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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 12 JULY 2005 NCBC GULFPORT  
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7/12/2005  
NCBC GULFPORT

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Gulfport, Mississippi

**Minutes**  
**NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting**  
**Naval Construction Battalion Center**  
**Gulfport, Mississippi**  
**July 12, 2005**

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at Isiah Fredericks Community Center on July 12, 2005:

Gordon Crane	Joseph Mitchell
Edie Dreher	Cherie Schulz
Marie Hansen	Ron Schmidtling
Belinda Head	Joyce Shaw
David Marshall	Phillip Shaw
Skip McDaniel	

Administrative and technical support for the meeting were provided by:

Bob Fisher, Tetra Tech NUS  
Mike Hawkins, Air Force Public Affairs  
Jean Remley, NCBC Gulfport Public Affairs  
Joe Shaiman, Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC)

Other attendees included:

Paul Francis (ECC)	Ganesh Subramaimam (ECC)
Howard Page	Patricia Spinks

### **Welcome**

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

### **Administrative Order/Installation Restoration Program Update**

Gordon Crane provided the following overview of activities currently underway at NCBC Gulfport:

#### ***Remediation of Site 8***

Project scope includes the design and implementation of a plan to sample, delineate, remove, transport, stabilize, and cap contaminants associated with Site 8. Work includes clearing, excavating, transporting, and stabilization of contaminated sediments both on and off base and covering with a concrete cap capable of providing support for heavy equipment lay-down area.

- Site preparation, permitting and ash consolidation is complete along with drainage around the site. A pilot study proving strength and leach ability of stabilized material is complete. All of 8A is prepared and has received excavated material. Contaminated material is mixed with cement, compacted and solidified in "lifts" layered across the site. Most of the 8A now has 4 lifts and some areas have 5.
- Excavation of both off-site and on-site contaminated material is just over 50% complete.
- Sampling off-site in a residential area along Canal Rd identified dioxin contamination slightly above residential levels. Work to characterize the Canal Rd area, outfalls 4 & 5 and Site 8B and 8C is underway.
- The current project runs through August 2005. The project is estimated at about 50% complete. The site may take longer to complete based on the results of current sampling of Canal Rd, outfalls 4 & 5, and Site 8B & 8C.

**Site 10**

- Remedial actions were taken at Site 10 in 1999 to remove the source of PCB contamination.
- A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study have been submitted to MDEQ.

**Site 6**

- An enhanced bio-slurper system is still in operation but is nearing the end of productive removals.
- Site evaluation including well sampling this past June and again in August for presentation to MDEQ and closure reporting is planned for Sept 05.

**Site 5**

- A Remedial Investigation of the site is complete and a draft report is in review.
- A Feasibility Study is underway.

**Site 4**

- A Remedial Investigation is in progress.

**Wetlands Restoration Committee Report**

In response to community concern expressed during the April 2005 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, a Wetlands Restoration Committee was formed to review NCBC Gulfport's plans to restore wetlands north of the base upon completion of dioxin cleanup activities. Committee members include Mr. George Ramseur of the Nature Conservancy, Ms. Patricia Spinks, an unaffiliated environmentalist, Mr. Howard Page of the Sierra Club, Mr. Ron Schmidting, a RAB member and professional forester, Mr. Gordon Crane, the NCBC Gulfport Installation Restoration Program Manager, and Mr. Peyton Doub, a biologist, with Tetra Tech NUS. Mr. Doub performed the wetlands delineation (i.e., outlined the boundaries of the wetland) and developed the current scheme for restoring the wetlands.

**June Meeting Conclusions**

The committee met in June to begin the process of reviewing the existing *Wetland Restoration Plan* and to address concerns associated with the plan. The committee agreed on the following points:

1. It is important to restore the area to the existing grade. The current plan calls to do this using a fine loamy sand base covered with topsoil. This approach will eliminate the need for water control structures, water diversions, or other artificial features that would require long-term maintenance.
2. Because plans to straighten and deepen Turkey Creek are unlikely to be implemented, the committee will not consider any proposed changes to Turkey Creek when assessing wetland restoration plans.

Recommendations by committee members that will be further addressed in future meetings include:

1. **Planting pond cypress in lieu of bald cypress.** Pond cypress was found on the site before cleanup activities began. Mr. Daub will investigate the availability of pond cypress planting stock.
2. **Not planting hardwoods** because they are believed to be present only because of the suppression of naturally occurring fires.
3. **Conducting prescribed burns** to simulate the historic fire cycle. It was later observed that this recommendation might not be feasible because the land is privately owned.
4. **Planting longleaf pine in lieu of slash pine.**
5. **Obtaining a custom seed mix** instead of a commercial generic mix.

Mr. Daub also noted that a revised *Wetlands Restoration Plan* would increase the amount of plant material needed because the area requiring restoration has expanded since the plan was written. Once consensus is reached on the concerns stated above, the Navy will be asked to prepare a stand-alone *Wetlands Restoration Plan*, which will be made available to the community.

Patricia Spinks, a member of the Wetlands Restoration Committee reiterated her opinion that the off-base remediation site should be populated with longleaf pine. Opposing opinions included that longleaf pines are typically not found that close to the coastline because they are intolerant of salt-laden air and that there were no longleaf pines in any nearby areas. The issue continues to be unresolved.

### **Remedial Action Update**

Mr. Joe Shaiman of ECC provided an update of the contractor's progress towards completing the dioxin remediation. Mr. Shaiman showed pictures of the challenges that they are addressing, especially managing storm water associated with the heavy rains that they have been experiencing.

A slide showing water flowing over a Sediment Recovery Trap (SRT) triggered a discussion about stormwater runoff, especially in the area of Canal Road at a culvert approximately 1800 feet north of 28<sup>th</sup> Street. RAB and other community members were concerned that people were eating fish from near the cleanup site and downstream from the SRT. They asked if stormwater samples were being collected.

Bob Fisher explained that the MDEQ was not previously concerned about stormwater samples because the water was flowing from the area where contamination had already been removed. Confirmatory samples showed that dioxin concentrations remaining in the soil are below the remedial goal (i.e., the industrial standard) and solidly below the target goal of 38 parts per trillion.

Bob Fisher stated that he would collect and archive water samples from a good storm to have on hand in the event that analysis of the samples would be advised.

*Note: The water samples have since been collected during a storm and are stored for analysis if needed.*

Patricia Spinks offered to provide a point a MDEQ point-of-contact concerning fish consumption to Gordon Crane.

*Note: A point-of-contact, Barbara Viskup of MDEQ, was subsequently provided by Ms. Patricia Spinks and Gordon Crane has since forwarded a copy of the Tier I Screening Level Fish/Sediment Sampling Results report to her for her review. The "Tier I" report summarizes the results of fish tissue sampling completed on fish captured near the base's north boundaries in 1999.*

### **Sampling Update**

Bob Fisher reported that Tetra Tech was under contract to complete the sampling along 28<sup>th</sup> Street in the vicinity of Outfall 4. Sampling is scheduled to begin during the week of August 22, 2005.

### **Next Meeting**

Community members expressed concern that an October meeting would occur after the remediation was completed. In response, an interim meeting was scheduled for August 23, 2005.

### **Conclusion**

The meeting closed at 8:00.