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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 10 JANUARY 2006 NCBC
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Gulfport, Mississippi

NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi
January 10, 2006

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church on January 10, 2006:

Art Conrad (Navy Co-Chair)
Gordon Crane
Marie Hansen
Belinda Head
David Marshall

Skip McDaniel (Community Co-Chair)
Cherie Schulz
Joyce Shaw
Phillip Shaw
Earl Whittemore

Administrative and technical support for the meeting were provided by:

Bob Fisher, Tetra Tech NUS
Jean Remley, NCBC Gulfport Public Affairs
Nancy Rouse, EnviroComs

Other attendees included:

Travis Alford (WLOX)
Penny Baxter
Patricia Battiste
A. J. Giordiano (WLOX)

Bob Holdorf
Rev. McGee
Eileen Whittemore

Welcome

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

Dioxin Cleanup Update

Bob Fisher of TTNUS provided a brief overview of progress being made on the dioxin cleanup as follows:

- Nearly all of the areas identified to have removal of sediment and soil were completed prior to the storm. There is a small area near Outfall 3 along 11th Street still to be excavated. Contaminated material has been stockpiled along the northern end of the offbase area in preparation for transportation of the material to Site 8 on base. To date, confirmation sampling results demonstrate success of removal.
- The material had been successfully solidified on Site 8 prior to the storm. Between three to five layers of cement/soil have been placed and compacted on the site. Strength testing on the soil cement shows that the material exceeds requirements for strength and leaching tests show that the dioxin is stable and not moving out of the cement. A bench-scale test on the top layer, which requires a higher strength, has also been completed.
- Removal and stabilization will resume shortly. In addition to completing the excavation and solidification of the contaminated material, restoration of the ditch systems will be completed and then final rounds of confirmation sampling will be performed.

Sampling Status Update

Canal Road Sampling

Twenty additional samples were collected for laboratory analysis to further evaluate the dirt piles along Canal Rouse – this brings the total number of 8290 (high resolution) samples from Canal Road piles to 29. Nineteen of these samples exceed the screening value of 4.26 ppt. The average concentration among these samples was 15.2 ppt dioxin, of which 50% was TCDD, the dioxin found in Herbicide Orange. Cleanup options are now being discussed with MDEQ. It is also being proposed that the cleanup be conducted as an interim removal action to speed up the process.

Q: How much material is present in the dirt piles?

A: We're waiting for our surveyors to complete a survey so that we can better assess the volumes. However, our first estimate was between 5000 and 7000 cubic yards.

Q: There is a pond near the piles. Was it tested?

A: Yes, the pond was tested. The sediment contained very low detections of less than 1 ppt dioxin.

Q: Were the fish in the pond tested for dioxin?

A: Not at this point in time. The MDEQ will determine if fish testing is needed. However, based on passed fish sampling results, we would not expect to find unsafe levels of dioxin in the fish. Fish samples collected on the other side of Canal Road, where dioxin concentrations were much higher, contained very low concentrations of non-TCDD (i.e., dioxins from other than Herbicide Orange) within MDEQ standards for safety.

Q: If we want the fish tested do we need to approach the state to request that it happen?

A: The question of fish testing will be addressed with the MDEQ. We are currently in the very early stages of the study of this area. We should also note that we do have fish sampling results from the other side of the road. Dioxin concentrations in these fish were above detection but were not above standards. Also, the dioxins were not TCDD, indicating a source other than Herbicide Orange. Further, we collected fish samples in the area of Outfall 3 which contained much higher levels of dioxin in the sediment. Even in this environment the fish were found to have very low concentrations of dioxins in their tissue.

Q: Where were the pond samples collected?

A: The samples were collected approximately 5 feet into the pond.

Q: Don't you think it would be better to collect samples right where it's being eroded?

A: No, we were looking for the location where we observed the collection of sediment from the adjacent pile, which in this case was not along the immediate edge of the pond. This gave us our best chance of finding dioxin in the pond sediment.

Q: Knowing what you know, would you eat the fish that we collected?

A: I would not hesitate to eat the fish because of dioxin concentrations. However, other contaminants, including the sewage/runoff from Katrina could make eating fish from these areas unsafe. Check with the state regarding current fishing advisories.

Q: How much effect would the incineration of dioxin-contaminated soils in the 1980's on Gulfport Lake and Turkey Creek?

A: Gulfport Lake was sampled in the mid-1990's and at that time dioxins and furans were found. However, the dioxins and furans were more likely from a different source (i.e., the contaminants were not primarily TCDD). We also sampled along the drainage system from the base towards Turkey Creek. By

the time we got to Turkey Creek here was almost no TCDD remaining in the samples. These results show indicate that the burn and the storage of Herbicide Orange had little effect in those locations.

Q: How high did the storm surge get in relation to the mounds.

A: Storm surge did reach the mounds both on the Arndt and Bennett property and on Canal Road. It is possible that it could have picked up soil from the mounds and redeposited it downstream. We are going to be collecting samples to determine if any redeposition occurred. We'll be collecting samples from several areas to determine the impact from the storm. First, we will collect sediment from Canal No. 1 between 28th Street and the Canal Road bridge. Next we will collect sediment samples from the Turkey Creek drainage basin, downstream of the Edwards property. Finally we will be collecting sediment samples from the on base ditches that drain Site 8. When the sample results are returned, we will be able to determine if there was any migration of dioxin contaminated soil or sediment caused by Katrina.

Q: I'm concerned about the areas north of the cleanup. Could the storm surge have carried contaminated material back into the neighborhoods?

A: It is possible that contaminated material could have migrated. We will be collecting samples to determine if that happened.

Q: Did we sample Turkey Creek? That's where a lot of that water settled.

A: We're going to be looking at areas closest to the known contaminated areas (i.e., the cleared area just northeast of the intersection of Canal Road and 28th Street). If the samples show that the contamination has moved, we will expand the sampling in the direction of drainage flow. Our initial sampling will include parts of the Turkey Creek drainage basin.

Q: How high was the flooding in the offsite areas?

A: The tidal surge waters flowed over the Sediment Recovery Traps. Approximately 6 to 8 feet of flooding was estimated.

A comment was made by a community member that the flooding occurred not because of runoff, but because of the tidal surge from the storm.

Sites 8B and 8C

At Sites 8B and 8C nearly 200 samples collected on grid as part of the confirmation sampling (i.e., the sampling conducted to determine if the excavation adequately removed the contaminated material from the site). The analytical results showed only one sample with a dioxin concentration higher than the the screening level of 38 ppt. The average concentration at Site 8B is 11.1 ppt and at 8C is 16.1 ppt. Site restoration options are now under discussion.

Post Katrina Sampling

A special sampling effort was undertaken after the storm to look at potential erosion and movement of dioxin contaminated soil/sediment. Samples were collected near site 8, in Canal No.1, and on Mr. Edwards property, which lies downstream from the cleanup area. Sampling will be completed this week. We will review the results from Mr. Edwards property to determine if we need to look at Turkey Creek. If we find contamination, we may need to re-excavate. We'll rework whatever needs to be reworked.

Outfalls 4 and 5

No TCDD was found at Outfalls 4 and 5. One sample contained concentration of a hepta-furan which caused the reported sample concentration above the 4.26 ppt screening level. That type of furan is often associated with transformer spills.

IR Program Update

Site 4

Funding to proceed with Site 4 is now available. The current activities include finding the boundaries of the plume of vinyl chloride and conducting a treatability study to determine if the vinyl if natural attenuation (i.e., breaking down of the material into less harmful compounds) of the plume is taking place. There have been some delays in the start up as a result of the storm.

Q: In what direction is the plume moving?

A: It is moving towards the northwest. Our delineation will focus on the western edge of the plume.

Q: How deep is the plume?

A: We believe the maximum depth is approximately 20 feet, however, we will be confirming that during this next phase of the investigation.

Q: Is there a clay layer under Site 4?

A: Yes, there is clay later at approximately 25 to 30 feet below the surface.

Site 5

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has asked us to perform additional surface soil sampling at Site 5. We will collect surface soil samples and issuing a new draft of the Remedial Investigation Report.

Site 6

The bioslurper at Site 6 was destroyed in the storm. However, reports show that the cleanup at that site may have reached its furthest practical point. The Navy will be assess the status of the Site 6 cleanup and present their findings to the state for their review.

Site 10

The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Report is currently in review by MDEQ. The Feasibility Study recommends digging up the PCBs rather than capping them in place. TTNUS will soon begin a Remedial Design for the site.

Q: Are PCBs still at the site? Weren't the original concentrations very high?

A: Yes. The Remedial Investigation reported that PCBs are present at maximum concentrations of approximately 100 ppm. Before the removal action on the PCBs, maximum concentrations of approximately 17,000 ppm were found in the soil.

Q: How deep are the PCBs?

A: The PCBs are located at depths between 3 and 20 feet.

New Navy Co-Chair

Gordon Crane, the former Navy Co-Chair of the RAB, introduced Art Conrad as the new Navy Co-Chair. Gordon remain on the RAB will continue being the local point of contact for information regarding the RAB and NCBC Gulfport's environmental cleanup efforts.

Personal Stories

Art Conrad opened the floor to discussions about the hurricane. The group shared experience from the storm, including kudos for the faith-based groups, neighbors, the power company, the Seabees, and the police patrols from Charleston, South Carolina.

Conclusion

It was decided that next meeting will be held on April 11, 2006 if we can find both a suitable location for the meeting and lodging for the out-of-town attendees.

The meeting closed at 7:45.