

N61165.AR.002919
CNC CHARLESTON
5090.3a

MINUTES FROM RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING DATED 9 MAY 2000 CNC
CHARLESTON SC
5/9/2000
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
9 May 2000

Charleston Naval Base
Building 761, Avenue F
North Charleston, SC

RAB Members Attending

Tony Hunt
Henry Shepard
Oliver Addison
Mihir Mehta (for Ann Clark)
Dan Spariosu
Jeri Johnson
Don Harbert
Wannetta Mallette-Pratt

Guests Attending

Paul Bergstrand	SC DHEC
Keith Johns	EnSafe, Inc.
Tom Fressilli	NAVFAC
Jim Augustin	Community
Bobby Dearhart	Community

Tony Hunt brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. RAB members and guests introduced themselves.

Administrative Remarks

Mr. Hunt said that the Corrective Measures Study reports are in the library of tonight's meeting facility for information purposes only. These reports have not yet been submitted to the regulatory agencies and are therefore not "public" documents.

Mr. Hunt told the board that the notice to proceed for the fixed price contract has been given. The issues with indemnification have been resolved and things are proceeding.

Maps have been made available on the web site. The web site is still being put together and will be complete within the next couple of weeks. The real estate department, within SOUTHDIV, is putting the maps of all the facilities on the web site.

Jim Augustin noted that Mr. John Bourne's name was misspelled on the minutes of April 11, 2000. Mr. Shepard noted that Kevin Tunstall's name was also misspelled. *(Editor's note: both names have been corrected in the final version.)*

Bobby Dearhart asked if the Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) Phase 1 is still

scheduled for June. Mr. Hunt acknowledged that it is. Jeri Johnson advised that the real estate survey would not be completed until July. Mr. Dearhart questioned if there was any schedule for the things that need to be transferred. Mr. Hunt answered the schedule is at SOUTHDIV.

Subcommittee Reports

The community relations subcommittee met this afternoon, attended by Keith Johns, Tony Hunt and Bob Veronee. Fact Sheet 14 is waiting on comments and will be finalized and put in the mail in the next couple of weeks. The transfer process will be discussed in Fact Sheet 15, which will be out in July.

Mr. Hunt advised that there is not an old and new transfer process. The Navy still has the existing FOST process and a schedule to execute it. If the early transfer documentation (Covenant Deferral Request) isn't approved by the Governor of South Carolina, the Navy is still committed to the original schedule.

Wannetta Mallette-Pratt questioned about the survey that needed to be conducted before transfer. Ms. Johnson answered that the Redevelopment Authority's (RDA) surveyor will prepare a proposal. The proposal has to be awarded and go through the RDA, and Ms. Johnson doesn't think the process will be done by June.

Environmental Cleanup Progress Report

Property Transfer Status

The public comment period for the marina is over. There were no comments on the Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST). The Navy will proceed with getting that signed, which moves the property very close to being transferred.

The comment period for EDC Phase 1 ends on the 18th of May. The documents were sent to SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and the Navy has agreed to give DHEC 30 days for comments, until June 2nd. A former employee of SPAWAR provided one comment, about the warehouses in the northern part (Zone A) if it was part of the lease transfer. The warehouses are in an area where the Navy is still addressing contamination.

At the next RAB meeting, early transfer will be on the agenda. Some experts from SOUTHDIV who are part of the early transfer process may be present. These experts have been looking at different sites and identifying the ones that are good candidates for early transfer. The property must meet certain criteria for early transfer and there must be an interest by the RDA to pursue an early transfer. An early transfer amounts to a covenant deferral under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The Department of Defense has the authority under that covenant deferral to transfer the property, but DoD maintains the responsibility of cleaning up contamination identified as caused by DoD. The deed is transferred, and restrictions would apply to use of the property, and the Navy would be committed to a schedule for cleanup. This process will be discussed in detail at

the next RAB meeting.

The Navy received a letter of interest from the RDA to pursue this early transfer process. This is the trigger that set the Navy in motion on this early transfer process. Otherwise, the Navy doesn't have the authority to pursue it. The Navy has to get approval from the Undersecretary of the Navy to pursue the early transfer process. The remainder of the base after EDC Phase 1 will be included as part of the early transfer.

Mr. Dearhart inquired about the permit issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Mr. Hunt advised the Navy is submitting their proposal as far as what the permit would look like, with obligations to complete the corrective action.

Ms. Mallette-Pratt inquired why the RDA requested a covenant deferral. Mr. Hunt replied there was no adverse risk in taking over the property. The Navy will complete the cleanup, and it will be done on a reasonable schedule. Ms. Johnson commented that, with the fixed price contract in place, RDA's qualms about cleanup are pretty much satisfied.

As to the Chicora tank farm, the Navy has approval from the Department of Education for the school board's approval. The next priority is to get the FOST done. The FOST is scheduled to be completed by July. The soil has been excavated, groundwater monitoring wells are in place and no outside migration of contaminants has been detected.

RFI Completion Status

Mr. Hunt said that most of the Navy's effort right now is sending documents from EnSafe to CH2MHill/Jones (the new, fixed-price contractor). EnSafe has just completed the Zone H RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) report addendum, which would wrap up the additional contamination found at solid waste management unit 196 (SWMU 196).

The Navy is still trying to complete the RFI report for Zones F and G. There were difficulties with the information sent to the reviewers, and it should be back on the agenda for discussion at the next project team meeting. Any field work that occurs from this point on will be done by CH2MHill/Jones and their subcontractors.

As to the status on Zone H, a work plan addendum had been submitted back in December. The Navy withdrew that addendum for purposes of assigning that work directly to CH2MHill/Jones. CH2MHill/Jones will be resubmitting the work plan addendum. The schedule for resubmittal of the addendum is still being ironed out.

Mr. Dearhart inquired about Zone E. Mr. Hunt replied that the early transfer process is making sure that the Navy has enough data to define the risk. If there is contaminated groundwater, the Navy will have information about exposure to those contaminants. Early transfer is more appropriate for sites that have clean soil or contaminated groundwater - sites where restrictions are easily placed on the use of that particular resource.

Report on Hess Work on Navy Property

Mr. Hunt presented a map showing the contamination area by the Hess terminal at the north end of the base. The map showed the amount of free product (floating gasoline, BTEX, mixture of those compounds, primarily xylene) in feet, ranging from 0.1 feet to 1.5 feet. Mr. Hunt provided a bit of history about this part of the site: railroad tanker cars would come in this area and be loaded with fuel.

Monitoring well 39 had chlorinated solvent contamination. Hess did an aggressive pump and treat with soil vapor extraction near this well. This enhanced vacuum recovery system created a drawdown out further than Hess expected. This began sucking chlorinated solvent-contaminated groundwater from the Navy property onto Hess property and into that groundwater plume (petroleum-based contamination). Hess backed off of this intense method and has been doing just vacuum extractions of individual wells.

In February of this year, Hess took some additional groundwater measurements and found their plume had moved farther. At least a foot of free product was found in monitoring well (MW) 26 from the Hess data, and less than a foot in MW 11. Now that this plume has significantly advanced on to the Navy's property, the Navy will not allow Hess to take this skimmer-type approach much longer.

Hess has proposed a free product recovery system that is, again, skimming the surface and is connected to wells on their property and one on the Navy's property. Hess has proposed to install additional monitoring and recovery wells. Monitoring wells 31 and 32 are proposed wells, and the idea is to tie those into the recovery system as well.

Mr. Hunt showed several slides of the treatment system at Hess, including a wind-powered pump and solar-activated controllers. The system detects the fluid amounts in the wells, and then directs compressed air (generated by the windmill) to each well in succession, pumping it out before moving to the next one. There are probably no more than 50 feet between the Navy's MW 11 and this windmill. Hess proposes to use MW 11 in its system by connecting it to their system via a trench.

The plume appears to be heading toward the head of Noisette Creek. The Navy has three more wells in that line that they can use for detection before it reaches the creek. The Navy has not seen any free product in these wells, but has seen the dissolved phase of these contaminants here.

The Navy has talked with Hess about some opportunities that might be available now that CH2MHill/Jones is on board, such as cost sharing. Mr. Hunt noted that if this plume continues to move under Virginia Avenue, it's going to be more difficult to contain.

The Navy did some sampling in the sediments at Noisette Creek and found petroleum-type products like toluene. If this plume starts contaminating the marsh, Hess can propose natural attenuation or some sort of active treatment with DHEC. The Navy's interest is what has migrated onto Navy property and how much of that carbon source may actually be to the Navy's advantage. The chemical benzene (coming from the Hess property) can actually improve bio-remediation of chlorinated solvents, which is the contaminant found on Navy property. It's a

food source for the bacteria.

Ms. Johnson inquired if there was a potential problem for the RDA's contractor who is replacing sewer lines in that area. Mr. Hunt replied that the contractor is very likely to hit free product in that area. Ms. Johnson will advise the contractor of the potential problem in this area.

Ms. Mallette-Pratt asked for a telephone number for a contractor to talk to about the community's concerns in this area. Mr. Hunt will give Ms. Mallette-Pratt the telephone numbers for the project manager at Hess and the DHEC project manager in Columbia.

Mr. Hunt said that CH2MHill/Jones will have the responsibility of resolving this problem. The EPA will probably want some sort of restrictions with digging and construction for this area, but the restrictions won't necessarily hold up the transfer.

Mr. Augustin inquired if Hess is making sure the railroad, the highway, the Navy, the city and residents know about this problem. Mr. Hunt indicated that the DHEC project manager should have more information on this. The Caretaker Site Office is the Navy's office that takes care of signs that advise not to dig in these problem areas.

Closing Remarks/Next Meeting

July's meeting will be about the early transfer process, SWMU 166 treatability studies, status of the assessment and characterization.

The next meeting of the Naval Base Charleston RAB will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 11 at the City of North Charleston's meeting facility at 1077 Montague Avenue, in downtown North Charleston.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved by:

Tony Hunt
Navy Co-Chair

Louis Mintz
Community Co-Chair