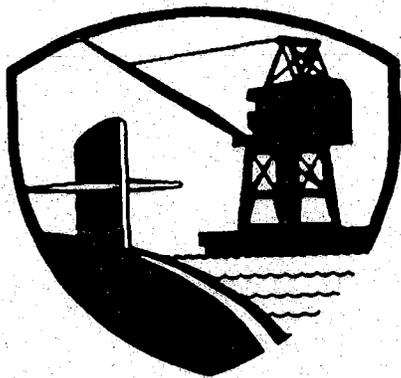


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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD FACT SHEET FOR 21 AUGUST 1997 MEETING NSY
PORTSMOUTH ME
8/21/1997
PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Kittery, Maine

Installation Restoration Program

RAB Update: August 21, 1997

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Installation Restoration Advisory Board met on Thursday, August 21, 1997, to hear a presentation on the draft Historical Radiological Assessment and to discuss public participation in the RAB process.

Data presented from the draft HRA for the Shipyard indicate no adverse effect on public health or the environment

The results of the draft Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA) were presented to the RAB. The HRA was initiated to address EPA's requirement to conduct a screening investigation on all potential Shipyard pollutants covered by the Superfund law. Nuclear submarine work began in the late 1950s; since then the Shipyard has carefully documented the use of, and disposition of, radioactive material. The HRA records that history. The HRA also covers use and disposition of radioactivity not associated with submarine reactor plants.

Through a review of comprehensive surveys (conducted by the Shipyard as well as by EPA and the States of Maine and New Hampshire) and Shipyard records, the draft HRA concludes radiological operations at the Shipyard have had no adverse effect on human health or the environment. As a result, the draft HRA recommends that no additional characterization or remedial action is necessary to address radioactivity. The draft HRA now undergoes review by EPA and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP).

Amended procedures adopted to encourage greater participation between the public and RAB community members, and the Navy

At MEDEP's request, the RAB discussed existing board procedures. Several concerns were identified; as a result, changes were adopted to strengthen the role of the public and RAB community members in affecting Installation Restoration policy and decision-making strategies.

Amended procedures: as the first order of business, visitors will be invited to fill any empty seats around the table; the status of work handout and presentation will be changed to a more informative format; EPA and MEDEP RAB members will be asked to supplement the status of work presentation with a discussion of their own perspectives on cleanup progress; detailed technical presentations will be scheduled to occur before EPA and MEDEP comments are incorporated into the documents; and Carolyn Lepage, technical advisor to the Seacoast Antipollution League (the EPA Technical Assistance Grant recipient) and RAB members will be invited to participate in all Shipyard IR technical meetings.

Questions?

If you would like more information, please contact:

Public Affairs Office
Code 100PAO
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Portsmouth, NH 03804-5000
(207) 438-1140

Meghan Cassidy
U. S. EPA
JFK Federal Building
Mail Code HBT
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 573-5785

Iver McLeod
Maine DEP
State House Station 17
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-8010

If you know anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list to receive these RAB updates and Installation Restoration fact sheets, please contact the Public Affairs Office at the address and telephone number listed above.