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COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES 6 JULY 1995 NCBC GULFPORT MS
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MINUTES
NCBC GULFPORT COMMUNITY MEETING
JULY 6, 1995
GASTON-HEWES RECREATION CENTER
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMUNITY MEETING
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Approximately 14 RAB members and 11 community members attended this business meeting of the Restoration Advisory Meeting. Of the 11 community members, approximately 4 were associated with the Navy.

Nancy Brooks of NCBC Gulfport opened the meeting with welcoming comments. She introduced Captain Jack Ward as the replacement member for retiring Cmdr Ron Dewey. After this introduction Ms. Brooks turned the meeting over to the community chairman, Steve Dickerson.

Mr. Dickerson discussed the July partnering meeting of the RAB and the ground rules that were established during that meeting. The Board decided to meet once a month on the first Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Notice will be sent to the RAB members for each meeting and any individual that misses three meetings will be replaced. The monthly meetings will include training and business affairs; Captain Ward offered a conference room on the Base for the monthly meetings. Mr. Dickerson emphasized that although the meetings are open to anyone, these are not public hearings.

It was requested that questions from the audience be written on cards. This is being done to assure that questions which often require a technical answer will be answered fully and properly. Submitted questions will be included in the meeting minutes which will be filed in the reference section of the library as soon as possible following the meeting.

The RAB discussed their Mission Statement that was developed during the July meeting. Some sections had been completed. Further development of the Statement was deferred until the August meeting.

Steve Sorgen of the Navy Environmental Health Center was introduced to the RAB and asked to discuss the services that NEHC provides to RABs. Mr. Sorgen stated that NEHC was formed to address health and safety issues to the Navy and provides their services free of charge. These services include: health and safety program review, workplan review for risk, risk assessment, public health assessments (either inhouse or assisting ATSDR), community relations services, training of RABs, and public availability sessions with exhibits. RAB training consists of three modules: 1) toxicology, 2) risk assessment, and 3) the Installation Restoration process. The lead time for requesting the training services is one month and the training modules can be custom designed for a particular Base.

Gordon Crane/NCBC gave an update of environmental activities onbase. Removal of contaminated sediment along the 28th Street road project will begin in mid-July. The recovery trench is currently being installed at Site 6 and the treatment system is expected to be installed in late August or early September. Geophysical surveys are being conducted at Sites 1, 4, and 5. These surveys are being done to determine if suspected buried drums can be located at these sites.

A discussion followed about these activities. A question was asked about the contents of the drums. Nothing is known about potential contents of the drums, only that historical reports suggest that drums were buried in these landfills. Another question was about receiving information about

contamination and water quality. Mr. Crane answered that basewide sampling had been completed and the letter report from the basewide sampling was in the public library. One RAB member (Reverend Adams) stated that he worked at NCBC during the time Site 7 was open and that it was common practice to dump old paint cans and similar materials into that landfill.

Mr. Pat Bryant, a member of the audience, suggested that the use of written questions may be intimidating to some members of the public. He suggested that this may create barriers to open discussion. A suggestion was made that anyone not wishing to write down their question may have a RAB member record the question.

Mr. Bryant further questioned the harmfulness of dioxins stating that we are told that some are harmful. He asked the question "What can you say is safe?" He felt that there was an attitude that nothing was wrong north of the Base. Mr. Dickerson said that the fact that the RAB and its volunteer members existed belied that no one cared. He said that the RAB was there to follow up on environmental activities and keep the public informed.

The RAB meeting closed with a discussion of the agenda for the next three meetings. The next meeting will be August 3, held on Base, and will complete the Mission Statement. The September meeting will be held on September 14 and will feature a NHEC presentation on toxicology. The October meeting will be considered a quarterly meeting and will be held in the community center.

Submitted Questions

Q. How much dioxin does it take to cause genetic, mutagenic, or carcinogenic changes in human beings?

A. The dose of dioxin that can cause adverse health effects in humans is unknown. Currently, the USEPA is re-evaluating the dioxin toxicity data to help answer this question. This dioxin reassessment is still in progress and the "Review Draft" results, released in June and August, 1994, are highly controversial. These results are presented in two multi-volume documents available from the USEPA's Center for Environmental Research (CERI). These documents are titled as follows:

Estimating Exposure to Dioxin-Like Compounds: Volumes I, II, and III.
Health Assessment Document for 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-Dioxin (TCDD) and
Related Compounds: Volumes I, II, and III.

The phone number for CERI is (513) 569-7562. However, there are a limited number of copies available free of charge. After their supplies are exhausted, these documents can be purchased from the National Technical Information Service at (703) 487-4650.

Q. The drums that have been located and not sure of what is in them, could it be that because it is buried, that it has to be something in the drums that is harmful to the environment?

A. At this point there are only historical accounts of buried drums in the landfills from employees and former Base personnel. Prior to the passage of environmental regulations it was a common practice to bury all kinds of waste in shallow landfills, both hazardous and common household materials. Drums that were reportedly buried in the landfills on the Base may be empty or may contain materials that could impact the environment. Currently geophysical surveys (using metal detection instruments) are being used at several sites to attempt to locate buried metals. If buried drums are located, a site study will be conducted to identify what is in the drums and whether it is harmful to the environment.