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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND PRESENTATION SLIDES 5
DECEMBER 1996 NCBC GULFPORT MS
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NCBC GULFPORT

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Minutes
NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting
December 5, 1996
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
6:40 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board met in the Building 1 Conference Room at NCBC Gulfport on December 5, 1996.

Gordon Crane
Edie Dreher
Joe Halasz
Art Holzweissig
Retha Longmire

Skip McDaniel
Carolyn Rushing
William Spalding
CDR Zink

In addition, the following guests were welcomed from the community:

Arshad Bahl
Diane Glass
Rex Hansen
Terese Keesee
Ralph Kelly
Ruth Lizana

Kenneth Marsh
Han Maung
Dan Owens
Ralph Revere
Anita Saujon
Steve Scavone

Support personnel attending the meeting included:

Penny Baxter, ABB Environmental Services
Nancy Brooks, NCBC Gulfport
Art Conrad, Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Marland Dulaney, ABB Environmental Services
Nancy Rouse, ABB Environmental Services

Welcome: CDR Zink welcomed the RAB and guests and opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of RAB Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the November RAB meeting were accepted as written.

RAB Charter: The RAB charter, developed during the October RAB meeting, was signed by all present members.

Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Update: Art Conrad and Gordon Crane provided an update on the IRP as summarized below:

- Terraprobe sampling began during the week of December 2. A total of 60 samples will be collected, beginning with Site 5, followed by Site 1. The location of the sites was reviewed by referring to the base map.
- The Groundwater Monitoring Plan was reviewed by interested RAB members and will be submitted to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MSDEQ) on December 20, 1996.
- The Exposure Assessment Report is on temporary hold while funding issues are being resolved.
- The Administrative Order workplans are currently being reviewed by the MSDEQ.
- The first permanent sediment recovery trap (SRT) has been installed on the base. Sediment on either side of the traps will be sampled to confirm the effectiveness of the SRTs.

Exposure Assessment Results: Dr. Marland Dulaney provided an overview of preliminary exposure assessment results. He explained that the survey was conducted from September 5 through October 12, 1996 and that over 1700 homes were visited and 818 questionnaires completed. The survey identified that there is concern about environmental issues in the community, but the residents are not fully informed about the RAB and the Seabee Center's environmental programs and they want to learn more. The survey also documented fishing and fish eating activities in the community, but there are some inconsistencies in the responses that indicate that eating of caught fish may be more common than reported. The survey also identified that residents are concerned about contamination, but their biggest concern about the ditches is the presence of snakes and debris.

Dr. Dulaney stated that the survey was not designed to determine if people have been exposed to dioxin. Future studies, on and off-base sampling and biological monitoring, will tell us if anything is out there. To have an exposure, a receptor (a person or animal) must have a way to come in contact with a contaminant.

Q: Will any of the fish be tested?

A: Yes, as part of the biological monitoring program. The exposure assessment will allow us to evaluate where additional study is needed.

Q: Is it safe to eat fruit and vegetables from our gardens?

A: Yes. Dioxin does not dissolve in water, therefore it is not taken up in plants. However, it is always a good idea to wash your vegetables before you eat them.

Q: Where did the survey take place?

A: The survey was conducted in all directions around the base, within a one-mile radius.

Q: What about our water, is it contaminated?

A: The city water is safe. Public drinking water is drawn from deep wells and is routinely tested as required by law.

Q: What about Long Beach water, it's not fluoridated?

A: The safety of water is not related to fluoridation. Long Beach is also on a public drinking water system which is subject to testing, therefore you can be confident that it is safe to drink.

Q: What about water on the base?

A: Water on the base is also clean. It is drawn from deep wells on-base and subjected to the same drinking water testing as any public drinking water system.

Q: Why do you want us to wash our vegetables? Does that mean that there is dioxin in the air?

A: The washing has to do with fertilizer on the ground.

Q: Why did you ask questions about plants being difficult to grow?

A: Some plants, such as tomato plants, are very sensitive to herbicides. Difficulty in growing certain plants could help us target further studies.

Q: Have private water wells been checked?

A: No, but dioxin bonds to soil, not to water, therefore we don't expect to find contamination in the water beneath the ground.

Q: Then why are you planning to sample the groundwater?

A: The groundwater monitoring plan is being implemented to ensure that water beneath the ground (groundwater) is safe. The Navy is testing groundwater so that they can be confident that your health and safety are protected.

Q: Where can you get information about health risk data?

A: [Gordon Crane offered to work directly with the community member to identify sources for health risk data.]

Q: Do you recommend that I get someone on my own to investigate my land?

A: No. The testing is extremely expensive and there may be no reason to test. We recommend that you wait for the government's results.

Q: How long will that be?

A: Preliminary results will be available sometime in the spring.

Q: What about the Methyl Parathion issue currently on the Gulf Coast (but not related to NCBC Gulfport)?

A: The exterminating companies using the insecticide were using it 100 times stronger than indicated as well as inside, rather than outside, as recommended.

Q: Does it affect genes?

A: No, but it can affect the brain. There are many instances of death associated with Methyl Parathion pesticides. They are extremely toxic for humans. We will be presenting a two-part toxicology training sometime next year which will help you understand how toxins affect the human body.

Conclusion: Next month's meeting will be held on January 9, 1997, at a yet undetermined location off-base. The topics will include a review of 1996 activities and a repeat of Bob Fisher's presentation on the Administrative Order workplans.

The meeting closed at 7:50 p.m.

***Naval Construction Battalion
Center (NCBC) Gulfport***

***Community Survey and
Assessment Results***

December 6, 1996

Survey Statistics

- ◆ Survey from September 5 through October 12, 1996
- ◆ 70 team-days during survey
- ◆ Over 1,700 homes visited
- ◆ 818 questionnaires completed
- ◆ Over 40% response rate

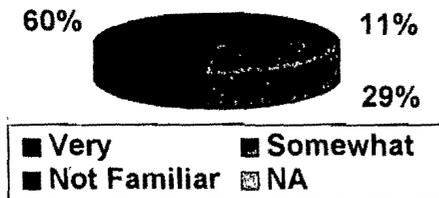
General Areas Covered

- ◆ NCBC environmental programs
- ◆ Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) effectiveness
- ◆ Fishing activity
- ◆ Direct contact in ditches
- ◆ Neighborhood environmental concerns
- ◆ Gardening
- ◆ Private water wells
- ◆ Other surveys in the area

NCBC Environmental Programs

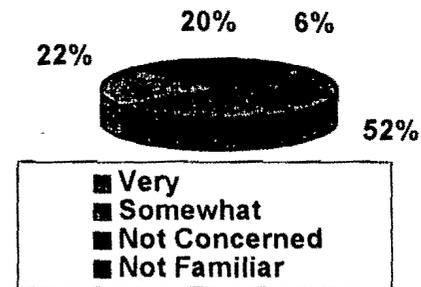
◆ 2: How familiar are you with the environmental cleanup efforts at the Seabee base?

- very familiar (87)
- somewhat familiar (233)
- not familiar (496)
- not applicable (1)



◆ 3: How concerned are you about environmental cleanup efforts at the Seabee base?

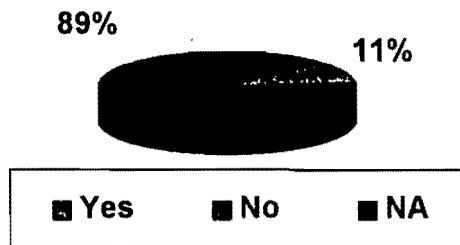
- very concerned (428)
- somewhat concerned (176)
- not concerned (160)
- not familiar (49)



██████ *RAB Effectiveness*

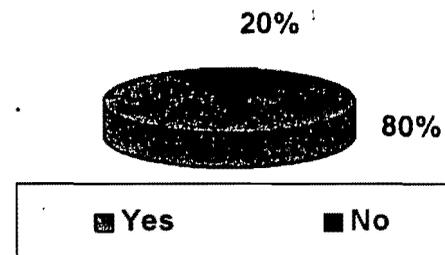
◆ 4: Have you heard about the Seabee base's Restoration Advisory Board or RAB?

- yes (92)
- no (723)
- not applicable (1)



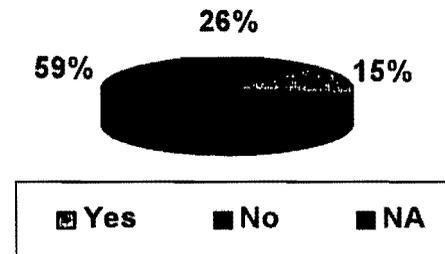
◆ 6: Would you like to learn more about the RAB and its function in the environmental cleanup process?

- yes (651)
- no (166)



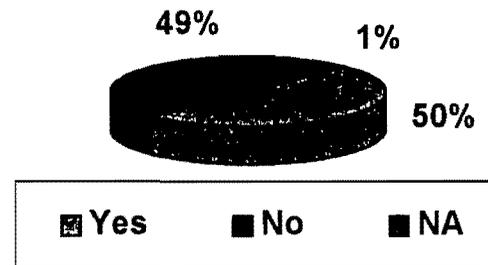
████████ *Fishing Activity*

- ◆ Identified 36 families that fish
- ◆ Only 8 families consumed the fish
- ◆ 33: Do people from outside of your neighborhood fish in the canals or ditches?
 - yes (116)
 - no (473)
 - not applicable (211)
 - other (21)



██████ *Direct Contact in Ditches*

- ◆ Thirty-eight families play, swim, or wade in ditches.
- ◆ 42: Have you seen other children or anyone else play, swim, or wade in the ditch system?
 - yes (398)
 - no (389)
 - not applicable (11)



Neighborhood Environmental Concerns

- ◆ Most common answer for concerns about eating the fish is “unsafe” or “something in the fish.”
- ◆ Most common answer for concerns about children playing in the ditches is “snakebite.”

Gardening Exposure

- ◆ Survey identified 71 families with vegetable gardens.
- ◆ Almost all washed the vegetables before eating.
- ◆ Only 19 said they had trouble growing a certain type of vegetable or plant.

Private Water Wells

- ◆ Survey identified 51 private water wells.
- ◆ 10 for consumption
- ◆ 19 for irrigation

Other Surveys

- ◆ Survey identified 31 families who participated in other surveys.
- ◆ 10 were duplicate surveys
- ◆ Radio station, police, and housing authority (Ladner Homes)
- ◆ Approximately 15 others surveyed by unknowns

██████ *What Did We Learn?*

- ◆ Neighborhood concerns and education
- ◆ Confirms potential exposure routes
- ◆ Other information

Neighborhood Education

- ◆ There is concern in the neighborhood but people are interested in learning more.
- ◆ 89% did not know about the RAB.
- ◆ 82% want to learn more about cleanup efforts.
- ◆ 79% joined the RAB mailing list.
- ◆ We have an opportunity to reach out and educate the public about what we're doing.

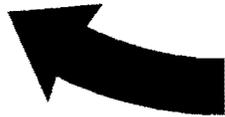
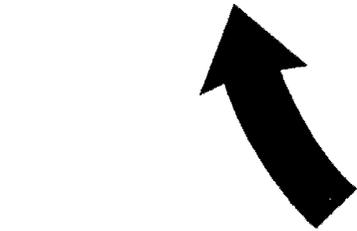
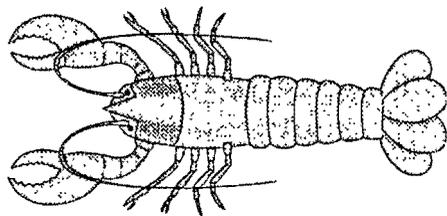
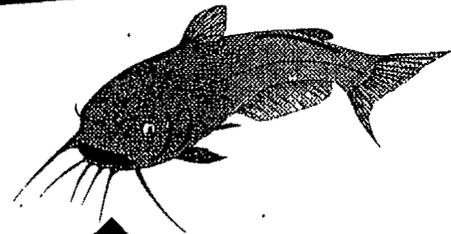
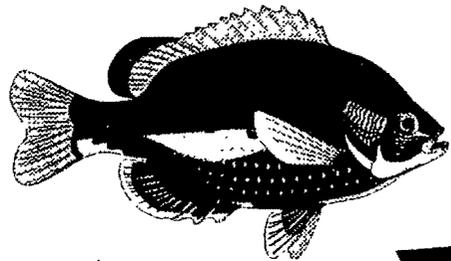
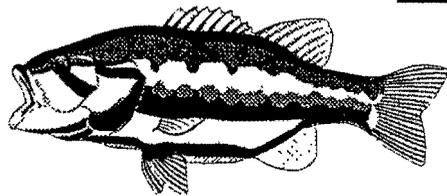
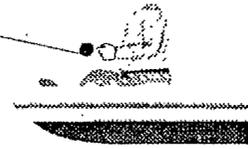
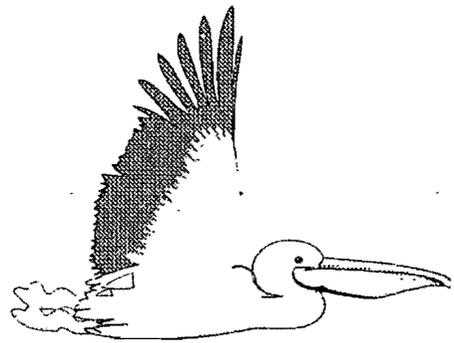
Fishing Exposure

- ◆ Survey underestimates fishing activity and consumption patterns.
- ◆ Biological monitoring plan will need to monitor this activity closer.
- ◆ Few residents expressed concerns about dioxin in the fish.

Direct Contact Exposure

- ◆ Survey underestimates direct contact exposures.
- ◆ Biological monitoring plan will need to monitor this activity closer.
- ◆ Some residents expressed concerns about contamination.
- ◆ Many residents expressed concerns about snakes and debris in the drainage system.

Just because there is a potential receptor pathway, it does not mean that an exposure occurs!



██████ *Other Information*

- ◆ We know there were other surveys in the neighborhood.
- ◆ Environmental attorneys in the neighborhood
- ◆ Some gardening activity
- ◆ More water wells than expected
- ◆ Other comments from the RAB