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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 13 JANUARY 2004 NCBC
GULFPORT MS
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NCBC GULFPORT



Gulfport, Mississippi

Minutes
NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi
January 13, 2004

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at Isiah Fredericks Community Center on January 13, 2004:

JoAnn Casey
Gordon Crane
Edie Dreher
Joseph Ford
David Hansen
Marie Hansen
David Marshall

Bob Merrill
Skip McDaniel
Ron Schmittling
Cherie Schulz
Joyce Shaw
Philip Shaw

NCBC Gulfport Administrative Record
Document Index Number

39501 - GENERAL
13.03.00.0058

Administrative and technical support for the meeting were provided by:

Art Conrad (Naval Facilities Engineering Command)
Robert Fisher (Tetra Tech NUS)
Mike Hawkins, Air Force (AF) Public Affairs
Nancy Rouse, Navy Community Relations

Other attendees included:

Mary Ann Carmack
Floyd Daniel
Joe Ebert (AF)
David Hadden (AF)
Rufus Johnson
Helen Jones
Belinda Head
Richard Marl

Jim McClain (AF)
Joseph Mitchell
Donna Nicholls
Jean Remley (NCBC Gulfport)
Beverly Rowell
Flowers White
Kenneth White

Poster Session

Prior to the RAB meeting an informal 30 minute poster session was held to provide background information about the Herbicide Orange investigation at NCBC Gulfport.

Welcome

Skip McDaniel, the RAB Community Co-Chair, opened the RAB meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed the meeting attendees.

Administrative Order and Installation Restoration Program Update

Art Conrad, the Navy's Remedial Project Manager, provided an overview of the Navy's environmental cleanup programs at NCBC Gulfport. Key points in the update are summarized below:

Remediation of Site 8 (Former Herbicide Orange Storage Area)

- A Remedial Design for the cleanup and capping of Site 8 has been developed and is in review. This plan excavates contaminated material from the ditches both on and off base, landfills and mixes the contaminated material with cement on Site 8 (on base), and covers the 13 acre site with a roller-compacted concrete cap.
- Approximately half the funds needed have been secured from the Air Force for the cost of the remedial work.
- A contract has been negotiated with Environmental Chemical Corporation to accomplish the remedial work.
- The on- and off-site field work is scheduled to begin in October or November 2004 pending approval of the Remedial Design and Decision Document.

Off-Site Cleanup Associated with Site 8

- The Brownfields Program has received state acceptance.
- Required documents (Characterization Report and Corrective Action Plan) have been forwarded to MDEQ. These documents are on hold waiting for a Brownfields Ecological Risk Assessment.
- A contract has been awarded to accomplish the Brownfield Ecological Risk Assessment.

Site 8 Funding

- The Air Force and Navy have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to facilitate the remainder of the Site 8 cleanup.
- The Navy maintains control of the cleanup with the Air Force providing funding over the next 4 years.

Site 10: PCB Removal Site

- Remedial actions were taken at Site 10 in 1999 to remove the source of PCB contamination.
- A Remedial Investigation Workplan has been approved and the investigation work began in December 2003.

Site 6: Former Firefighter Training Area

- An enhanced bio-slurper system is still in operation.
- A workplan has been prepared to sample and review the status of the operation. MDEQ is reviewing the document.

Site 5: Former Landfill

- A Remedial Investigation of the site is complete and a draft report was prepared but is on hold pending a reassessment of ecological risks at the site.
- A Feasibility Study is funded and preparation will begin after RI approval.

Site 4: Former Landfill

- A Remedial Investigation Workplan for Site 4 has been prepared and is in review at MDEQ.

Update on Public Health Assessment Activities

Gordon Crane added information about further samples suggested by ATSDR and follow-on neighborhood samples that were collected in response to requests by RAB and community members. Mr. Crane explained that nine Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) samples have been collected along the north fence line. These samples were collected because analytical results from one earlier neighborhood dioxin sample were similar to results from past samples where PCBs were found. Sample locations were determined after discussions with former base employees indicated the former presence of a transformer storage area on base. A dioxin sample was also collected in one of these locations.

Three additional samples will be collected in early 2004. One sample will be collected on Papania Lane to look for any contamination that may have moved off-base via sheet flow during storm events. Two more samples will be collected in piles of dirt west of Canal Road that are believed to have been dredged from adjacent ditches. A composite sample (i.e., a sample blended from soil from several locations within the pile) will be collected to give the most complete information possible about the pile. This site was selected because it may give us some insight into historical concentrations of dioxin in the ditches.

Question: A resident stated that he lives on South Boulevard and there are a number of cancer cases along that road.

Answer: Gordon Crane responded that the Seabee Center was made aware of the cancer cases by Marie Hansen and that samples were collected in response to those concerns. One soil sample was collected as a composite along South Boulevard and additional soil and sediment samples were collected in the immediate neighborhood. Tap water samples were also collected in the neighborhood for full-suite analyses (including dioxin and Safe Drinking Water constituents). Dioxin concentrations in the soil and sediment samples were below concentrations determined to be safe by MDEQ. The tap water samples contained no dioxin or other constituents of concern.

Question: Didn't the Navy spray Herbicide Orange along the NCBC Gulfport fenceline?

Answer: Gordon Crane responded that there were several reports of spraying along the fenceline and that the Seabee Center had further investigated these reports as part of the research into the cause of the reported tree defoliating in the early 1970's. In one of the public comments received for the Proposed Plan for the dioxin cleanup, a community member had suggested that the defoliation may have been caused by the spraying of Herbicide Orange or some other herbicide to kill weeds along the fenceline. Samples collected along the fenceline did not show elevated levels of dioxin. However, as pointed out by a community member in the audience, dioxin attaches to soil particles, and over time, the surface soil would likely have been washed by heavy rain into the ditches. The community member further stated that she would like to see the responsible government agency (ATSDR) collect blood samples to determine there was exposure to dioxin due to exposure in the past.

A RAB member added that the Papania Lane ditch had been cleaned out so many times that a sample collected now would not be a good indication of the potential for past exposure to dioxin.

Additional Sample Locations

Bob Fisher of Tetra Tech NUS further discussed the rationale for selecting the newest sample locations along the fenceline (northeast corner of base) near Papania Lane and in the area formerly used to store PCB-containing transformers. In total there were 10 PCB samples collected and 1 dioxin sample (collected across the street from the Hair Pin Beauty Salon).

The preliminary results of these samples have been received by Tetra Tech and indications are that no dioxins or PCBs were found above any screening levels.

Mr. Fisher described two additional sampling areas (for dioxin only) that will be assessed in early February. These areas include:

1. Dredged sediment piles from Canal No. 1 placed along the west side of Canal Road, approximately 500 feet north of 28th Street. These sediments have a high likelihood of representing sediment conditions in Canal No.1 at the time of ditch maintenance, assumed to be the late 1980's. There will be two vertically composited soil samples collected at this location.
2. A sediment sample from the Papania Lane ditch will be collected from an older portion of the channel that has not had repeated excavations/maintenance.

Mr. Fisher then discussed the map representing soil and sediment sampling locations throughout the base and surrounding community. Mr. Fisher described the rationale for the collection of over 400 samples to date. He outlined the distinct drainage basins and surface water flow that determined where contaminated sediment was transported and deposited.

Comment: A RAB member requested that we prepare a sample map that somehow depicted the dioxin concentrations found using contours or other graphical methods?

Response: Mr. Fisher stated that a map like that had been developed and presented at earlier RAB/PAS meetings, and that it would be presented again.

Question: A community member asked if we had anyone else collect samples.

Response: Mr. Fisher stated that he and his company are independent contractors and that many qualified people in the company have examined the rationale and conclusions presented to date. In addition, state and federal regulators review and approve each step of the remedial process.

MDEQ has also collected "split samples" and different companies have collected, analyzed, and validated the sample results.

RAB Membership

RAB member suggested that we follow the guidelines established in the charter and develop a slate of applicants from which the new members will be selected. New members will be selected at the next RAB meeting. Members who have not been attending the meetings will be contacted in the interim and asked if they would like to remain on the RAB.

Conclusion

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on April 6, 2004. (The date was subsequently changed to April 13, 2004).

Topics proposed for the next meeting include a presentation by the cleanup contractors who will be implementing the cleanup remedy; a discussion of clean water issues, including a review of the sediment recovery traps; presentation of any new validated sample results; and selection of the new RAB members.

The RAB meeting adjourned at 8:00.