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PRE COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES REGARDING COMMUNITY MEMBER
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MINUTES
NCBC GULFPORT COMMUNITY MEETING
APRIL 5, 95
GASTON-HEWES RECREATION CENTER
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

PRE-MEETING WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

This meeting was held to provide community members an opportunity to meet one another before they were introduced at the community meeting scheduled for 7 p.m.

After a brief introduction of each RAB member, CDR Dewey reviewed the agenda for the community meeting. He introduced those who would be speaking at the meeting as well as people who had helped CBC with the planning for the meeting. He reviewed the binders that had been prepared for all RAB members. The binders contained a listing of all RAB members, published information in the form of fact sheets and articles in the local newspaper THE SUN HERALD, and copies of the notices placed in the newspaper and flyers distributed announcing the community meeting.

CDR Dewey briefly explained the purpose of the RAB and that the Seabee Center hoped to open up two-way communication between the Navy and the community through the RAB.

He reviewed some of the training objectives that were being proposed to help bring the RAB members up to date on the Center's Installation Restoration Program and the processes that are followed to clean up sites. The members decided that the first training they would like would be to have an orientation at the Seabee Center. It was agreed that this would be done on Tuesday, April 25, at 9:00 a.m. Members will meet in the conference room for a briefing on the mission of the Seabee Center and then take a bus tour of the Installation Restoration Sites.

CDR Dewey asked if they would like to meet in a month for the first official RAB meeting. The members agreed to Thursday, May 18. An agenda and specific plans for that meeting will be developed by the Seabee Center and will task SOUTHDIV/ABB for specific items for that meeting.

COMMUNITY MEETING

7:10 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Approximately 50 people attended this meeting. Approximately 20 of the attendees were from the local community. The remaining attendees were comprised of support personnel from the Navy and regulatory agencies. CDR Ron Dewey conducted the meeting as the Navy's co-chair for the RAB.

Following a welcome and brief overview of what was going to be covered during the meeting, he asked all of the RAB members to introduce themselves. Each member gave a short self-introduction which included who they were, why they wanted to serve on the RAB and brief information about their background.

CDR Dewey provided information on the RAB, how it was selected, what it will do and how it will interface with the community to ensure there is a good two-way communication between the Navy and the community on environmental issues, concerns and actions.

Gordon Crane, the Seabee Center Environmental Manager, provided information on the Installation Restoration Program in general and briefly talked about the sites being investigated by the Seabee Center under this program.

Marland Dulaney, ABB, provided some background information on dioxin, including what is known about it, what is not known, and that the level of risk is based on the level of exposure. He briefly explained how additional information would be gathered to determine exposure paths in the community.

CDR Dewey closed the meeting by relaying how testing results, information on the risk assessment, etc. would be shared with the community -- through future RAB meetings, fact sheets, and the information repository.

He opened the meeting up for questions from the audience. The questions and answers are paraphrased below:

Q. Will the RAB address issues/concerns beyond the Navy Base?

A. No. The Navy's program addresses sites on the base.

Q. Is the dioxin that has been found been all TCDD?

A. No. TCDD is the most toxic of all dioxins. The dioxin we are finding is not all TCDD.

Q. *Are you going to be testing for other things other than dioxins? There are some other things out there that are worse than dioxin--why are you not addressing those?*

A. Yes, we are testing for other things -- metals, volatiles and inorganics. We are focusing on dioxin in the next round of testing because we feel that is what the community wants to know about at this time.

Q. *I notice on maps in the fact sheets that dioxins/furans were detected on Canal Road. Residents eat turtles, fish, and other animals from the canal, ditches, and stream.*

A. This is the kind of feedback we need from you. The more information you give the Navy, the better the risk assessment will be.

Q. *I'm the mother of three children. We've all had a rash and been sick. The doctor said it was in the water. We never had it before. I've sent out samples and have my own results. You're saying nothing is in the water. I know different. Who should I hold responsible for this?*

A. We do not have the answer to this problem. However, drinking water quality is the responsibility of the local health office, and that drinking water must meet strict guidelines. (The mother commented that she has only been on city water since last May.)