “long term monitoring program.” The overall object of the “long term monitoring” is simply it is to see if, in fact, the system is working as it is intended to work. We are keeping data on the system and making suggestions on how to improve the system. We are taking well water level measurements to make sure the flow is toward the extraction wells. There are a large number of wells out there, but CH2M Hill felt that there were areas that were not covered. Areas where there was not water quality data or areas where we needed area water level data where it was not available. One of those areas was in Glenwood Park.

*Question:* How deep are the wells?

*Answer:* In the deeper aquifer the wells are 55 to 70 feet deep. The shallow wells are 25 feet or less.

*Question:* Define long term monitoring.

*Answer:* Long term monitoring is establishing the effectiveness of the system. We are monitoring periodically to provide data to the Navy to optimize the performance of the system. As part of this program we are developing a long term monitoring plan. We won't implement the plan, the Navy will implement it. The monitoring will go until the system is shut off. It will be shut off when the objectives are achieved.

*Question:* Is there a commitment to this thing that is non-political that will see it through?

*Answer:* DoD funding has been cut overall. Basically, after 1999 it levels off. Federal facilities have hit the high priority sites hard, the remaining sites are medium or low priority. Funding is appropriated by Congress - specifically for restoration. The clean up money does not belong to the base commander. The base commander cannot make the decision to not run the treatment facility and allocate that money to base or ship needs. LANTDIV decides where the money is going to be designated. Our priority is keeping those projects that are running currently going.

## Administrative Issues

Tim Reisch has accepted a position at LANTDIV, as a remediation project manager, for NAS Oceana, Dam Neck, St. Julians Creek, and Craney Island. Dianne Bailey will be the Program Manager for Naval Base Norfolk temporarily.

The RAB meets on a quarterly basis and there has been discussion by members of the RAB to move the meetings to a biannual meeting. As reported the major clean up sites have been completed. The studies are winding down.

*Question:* Will the next meeting be in January?

*Answer:* As Mr. Riggins mentioned, a site tour would be possible. If so that should be planned when the weather is nicer. It would most likely be in the fall. It would be held in the evening to make it convenient for RAB members to attend.

*Question:* Is there a plan to make something available with the results of the reading of the wells? So that we can see what is happening?

*Answer:* Certainly. One of the things that we do at the RAB meeting is to have a construction update to show that we are making progress. Our ultimate goal is to clean up the base. One of the things we can incorporate is what the data has shown.

*Question:* That is the one question that I am asked. Are there any accomplishments being made. This way we can explain it to the civic leagues.

*Answer:* Yes that can be done. That is the purpose of the RAB. As the Navy co-chair I am trying to identify the stuff that I feel would be of interest to the RAB and community, so they can be better informed.

*Question:* I think that our community would be interested in knowing that the test wells are showing that the plume has been contained at Camp Allen. It would be nice if that information was made available for our community newsletter.

*Answer:* Not only the data, but also what it means. That is why we came to the civic league, so they could get a follow up.

The former community co-chair has resigned and the RAB is seeking a new community co-chair. The community co-chair is selected from the community members. Anyone interested in taking the community co-chair seat should make this known to the group.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.