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MINUTES FROM RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING DATED 12 NOVEMBER
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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

**CHARLESTON NAVAL COMPLEX
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
November 12, 2002, 5:30 p.m.
The Olde North Charleston Meeting Place
1077 East Montague Avenue
North Charleston, SC**

RAB MEMBERS

Wilburn Gilliard	Community member
Don Harbert	Community Co-Chair
Tony Hunt	Navy Co-Chair
Lou Mintz	Community member
Arthur Pinckney	Community member
Dann Spariosu	U.S. EPA
Jerry Stamps	DHEC

VISITORS

Paul Bergstrand	SC DHEC
Gil Rennhack	SC DHEC
Annie Godfrey	U.S. EPA
Rob Harrell	Navy SouthDiv
Steve Thompson	City of North Charleston
Sheldon Lawrence	Lawrence Electric
Gary Foster	CH2M-Jones
Dean Williamson	CH2M-Jones
Keith Johns	EnSafe

Introduction and Administrative Remarks

Tony Hunt opened the meeting, and asked the RAB members and visitors to introduce themselves. Mr. Hunt also announced that Wannetta Mallette-Pratt could not be present as she was attending a Brownfields conference in Charlotte. There were no comments on the minutes of the September 2002 RAB meeting.

Visitors and RAB members were encouraged to ask questions during the meeting or after the meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

A community relations subcommittee meeting was not held this month.

Report on Nearby Environmental Issues

Mr. Hunt briefed the board on the recent oil spills. The diesel fuel spill that occurred around the 1st of October was released from an Evergreen container ship. They have taken responsibility for the spill and are working with the Natural Resource Trustees, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the Coast Guard in cleaning up the Navy property. Approximately 2,500 gallons of fuel spilled.

What remains is an oil residue in the marsh areas, which will be addressed in a Natural Resource Damage Assessment.

The other oil spill that happened last week was not nearly as much as the October spill and was contained quickly and is being cleaned up.

Environmental Cleanup Progress Report

Mr. Hunt reported that the Redevelopment Authority contractor was laying a pipeline through the old landfill and found some unexploded ordnance. The response actions worked as they should have: The contractor notified the local sheriff's department who contacted the DOD unexploded ordnance team. That ordnance team determined it was a live shell, because it still had its fuse, and disposed of it properly.

This, of course, raised some concerns. Funding was requested and a contractor should be on board soon to start studying this area for unexploded ordnance (UXO). The land will be cleared so that utility work and other excavation work can be done in this area. There will be additional land use controls, such as no construction activity or limited excavation in this area. The UXO that was found has not been dated, but it was probably placed there after the water line was installed.

Status of EDC Phase III Property Transfer

Gary Foster (CH2M-Jones) provided an update on property transfer. Sixteen different parcels across the base made up the Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) Phase III Transfer. The property two blocks up from Viaduct Road and northward is going to the City of North Charleston. This area does not include the old dry dock but does include the industrial area in its fifty acres. The deeds are in review with the Redevelopment Authority staff, DHEC and the EPA. These deeds have land use restrictions on them, restricting the use of groundwater from the shallow aquifer.

Mr. Foster reported that lead-based paint has been removed from target housing in this area. "Target housing" includes buildings that house children ages six and under. There is lead-based paint in the industrial area.

The property to the south is going to the State Ports Authority. An agreement is still being worked out with the Border Patrol. Once that occurs, the Navy will go forward with the rest of that transfer.

Mr. Pinckney asked about the continued role of the RAB. Mr. Hunt replied that, while the Navy is set up to transfer the property to the Redevelopment Authority under BRAC and EDC rules, the Navy still has to complete the cleanup under RCRA and CERCLA obligations. This involves selecting a remedy. The RAB can still contribute an important part to the Navy's decision process for selecting those remedies.

Mr. Hunt said the RAB should try to get the City of North Charleston and the State Ports Authority involved and interested in the remedies and land use controls that are to be applied to this property. They will have to live with these restrictions. The Brownfields approach is to get subsequent landowners to report on their land use restriction and maintain those controls.

Mr. Hunt said the Redevelopment Authority holds community meetings that are open to the public. He recently gave a presentation to the Redevelopment Authority in reference to the early transfer. The City of North Charleston was present along with Mayor Summey, the State Ports Authority and the Noisette Company.

Status of Early Transfer/FOSET

The EBST (Environmental Baseline Survey for Transfer - the document that accompanies the Finding Of Suitability for Early Transfer) for Phase IV has been submitted and the review process has started. The Finding Of Suitability for Early Transfer (FOSET) has not been submitted yet; the Navy is still working on the language. The property transfer is expected to occur in the summer of 2003.

Mr. Foster showed a map with colored areas representing the parcels of property in various stages of transfer or land-use control. These maps will be included in the FOSET and incorporated into the deeds.

Status of Site Corrective Action

Mr. Foster presented an update and overview since the previous RAB meeting (September).

Originally, CH2M-Jones contracted to handle 132 sites (identified in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit, a.k.a. RCRA sites). 73 of these sites have been granted no further action status as of October 2002. 28 sites are currently being evaluated by DHEC to determine if they can be considered for no further action or for land use control status. 31 sites have interim measures.

In the two and a half years since CH2M-Jones has been on the naval base, ten new RCRA sites have been added to the list. Those sites have been reviewed and submitted to DHEC.

Mr. Foster showed photographs of some of the work CH2M-Jones has been doing. These included:

- pictures of the Aggressive Fluid Vapor Recovery system, which is basically a vacuum, pulling contaminants out of the ground.
- A picture of the wells at SWMU 17 by the Border Patrol.

- a picture of the six-phase heating location at AOC 607/Building 225, showing all the equipment gone. The wells have been capped and the probes of solid iron have been left in the ground. Iron is not hazardous or carcinogenic and helps to degrade chlorinated solvents. There is more work to do at the old dry cleaners.
- a picture of the zero-valent iron injection process. Iron is pressurized and sent out into the strata to change the underground environment, helping the contaminants break down. This does not take a lot of equipment.
- a picture of SWMU 196 by the landfill using hydrogen peroxide injection. The dissolved plume needs to be followed up there. CH2M-Jones will probably use some kind of biological degradation to help the contaminants degrade in this area.
- a picture of the excavation in Zone F.
- a photograph of Oxygen Release Compound injection.

AOC 607 is now in the Corrective Measures Study phase to look at what the next remedy will be. The report is scheduled to be delivered to DHEC in January.

Zone J is not part of CH2M-Jones' scope of work. The Navy is continuing to do the studies on the water bodies. EnSafe is doing the effluent studies in this area. In this zone it's difficult to determine whose contamination belongs to whom.

The underground storage tank (UST) program has 82 sites. CH2M-Jones has closure on 61 of those sites. Twenty have corrective action plans in place. In addition, nine underground tank sites have groundwater monitoring. Eleven sites have active remediation, such as excavation, oxygen release compound, or even bailing where the product is on top of the soil. The contaminants at these sites do not migrate much. Twelve sites are not complete but will be defined by the end of the year.

Mr. Foster told the group that 5,500 tons of contaminated soil have been removed from the base under their contract. CH2M-Jones has implemented base-wide groundwater monitoring and well inspection plans. They have minimized disruption to the tenants through a Tenant Notification Plan. When CH2M-Jones needs access to a site for excavation or injection, they notify the Redevelopment Authority. The Redevelopment Authority notifies the tenant and everyone figures out the best schedule and works it out with the subcontractors. He reported that this has worked well.

Mr. Foster said that excavation permits by tenants and the RDA are still evaluated by CH2M-Jones. Injection permits are submitted to DHEC where they are assessed to ensure that no chemical is going into the ground in too high a quantity. The Finding Of Suitability for Early Transfer for the Chicora tank farm is ready for DHEC's final review. This area will have a short-term groundwater use restriction.

Mr. Foster said that CH2M-Jones has a good safety record. So far, there have been 105,000 man-hours and only one First Aid incident. Their subcontractors have 200,000 man-hours and no accidents. Mr. Foster provided a list of several local contractors on the site now. He explained that some of the cleanup processes that have been selected are patented technologies, so there are no local vendors for those processes.

Mr. Foster explained that the Navy will be doing long-term groundwater monitoring for at least 20 years. Even though they have used aggressive thermal technology, they still have at least ten years before they get a sense of how much the plume will collapse after the aggressive treatment.

Questions

Mr. Pinckney inquired if any studies have been done on what, if any, illnesses can be attributed to contaminants from the base. Mr. Hunt answered that DHEC, the public health agency, keeps track of reported incidents of cancer, poison and other hazards. When an individual gets sick, their physician documents what type exposure or disease they have into a database. Other researchers look at that database for incidents of disease clusters. He noted that there had been one study done about lead poisoning in children.

Mr. Spariosu talked about grants from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has awarded \$750,000 in Brownfields grants to Charleston. Local Brownfields project officials will use the supplemental funding to train people in procedures for handling removal of hazardous substances. The goal is to provide them with some training that will help them be more employable. The EPA will conduct a 40-hour health and safety training program, which is a training that everyone in the environmental cleanup field has to take. People with this training are much more employable with contractors. Small contractors usually have to pay a couple thousand dollars for new employees to have this type of training. The training will be offered only for the initial 40-hour course; the eight-hour refresher courses required each year should be the responsibility of the firm hiring the employees. For more information on this program call Dawn Harris at 404-562-8421 or Dann Spariosu at 404-562-8552.

Steve Thompson asked which areas of concern received remediation (cleanup) precedence, and what the criteria were. Mr. Foster stated there aren't strict criteria on which gets cleaned up first. CH2M-Jones started on the sites that were going to take the longest to complete, in order to get them started. Some sites had more investigation to do, which slows up the process. He noted there's nothing to prevent another area of concern from popping up. If additional contamination is found, then the Navy has a process to determine whose contamination it is.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Hunt announced that Paul Bergstrand of SC DHEC will be leaving the project to work for the state's RCRA program. He said that Mr. Bergstrand has been on the project for the last seven years. Mr. Hunt thanked Mr. Bergstrand for his hard work and expertise on behalf of the RAB.

The meeting was adjourned.