

**ST. JULIENS CREEK ANNEX
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 1999**

Naval Station, Norfolk held a Restoration Advisory Board meeting for the St. Juliens Creek Annex on Tuesday, December 7, 1999 at the Holiday Inn Portsmouth Olde Towne. The meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions:

Mr. John Ballinger, the Regional Environmental Outreach Coordinator, greeted those in attendance and welcomed the attendees to the "kick-off" Restoration Advisory Board ((RAB) for St. Juliens Creek Annex.

Mr. Ballinger introduced Naval Station, Norfolk's Commanding Officer, Capt. A. H. Barber. Capt. Barber thanked those in attendance for coming and showing interest in the facility. Capt. Barber briefly told the group how the Navy's regional organization has changed in the past few years, leaving the Annex as a non-contiguous property to Naval Station, Norfolk; therefore, as the Commanding Officer of Naval Station he is also the Commanding Officer of St. Juliens Creek Annex. He discussed the long history of the Annex as a naval facility and mentioned many of the operations conducted at the facility to support the Navy's efforts in the wars and conflicts fought this century. Capt. Barber discussed the current role of the facility as supporting administrative offices, warehouses/light industrial operations, a radar testing range for the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY), and scrap/salvage operations of the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO). He mentioned that many of the excess structures on the facility are being demolished, as the aging infrastructure is no longer cost effective to continue operations. Capt. Barber discussed that the re-use and future of the property has not be fully determined; however, he stated that the Navy is not looking to excess the property and is maintaining routine operations at the Annex. Capt. Barber mentioned that private organizations and/or municipalities may be developing a non-solicited land use proposal, he stressed that Navy has not participated in the development of this planning. Capt. Barber discussed that if the proposal included and met the future needs of the Navy, these options would most likely be considered by the Navy. He said that the Navy would maintain ownership of the property under any re-development plan. Capt. Barber closed by asking those interested in environmental issues to be involved in the RAB ask questions of his environmental staff and ask him any questions related to future land use or general Navy issues.

Question & Answer Summary:

Capt. Barber addressed several questions regarding the future land use of the facility, several of which involved "rumored" future land use or operations proposed for the Annex, including a barge repair facility. Capt. Barber responded that the Navy has not seen or reviewed any the private land use development plans; however, he emphasized that the Navy does not want to create any conflicts with the surrounding community and that the community would be involved in any future decisions regarding any redevelopment of the Annex. He also stated that the Navy would not allow any operation which could create environmental problems. The Navy is conducting investigations to cleanup areas from past, previously accepted, operations; the Navy is not looking to create new areas for later cleanup.

Mr. Ballinger thanked Capt. Barber for his comments and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves, their interest in the Annex, and how they were notified of the RAB meeting.

RAB ATTENDEES

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Capt. A. H. Barber, USN	Commanding Officer, Naval Station, Norfolk
Mr. John Ballinger	Navy Regional Environment Group
Mr. Jeff Harlow	Navy Regional Environment Group
Ms. Terri Davis	Naval Station, Norfolk
JOC (AW) Scott Mohr	Naval Station, Norfolk
Mr. Tim Reisch	Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Mr. Steve Mihalko	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Frank Fender	SPAWAR (work location on St. Juliens Creek Annex)
Mr. Kevin Lew	SPAWAR (work location on St. Juliens Creek Annex)
Mr. Jesse H. Overton, Jr	St. Juliens Citizen's Committee
Mr. Bob Mann	President, Geneva Shores Civic League
Mr. Marty Costello	Local Resident
Mr. Ed Boomhower	Local Resident
Mr. Dave Tugwell, Jr	Local Resident
Ms. Cathie Tugell	Local Resident
Ms. Jennifer McCarthy	Elizabeth River Project
Mr. Pete Gorrell	Local Resident
Mr. Fred Foster	Local Resident

RAB Presentation Summary:

Mr. Ballinger introduced Mr. Tim Reisch from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command as the Navy's Project Manager responsible for the investigation and cleanup of the sites on the Annex. Mr. Reisch explained that he is the Remedial Project Manager assigned to manage the St. Juliens Creek Annex Installation Restoration Program, the cleanup of contamination caused by previously waste disposal practices and operations. Mr. Reisch began by discussing the purpose of the evenings meeting as the forum to exchange information regarding the Navy's cleanup program at the Annex and seek community involvement in assisting the Navy and the regulators, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ), in making cleanup decisions.

Mr. Reisch explained that some regulatory and historical background would assist to understand the purpose of the St. Juliens Creek Annex Installation Restoration Program. He briefly outlined the development of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Mr. Reisch explained the RCRA deals with the disposal and management of wastes generated today, and that CERCLA pertains to former waste disposal sites that were used or operated prior to environmental regulation. He discussed how the Navy has developed its cleanup program into the current Installation Restoration Program which consistent with the procedures and processes in CERCLA.

Mr. Reisch provided the historical usage of the Annex since it began use as a naval facility in 1849 as an ordnance magazine. Over the years the Annex has grown as its mission expanded to include various ordnance related processes and storage. Currently the facility is used as administrative and light industrial and is a non-contiguous property of Naval Station, Norfolk.

Mr. Reisch explained how the sites in the Installation Restoration Program were identified for investigation. He explained that several basewide environmental assessments have been conducted at St. Juliens Creek Annex to determine known and potential areas of contamination for investigation. These

assessments were accomplished by reviewing available relevant documents, interviewing facility workers, and visual site inspections; however, no environmental sampling was conducted during these assessments. These assessments identified 20 areas for some sort of investigation to confirm or deny the release of any wastes at these locations, the Navy later added a site – bringing the total of sites to 21. Four of the 21 sites have been cleaned-up; contaminated soil was excavated and disposed on off-site during the construction of a new facility in the early 1990s. The Navy conducted an investigation at the remaining sites gather data to assess and prioritize the cleanup of these remaining. Currently, the Navy has on-going remedial investigation/feasibility studies (RI/FS) at 5 sites. These investigations will contain sampling results, evaluation of these data, and recommend potential remedial actions, if required. Mr. Reisch explained that the Navy has a lot of work planned at the facility this year; the RAB will participate in developing investigation work plans and reviewing results of those investigations.

Mr. Reisch introduced Mr. Jeff Harlow to discuss the community participation aspect of the Navy's cleanup program. Mr. Harlow is the Activity Coordinator for St. Juliens Creek, he serves as the liaison between the Naval Station, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and the various cleanup program's contractors to ensure the station's concerns are known and prioritized in the cleanup process. Mr. Harlow explained that there are different methods by which the community is kept informed and involved in the cleanup process. He said that the RAB is the best format to provide and exchange information between the Navy and the community. Mr. Harlow further explained the purpose of the RAB as forum to provide various stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the cleanup process and make their views known to those making the cleanup decisions, and who are normally members of RABs. The RAB selection process was briefly discussed; however, due to the number of responses, the Navy would like to have everyone that expresses interest as a member. He explained that the being a member can be involved and will require some informal training to explain the cleanup process and the technical disciplines are used to develop cleanup recommendations based on the investigation data. Therefore, the Navy asks members to commit themselves to a two-year term, or longer, to limit the amount of flux in the review process. Mr. Harlow then discussed the availability of investigation documents in the Administrative Record and in the Information Repository. He said that the Navy is preparing a Community Relations Plan which will outline how the community will be kept informed of cleanup activities.

Summary of Questions and Answers

Following a break, Mr. Ballinger asked if those in attendance had any questions.

Several questions arose regarding the types of sites that are located on the Annex.

Mr. Reisch explained that there are four sites are former landfills, or dumps, all operated before current environmental regulation. The three currently under investigation are the larger of these areas. The fourth "landfill" is less than 1 acre and was operated in the early 1920s, it will be assessed to determine if additional investigation is warranted. The Burning Grounds and the Small Arms Pit, both under investigation, are areas where waste ordnance materials (i.e. black powder) and small items (i.e. primers) were disposed, the residuals were taken to one of the landfills. The remaining "sites" are small and were identified during previous facility assessments that did not include any sampling data. These areas include areas of past spills or locations where waste was improperly disposed of in the years before environmental regulations were in place.

Questions were raised regarding potential contamination along the waterfront, and how was that area going to be investigated.

Mr. Reisch explained that one of the sites is an old pier area where ordnance was thought to have been dropped during ship loading/unloading. Qualified divers who detected metallic objects buried deep in the sediments have surveyed this area; however, these objects could not be identified. He stated that area

would be further evaluated. He also said that as the Navy investigates sites to determine not only the nature of any contamination, but also the extent of that contamination. Therefore the investigation process can take years for complex sites, as the process is iterative requiring multiple rounds of sampling to determine where contamination is migrating. If the contamination from the known sites is shown by data to be in the river, the Navy will conduct sampling to determine the extent of this contamination. He stated that the EPA had conducted sampling along the river, St. Juliens Creek, and in Blows Creek to score the facility for possible listing to the National Priorities List (NPL) – the Navy will use this data to assist in the investigation of the sites.

Several questions regarding the NPL process were asked.

Mr. Harlow explained that the NPL is the EPA's list of industrial sites (both federal and commercial) which warrant further investigation to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risk. The EPA scores all industrial sites requiring cleanup using the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). The HRS scores air, water, and land contamination. Those facilities whose score exceeds 28.5 (out of a total of 100 points) are eligible to be proposed for the NPL. At federal facilities, the score is cumulative for all of the sites located on an installation. The Navy has not been informed that the Annex will be listed, but anticipates the Annex to be proposed the next time the EPA makes an announcement- possibly early in 2000.

Mr. Reisch explained that after a facility is listed, the EPA and the Navy negotiate a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) which defines how the various sites will be investigated; the FFA also provides schedules for document review and stipulates penalties for not meeting these schedules. He explained that the Navy would continue the current cleanup schedule, which is programmed out to plan budgets for many years regardless of the NPL status. He stated that NPL status would allow the EPA to assign the Annex to members of their technical support staff to assist in document review and data interpretation; this should assist in quicker document reviews. He also explained that funding is programmed to cleanup sites in priority order; however, oftentimes budgets change due to various circumstances which may change the amount of work that can be performed in a year. Because NPL sites have negotiated FFAs which required the Navy and EPA to meet various schedules, NPL activities receive priority in these instances.

Questions regarding any investigation of St. Juliens Creek were raised.

Mr. Reisch explained that the Navy has conducted several rounds of sampling in the Creek near potential discharge points from nearby sites and locations upstream and downstream to determine if there is a contamination gradient from one of the sites being investigated; this will be reported in the upcoming investigation document. It was discussed that the build up of sediments in the Creek was attributed to the demolition of a former train-trolley bridge that supported a rail line across the Annex to downtown. When the bridge was demolished, it was dropped into the Creek. Over the years, this structure has impeded the tidal flow and the river sediments have built up to a point where access to the river through the Creek is severely limited. The representatives from the Navy understood the situation, but stated that the issue is not related to an environmental concern, in regards to the Annex, and therefore beyond the scope of the Annex's cleanup program.

Mr. Ballinger asked that those interested in becoming RAB members complete an application form, or take one and return it to him by mail. He again thanked every one of them and Mr. Reisch and Mr. Harlow for their presentations and answering the group's questions.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15.