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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 7 DECEMBER 2001 NCBC
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Gulfport, Mississippi

NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi
December 7, 2000
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board met at the Gulfport Harrison County Public Library in Gulfport, Mississippi, on December 7, 2001:

CDR Mark Ashley,
Gordon Crane
Joseph Ford
Joe Halasz
Art Holzweissig
David Marshall

Skip McDaniel
Ron Schmidting
Joyce Shaw
Philip Shaw
Earl Whittemore

Support personnel attending the meeting included:

Art Conrad, Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Bob Fisher, TetraTech
Nancy Rouse, TetraTech Subcontractor

Other parties attending included: Lt. Janine Avant (NCBC Gulfport), Ensign Legena Briest (NCBC Gulfport), Don Ficklen (AFCEE), David Hadden (Informatics Team), Mike Hawkins (AFCEE), and Wes Layton (AFSCEE)

Cherie Schulz attended as an interested community member.

Welcome: Gordon Crane opened the meeting at 6:38 pm and made welcoming comments and introductions. CDR Mark Ashley, NCBC Gulfport's Executive Officer, was introduced as the newest member of the RAB. Each of the support staff and RAB members were introduced. It was noted that the investigation contract is now being conducted by Tetra Tech NUS with Bob Fisher acting as the project manager.

Agreed Order and Installation Restoration Program (AO/IR) Update: Art Conrad presented the following information as part of the AO/IR Update.

Groundwater Investigation: The latest groundwater studies at Site 7 are complete. The investigation showed no evidence of dioxin contamination. However, dichloromethane, a volatile organic compound (VOC) was found in some sample locations.

Off-Site Brownfields Program: A Brownfields Program is being initiated on off-site properties where dioxin was found. This program will not only clean up site, but will also provide legal protection for landowners.

Biological Monitoring: Preliminary results were presented in three Public Availability Sessions on August 2 and August 3, 2000. Remediation goals for dioxin (based on the biological monitoring) were identified in meetings with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MSDEQ). The report, entitled *The Human Health Risk Assessment and Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment of Dioxins and Furans Associated with Former Herbicide Orange Storage* is in review at the MSDEQ.

Remediation of Site 8: An engineering study (called a Feasibility Study) is being conducted to determine the best way to manage soils containing dioxin. The most likely cleanup process will involve excavating contaminated soil from ditches on and off base and returning the soil to Site 8. Site 8 will then be covered with a material that is strong enough to support the storage of heavy equipment. Soil tests are being conducted to help the engineers design a cover that is capable of supporting heavy equipment. The final cleanup decision will consider concerns if voiced by the community.

Site 6: The Site 6 maintenance and re-evaluation study has been completed. Additional work at Site 6 will begin this year.

Sites 5: Plan of Action (POA) for the Remedial Investigation (RI) at Site 5 has been finalized. The RI will begin when funding is made available.

Environmental Program Update: Bob Fisher presented an overall update on the environmental program, focusing on the Feasibility Study that is currently underway.

Focused Feasibility Study (FFS): An overview of the Installation Restoration Program process was provided to show how the FFS fits into the overall process. Mr. Fisher explained that the ongoing "bench-scale" and "pilot-scale treatability studies are part of the FFS. The bench-scale studies test the viability of different options and eliminate ideas that will not work. Pilot-scale studies test the best ideas in the field. At the Seabee Center, the bench-scale studies determined the best way to stabilize soils at Site 8. The pilot-scale study is being conducted to determine the most effective field methods. The next step after the FS is a Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan is presented to the community for public comments. A Record of Decision, Remedial Design, and Remedial Action (the actual cleanup) will be completed during 2001 and 2002.

Brownfields Program: The Brownfields program will include a Brownfields site evaluation, a risk evaluation, and a corrective action plan followed by cleanup and restoration of the contaminated properties.

Installation Restoration Program: The Site 4 RI is being planned. The study will address volatile organic compounds found in groundwater during the earlier groundwater studies. Site 5 will also undergo an RI. The cleanup system at Site 6 (for removing the subsurface petroleum product) has been evaluated. A plan for completing the cleanup, called a closure plan, is being discussed.

Questions and Answers: Some of the questions and responses are summarized below.

How well will the sediments withstand being used as subgrade for such a heavy cap?

The addition of cement kiln dust will act as binding agent; also, tests will be performed on the subgrade mixture to make sure it would not break down under the cap.

Will this sub grade would be considered "soil cement?"

It would not. Technically it would be identified as a cement-modified soil - which is quite similar.

What about the city tree ordinance? Are you taking the ordinance into consideration?

Trees will not be removed during the pilot-scale, although it would be unavoidable during full-scale operations later. I added that the tree ordinance was included in the Remedial Guidance Document, and would be followed.

What about any wetlands issues?

No wetlands will be impacted during the pilot scale study. However, during full-scale operations, the wetlands issues will be revisited.

Election of New Community Co-Chair

Nancy Rouse presented a proposal for the selection of the new community co-chair, then opened the discussion up to the floor. The community members decided that they wanted to take nominations for the co-chair position at the meeting and take the vote there. The presence of a quorum was questioned, and it was decided that a quorum was present. It was also decided that an alternate co-chair would be selected so that a community co-chair could always be present at the meetings. Skip McDaniel was selected as the Community Co-Chair. David Marshall was selected as the Alternate Community Co-Chair.

Conclusion

A RAB member requested that the meetings be changed to Tuesday nights so that she could attend. The RAB voted to change the meeting to Tuesday night. The next meeting is scheduled to be a Public Availability Session to be held on March 6, 2001.

The meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.