

4/25/96-01007



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Commander
Naval Base Norfolk
1530 Gilbert ST. STE 200
Norfolk, VA 23511-2797

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
N42B/132

APR 25 1996

Mr. Dave Forsythe
Commander, Atlantic Division
Naval Facilities Engineer Command
1510 Gilbert Street
Norfolk, VA 23511-2699

Re: Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes

Dear Mr. Forsythe:

Enclosed please find a copy of the minutes from the RAB meeting held on March 21, 1996. The next regular RAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 1996 in the COMNAVBASE Conference Room, 2nd floor, Building N-26, Gilbert Street, Naval Base, Norfolk and will include a tour of the Installation Restoration sites.

Ms. Ruth Reich will contact you several days before hand to remind you of the meetings. If you can not attend the RAB meeting, please send a substitute. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Dianne Bailey at 322-2900 or Ms. Ruth Reich at 322-2859.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Waligora
SHARON L. WALIGORA
Director, Hazardous Waste Division
By direction of the Commander

Encl:
(1) RAB Minutes

**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 1996**

Commander, Naval Base (COMNAVBASE) Norfolk, conducted a Restoration Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, March 21, 1996 in Building N-26 at the Naval Base. The meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with the following people in attendance.

RAB ATTENDEES:

Dianne Bailey, Navy Co-chair	COMNAVBASE Norfolk Environmental Programs Department
Dave Forsythe, P.E.	Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic Division (LANTDIV)
Ruth Reich	COMNAVBASE Norfolk Public Affairs Office
Dr. Raymond Alden	Old Dominion University
Stephen Dembkoski	Glenwood Park Civic Club
Dr. Carl Fisher	Elizabeth River Project
Steve Mihalko	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Nathaniel Riggins	Titustown Civic League
Lee Rosenberg	City of Norfolk, Environmental Services
Jack Ruffin, Community Co-chair	Chesapeake Bay Foundation

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Carol Ann Greenwood	Tidewater Community College Student
Karen Gulley	Norfolk Health Department
Bertram Myers	Algonquin Park Civic League
Robert Thomson, P.E.	US Environmental Protection Agency
Robert Vazquez	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:

Rear Admiral Robert S. Cole	Commander, Naval Base, Norfolk
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RAB Presentation Summary:

Opening Remarks

Rear Admiral Cole began the meeting by greeting all the RAB members and thanking them for their time serving as members on the Board. Rear Admiral Cole also explained the Navy's commitment to cleaning up Installation Restoration sites. The Admiral explained his idea of the Navy's role within the community and how the City, the Navy and the community need to work together in an open partnership. He spoke of the new Open Base Policy and of the necessity of security at the pier entrances. Rear Admiral Cole then presented his long range plans for Naval Base Norfolk which include an amphitheater, a larger marina open to all residents of Norfolk

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

(not just the military), restaurant at the marina and the addition of "green" areas throughout the base.

Relative Risk Ranking Evaluation Presentation

After a brief break, Dave Forsythe then presented the Relative Risk Ranking Evaluation System that the Department of Defense (including the Navy) uses to determine the priority of site cleanups. Sites are grouped into three categories: High, Medium, and Low based upon three factors - the contaminant hazard, the migration pathway and the receptors.

The Contaminant Hazard Factor compares the concentrations of chemicals found at a site to Federal and State standards. The three levels of this factor are: significant, moderate, or marginal. The Migration Pathway Factor considers if the contamination is moving off site or is likely to move. The three levels for this factor are: evident, potential, or confined. The Receptor Factor determines if there are human or sensitive environments affected or potentially affected by the contamination. The three levels of the Receptor Factor are: identified, potential and limited.

Selecting a level for the Migration Pathway and the Receptor Factors can be subjective. It is up to the evaluator to determine if the contamination is moving or if there are any receptors affected by the contamination. Mr. Forsythe stressed the importance of the Navy working in conjunction with both the EPA and State regulators, as well as the community to determine the best levels for each site. Once a level for each factor is determined a set of three matrices are consulted to determine the relative risk of each site (high, medium or low). The rank of each site is then used to determine the priority of the site and how quickly cleanup will occur. The system ensures that the "worst" sites are cleaned up first.

Questions:

1. *Are all the contaminants added together before the level is decided?*

Yes, all sampling data is entered into a computer database that keep a running total of the contaminant level.

2. *The diagram showed in the presentation showed a house, does this system address ecological concerns as well as human concerns?*

Yes, the system includes both human health and ecological environmental affects.

3. *Does the system evaluate each medium (soil, water, air, etc.) or does it stop when any one triggers a "high" rating?*

Right now, to save time, the Navy has stopped once any medium trips the "high" level. However, the computer system does evaluate all media.

4. *This system seems very subjective.*

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

Yes, it is, that is why it is so important to explain the system to both the regulators and the RAB community members, as well as to receive their input to ensure each site gets a "true" rank.

5. *Is Norfolk Naval Shipyard using this system?*

Yes, all Navy activities covered by LANTDIV will be evaluated. Each activity collects their own data for the system.

6. *Do legal drivers affect this system? (Legal drivers such as a Base being on the National Priorities List, or those that have a legal agreement with the EPA or State to cleanup sites.)*

Yes, especially when we talk of budgeting funds for cleanups, which we will discuss in the next presentation.

Navy Environmental Budget Process Presentation

Dave Forsythe began his next presentation with an explanation of DERA, the Defense Environmental Restoration Account. The goal of the budget planning program is to address:

- * all high relative risk ranked sites in the program by the year 2002,
- * all medium relative risk ranked sites in the program by the year 2008, and
- * all low relative risk ranked sites in the program by the year 2015.

In the entire Department of Defense, there are 3,301 high ranked sites, 1,571 medium ranked sites and 1,584 low ranked sites. Over 3,700 sites still need to be evaluated.

Each Naval Facilities Engineering Field Division (EFD - in our case LANTDIV) submits a budget request for site cleanup funds to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Headquarters in Washington DC. These requests are then added to those from the other Services (Army, Air Force) and those from other departments (not just environmental cleanup). This request then has to be approved by the President of the United States and passed by the Congress. Usually the amount approved is dramatically cut from the amount requested. Then the money is split between all the Services, all the departments and then each activity. The Navy's share for DERA in the state of Virginia for 1995 was \$20M; for 1996 it is \$16M.

Questions:

1. *Does being listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) bring an activity more money?*

No, not with the new risk ranking system. All "High" ranked sites regardless of being on the NPL are considered just as "High."

2. *How many sites were ranked for the Norfolk Navy Base in the risk ranking system?*

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

A total of 45 sites were evaluated. Twenty-six from the 1995 Site Management Plan and the rest are Solid Waste Management Units another kind of site that requires cleanup.

National Priorities List (NPL) Status Presentation

Dianne Bailey gave the next presentation on the National Priorities List (NPL) Status of the Naval Base, Norfolk. The NPL is the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) list of industrial sites (both federal and commercial) which are considered to be of national environmental concern. The Norfolk Naval Base is expected to be "proposed" to the NPL in the Spring/Summer of this year.

Facilities are scored using the Hazard Ranking System which scores air, water and land contamination and the potential for human health risk. Those facilities with scores greater than 28.5 are considered for listing. At federal facilities the total score is cumulative for all sites (can be from two to two hundred). States have to concur with the EPA's decision.

Proposed facilities appear in a Federal Register notice and a 45-day comment period begins. After the comment period, the facility becomes a "listed" site. The Navy/EPA/State will then negotiate a legal agreement, called a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA), to set time constraints for report reviews and site cleanups. Once a FFA is signed, the EPA, in addition to the Navy, is required to sign all Records of Decision (document that states a cleanup method for a site). A FFA includes all Installation Restoration (IR) sites as well as Solid Waste Management Units or SWMUs.

SWMUs are areas of past spills, hazardous waste accumulation areas, oil storage areas, and underground storage tanks. Most of these SWMUs are areas that are still in use. An EPA contractor identified 140 SWMUs at Naval Base, Norfolk in 1991. SWMUs are not considered IR sites. IR sites are identified under CERCLA - the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980. These are areas of contamination from past operations. SWMUs are identified under RCRA - the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. These are areas of current waste operations.

The 140 SWMUs identified in the study required further action, sampling or documentation. The EPA and the State will visit most SWMUs with Base personnel to determine which sites actually need to be cleaned up. The Base anticipates approximately 50 SWMUs will be added to the cleanup program.

There are several pros and cons to being listed on the NPL. The pros are that EPA adheres to a review schedule and dedicates resources to review studies. Both of these things will allow cleanups to occur faster. The cons are the potential negatively publicity, the fact that now the EPA has oversight over cleanups vice the Navy, and that EPA will sign all Decision Documents.

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

Administrative Issues

Dianne Bailey announced that she has a new phone number - (804) 322-2900. Her address and fax have remained the same. The next RAB meeting and possible tour will be scheduled for the May/June timeframe.

The meeting was closed at approximately 9:30 p.m.