

NAV - 00172 - 09.01 - 08/27/91
Doc. 10



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August 27, 1991

Commanding Officer
Atlantic Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Norfolk, VA 23511-6287

Attn: Ms. Brenda Norton
Engineer-in-Charge
Code 1822

Re: Contract N62470-89-D-4814
Trip Report for CTO-0018, NAVWPNSTA Yorktown, VA

Dear Ms. Norton:

The following is the trip report for NAVWPNSTA Yorktown, conducted during the week of 29 July to 1 August, 1991.

Goal: To conduct community interviews upon which to base the Community Relations Plan.

Monday, 29 July

Interviews were conducted by Tom Black, the Public Affairs Officer, and Melissa C. Davidson, the Community Relations Specialist, from 8:00 to 16:30. The following eight individuals were interviewed.

Louis Stark, Newport News Fire Department: Was not aware of any complaints from citizens. He cited a problem: The public may not believe that the NAVWPNSTA is telling them the "whole story" or truth due to their history of keeping a low profile. Suggested that NAVWPNSTA publish as much information as possible to reduce any suspicions.

CDR Stark, Commanding Officer, NAVWPNSTA: Said NAVWPNSTA has been a good neighbor and that any problems that may arise will appear, if and when, the station goes NPL.

LTJG Cooke, Assistant Public Works Officer, NAVWPNSTA: Commented that the public will be suspicious. Suggested that the media is also suspicious and offered his wife, Robyn, a reporter for the Daily Press, as a friendly interviewer. Commented that the public view is deeply ingrained and that the community relations/public relations will be a uphill battle.

Jim Funk, Board of Supervisors, York County: Was concerned that the NAVWPNSTA was not already in the remediation process. Said that availability and quantity of money for cleanup is the real problem for delays. Suggested that the public to go

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after their elected officials to make certain financial support is available. Cited the VA Fuel Farm as an example not to follow. Cited many individuals to interview.

Jim Dishner, Yorktown Fire Department: Voiced no concerns. Mentioned that public might become more vocal once more information is published on the waste sites.

Lamont Myers, Industrial Development Authority: Was concerned for the York River and groundwater, especially for development and residential areas. Recommended that NAVWPNSTA talk with the representative for Pleasurama, a large, international firm who is trying to sell a large plot of prime land. Also recommended that the community of Springfield be contacted due to their proximity.

Nancy Perry, the Yorktown Victory Center: Has no concerns, except for the York River and working watermen. She warned about the media's tendency to take sides on issues.

James Wesson, Working Watermen Association President: Was very concerned about the York River and contaminants, especially the possibility of future dioxin contamination. Worried that the watermen "will get shut down to pay for everyone's pollution." Recommended Sid Dixon, president of the York Chapter of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), as a good source to talk with.

Tuesday, 30 July

The first interview was conducted by Tom and Melissa at 7:30, with Brenda R. Norton joining the interview team for the remainder of the six visits, ending at 4:00.

Dr. Bob Huggett, Virginia Institute of Marine Science: Was excited about upcoming studies. Recommended creek sampling and radioactive carbon testing for any Chesapeake Bay samples. Recommended for NAVWPNSTA to get a disinterested party to verify or refute reports to gain public confidence and to obtain another scientific opinion. Recommended many people to talk with, mainly environmental groups. Also recommended gathering a consortium of all the pollution concerns along the York River, along with citizens and scientists, to serve as an information clearing house. He stressed the need for more detailed sampling.

Perry DePew, Board of Supervisors, James City County: Mentioned that water is a very big concern with his area and said that people may point fingers at the NAVWPNSTA for all their water problems. Recommended an environmental activist to talk with. Discussed how information misinterpretation by the public can be a big problem.

John Carl, Public Information Office, York County: Remarked that the population is supportive, but "the tide is turning on environmental issues." He was very adamant about saying "put your money where your mouth is," and that enough money should be appropriated to cleanup. Cited the VA Fuel Farm as a bad PR example. Suggested NAVWPNSTA interview with Robyn Cooke of the Daily Press and talk with the CBF and other groups.

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Delegata Harvey Morgan, Gloucester: Was very concerned with the working watermen of his district. Also asked about the NAVWPNSTA's radioactive and nuclear wastes. Was very concerned with the Chesapeake Bay pollution. Worried about the long time frame and actual cleanup and sufficient funds available to do so. Suggested NAVWPNSTA use the print media to communicate, to reduce sensationalism.

Marian Bowditch, Yorktown resident: Remarked that the average citizen doesn't expect to know what is going on at NAVWPNSTA. She added that people would not unnecessarily attack NAVWPNSTA, and suggested that NAVWPNSTA publish a list of other installations in the IRP to show the public that NAVWPNSTA is not singled out for environmental scrutiny.

Frank Tate and Russ, Fire Department: Discussed the problem of public skepticism, which they see everyday. Mentioned the low level of public participation in their public meetings and remarked that NAVWPNSTA is also a low profile activity and should not receive too much attention. Offered to help and suggested additional individuals to talk with.

CDR Kotz, Public Works Officer, NAVWPNSTA: Discussed the community relations efforts to date. Offered suggestions to secure the repository documents.

Wednesday, 31 July

Tom, Brenda, Jennifer Loftin (NAVWPNSTA) and Melissa conducted the following two interviews from 8:00 to 10:00:

Robert Walker Sr., Robert Walker III, Coleen Decker of Marine Chemist: Suggested to keep the media aware to cure sensationalism. Also suggested to keep only one media contact to avoid confusion, and to keep the State involved in the process to avoid problems.

Chuck Rafkind, National Park Service: Offered to review and QA/QC NAVWPNSTA sampling protocol, reports, etc... Park has a large office for water analysis in Ft. Collins, CO. The Park wants NAVWPNSTA data to be incorporated into a developing water resource plan for hydrogeology and geomorphology. Offered NAVWPNSTA use of this. Suggested putting VA Water Resources Center on mailing list as well as VA Marine Resources and State Water Quality Board.

VA Department of Waste Management, Richmond, File Review: At the strong suggestion of their office, Melissa traveled to Richmond to review NAVWPNSTA files and look for any complaints or problems. Arrived at VADWM at 11:30 and met Jessie Hudley who gave access to all of the RCRA and Superfund files concerning the site. Reviewed the files, and did not find any evidence of community complaints. Their files matched NAVWPNSTA EMO files with the exception of inspection reports. Tried to meet either Ann Field or Jamie Walters, to establish contact concerning Community Relation but neither were in the office. Left a note for the Community

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Relations Specialist, Jamie. Met Steve Frashier, the site inspector for NAVWPNSTA, in the elevator and introduced myself and updated him on the IRP.

Final interview of the day held at 2:00 with Tom and Melissa.

Delegate Shirley Cooper: Tom discussed consortium idea of Dr. Bob Huggett (VIMS) with her. She was enthusiastic and decided to pursue it. An article by Mark DiVencenzo, Daily Press, concerning this idea recently appeared. She was concerned about being updated on IRP status.

After completing Delegate Cooper's interview at 3:00, visited the York County library to research demographics until 5:00.

Thursday, 1 August

Tom, Brenda, Jennifer and Melissa conducted the following two interviews from 9:00 to 10:30, and then the last meeting with Tom, Jennifer and Melissa was held from 11:15 to 12:00.

Newport News Vice Mayor Bill Fitzgerald: Suggested a later meeting to include the water authority and himself. He stated that he would arrange this. No word on this meeting yet. He was concerned on NAVWPNSTA talking with the "right" political people to avoid bad publicity.

Mark DiVencenzo, Daily Press: Was very interested and requested to come to NAVWPNSTA to review EMO files. Tom and Brenda agreed.

Lackey Residents: Mary Giles, Mrs. Redcross and Alice Roache: All requested that their wells be tested. Tom agreed. He asked if the two remaining households drinking well water would agree to talk with us, and they answered "no." They mentioned cancer concerns, though can not link the disease directly with NAVWPNSTA. Discussed their fears concerning NAVWPNSTA activities stemming from a 11/15/48 explosion but all were generally supportive of NAVWPNSTA.

After this meeting, Tom signed the additional site photographs taken during the previous site visit and released a copy to Baker Environmental, Inc. Melissa left for Norfolk Airport at 1:30.

Baker Action Items:

- 1) Prepare "thank you" letters to interviewees. Mailed 13 August (Melissa was away for a week on vacation).
- 2) Prepare draft CRP, due 19 August. Draft CRP mailed out 26 August.

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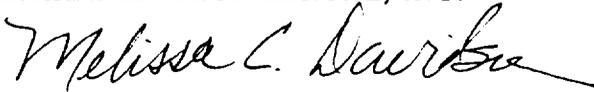
NAVWPNSTA Action Items:

- 1) Tom planned to interview additional individuals that were unable to be interviewed this past week. To date, he has spoken with approximately 10 more individuals, whose names were faxed to Baker Environmental, Inc.
- 2) Tom will check to see if he can release negatives from photo album to Baker Environmental, Inc., for slide manufacture.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 412/269-2020.

Sincerely,

BAKER ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Melissa C. Davidson
Community Relations Specialist

MCD/rw

cc: Marc Lambert, LANTDIV
Thomas Black, NAVWPNSTA PAO, Code 01
Jennifer Loftin, NAVWPNSTA EMO, Code H4