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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 13 APRIL 2004 NCBC GULFPORT  
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4/13/2004  
NCBC GULFPORT



Gulfport, Mississippi

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

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

JoAnn Casey  
Gordon Crane  
Edie Dreher  
Marie Hansen  
David Marshall

Bob Merrill  
Skip McDaniel  
Cherie Schulz  
Ron Schmidting  
Joyce Shaw

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Administrative and technical support for the meeting were provided by:

Jason Brown (Tetra Tech NUS)  
Art Conrad (Naval Facilities Engineering Command)  
Bob Fisher (TTNUS)  
Mike Hawkins, Air Force (AF) Public Affairs  
Prashant Khanna, ECC  
Nancy Rouse, Navy Community Relations

Other attendees included:

Howard Edwards  
Daniel Floyd Jr.  
David Hadden, (AF)  
Belinda Head  
Betty Hope

Joan Lindh  
Joseph Mitchell  
Donna Nicholls  
Robert Simonson (NCBC Gulfport)

## **Welcome**

Skip McDaniel, the RAB Community Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 6:40 pm.

## **Public Health Assessment Update**

Skip read a status report submitted by Scott Sudweeks of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The report stated that ATSDR has made significant progress towards completing the NCBC Gulfport Public Health Assessment. ATSDR is currently evaluating situations where people may have come into contact with dioxin. They are also addressing a number of community health concerns regarding NCBC that were expressed during their public meetings held in October 2003. ATSDR anticipates having a draft public health assessment report ready for public comment this summer (2004) and, if requested, will be available to come to a future RAB meeting to present their findings and answer questions about the Public Health Assessment. Availability of the public comment draft will be announced by press release. Copies will be sent to local information repositories and will be mailed to the RAB.

## **New Neighborhood Sample Results**

Bob Fisher of Tetra Tech NUS (TiNUS) presented the results of the latest round of sampling completed north of the Seabee Base. Bob reported that three additional samples, numbered 18, 19, and 20, were collected.

Sample 18 was collected in a ditch near Papania Lane. The location for Sample 18 was chosen because that portion of the ditch system appeared to be undisturbed (i.e., it looked as if it had not been "mucked out" over the years). Because dioxin does not readily move in the environment, the sample was collected with the hope of gaining information about historical dioxin levels in the ditch system. However, the sample result indicated that only 1.2 parts per trillion (ppt) of dioxin was present.

Samples 19 and 20 were collected from a pile of dirt just west of Canal 1. It is believed that the dirt in the piles was excavated from Canal 1 sometime between 1970 and 1974. Because dioxin would not be expected to break down over time, sampling of the piles would be yet another indication of historical dioxin levels. Two composite samples were collected from each of three layers within the piles. Sample 19, collected slightly closer to the base, contained 23 ppt dioxin of which almost 70 percent was TCDD (the dioxin of Herbicide Orange). Sample 20 was collected immediately north of Sample 19. Sample 20 contained 1.9 ppt dioxin. Additional sampling will be conducted to further investigate the findings in the dirt piles.

**Question:** How much volume are we talking about (in the piles from which Samples 19 and 20 were collected)?

**Answer:** We will not know until we collect further samples. However, we do know that the piles are extensive.

**Question:** How much degradation would you expect?

**Answer:** Degradation of dioxin is extremely slow. Samples collected at Times Beach and stored for 25 years showed little degradation over time. We would expect the dioxin concentrations in the piles to be almost unchanged from when the dirt piles were created.

**Question:** Were these samples collected in the Brownfield's area.

**Answer:** No, the samples were collected in an area west of Canal Road. The Brownfields area is east of Canal Road.

**Question:** What is the action level for dioxin in the area of the dirt piles?

**Answer:** Because this is not a Brownfields area, residential numbers would apply. During initial screening of the site, the value of 4.26 ppt would be used. If significant contamination is found, the actual cleanup value would be determined by a risk assessment.

**Question:** What dioxin levels are we finding in the canal?

**Answer:** The levels in the canal are low. No levels greater than 4 ppt have been found.

## Preliminary Cleanup Plans

Prashant Khanna of ECC, project manager for the Site 8 remediation contract, provided an overview of their plans for completing the dioxin cleanup. He described the following nine steps in the cleanup, all of which are subject to workplan approval:

1. Complete a bench scale study to work out the final cleanup details;
2. Develop work plans for the full-scale cleanup that will include a Health and Safety Plan, a Quality Control Plan, a Sampling and Analysis Plan, a Waste Management Plan, and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan;
3. Mobilize personnel and equipment to the site and set the site up for operations. Set-up includes building sediment recovery traps, clearing vegetation, constructing access roads, building temporary construction facilities and gaining utility clearances;
4. Conduct a field-scale demonstration to work out any wrinkles in the cleanup process;
5. Conduct the full-scale cleanup;
6. Sample and test to determine that quality and completeness of the project;
7. Backfill and restore the areas from which soil and sediment was excavated;
8. Roller compact the concrete cap; and
9. Restore the impacted wetlands.

**Question:** How large will the cap be?

**Answer:** The cap will cover 13 acres. It will be five feet high at the highest point.

**Question:** Will you pump water out of the swampy area? If so, what will you do with the water?

**Answer:** Yes, water will be pumped out of the swampy area directly into tanker trucks.

**Question:** What is your cleanup level off base?

**Answer:** The cleanup level is 38 ppt.

**Comment from RAB Member:** So the area being remediated will never be used as residential property?

**Response from Bob Merrill, MDEQ:** Yes, the property is being cleaned under the Brownfields program and it will always be industrial.

## Possible Topics for July Meeting

The RAB proposed the following possible topics for the July meeting:

1. Remedial Design update.
2. Status of the Public Health Assessment

## Conclusion

The RAB decided to change the standard meeting dates to the second Tuesday of each quarter. The next meeting will be held on July 13, 2004.

The meeting closed at 8:20 to allow the RAB community members to select new members from that prepared slate of candidates.

**RAB Member Selection**

Belinda Head and Joseph R. Mitchell, MD were selected as the newest board members by consensus of all present community RAB members.

End.