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COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES 18 MAY 1995 NCBC GULFPORT MS
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MINUTES
NCBC GULFPORT COMMUNITY MEETING
MAY 18, 1995
GASTON-HEWES RECREATION CENTER
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMUNITY MEETING
7:00 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.

Approximately 12 RAB members and 18 community members attended this first business meeting of the Restoration Advisory Meeting. Of the 18 community members, approximately 6 were associated with the Navy.

CDR Ron Dewey opened the meeting by giving an overview of the meeting agenda. Administrative items addressed during this portion of the meeting included the following.

- RAB members were requested to give their bio-sheets to Nancy Brooks. A copy of the bio-sheets and RAB member pictures will be placed in the repository at the public library.
- A one-day team building session will be held on June 17 for members of the RAB. This session will be utilized to develop the charter, determine the roles and responsibilities of the RAB, and set goals for the RAB. A facilitator will be brought in to help keep the meeting on track. CDR Dewey will arrange the details and get the details out to the members.

Steve Dickerson gave a short summary of the RAB members' visit to the Base in early May. The group met with Captain DiGeorge and received a presentation of the base orientation. The members then toured the base and had an opportunity visit each site.

A brief 15-minute video was shown. This video portrayed the Navy's steps taken in the 1980's to clean the contaminated soils at the Herbicide Orange site. After surveying, stabilizing the soil, and receiving a permit in 1985, the Navy mobilized a rotary kiln to the site and burned the contaminated soils. The soil was cleaned to less than 1 part per billion of dioxin.

Gordon Crane gave an update of the recent off-base sampling on 28th Street as presented in the associated fact sheet. Low levels of dioxin were found in the sediment and soil samples in and near the outfalls on the north side of the base. Penny Baxter, ABB-ES, supplied additional discussion of how and where the samples were collected. The installation and location of sediment retention traps was also presented.

During and following the presentation by Mr. Crane, many questions were asked about the sampling effort. These questions are as follows.

- Q. Where did the dioxin come from?
A. The source is not yet known.
- Q. What was the highest level found and where?
A. The highest level was about 150 parts per trillion and it was found on base near Outfall No. 3.
- Q. What is the State's requirement?
A. The State's health based number is 4.7 ppt.
- Q. Is the contamination from the surface water?
A. No. Sediments move.
- Q. Will you continue to look at data? This is not the end?
A. The next step is to talk to the State. All we know at this point is the detected levels.
- Q. How long will it take to get final results? How long are you going to test? How long will it be until cleanup?
A. The Navy does not yet know if this is a \$100 million problem or a \$1 million problem. If it is only \$1 million cleanup could be done this year. The situation is still evolving and we are fighting for funds daily.
- Q. Is what is there harmful?
A. There does not seem to be a well defined level that is harmful. EPA states 1 part per billion as a cleanup level. Georgia has 75 ppt; South Carolina's cleanup is 500 ppt.
- Q. Is there any risk if one is not walking in the ditch?
A. There is no risk if you are not exposed.
- Q. Do the sediment retention traps strain the water?
A. Yes.
- Q. How far down does the dioxin penetrate the earth? I am concerned for my family.
A. The dioxin is not mobile and does not move downward in the soil.
- Q. Have any studies been done on former employees who handled this material?
A. No.

CDR Dewey concluded the meeting by asking if a second meeting was wanted during June. The RAB members decided that a second meeting would be necessary in late June. The Navy will have more information to share at that time.

END.