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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 8 AUGUST 2006 NCBC
GULFPORT MS (PUBLIC DOCUMENT)
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NCBC GULFPORT

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Gulfport, Mississippi

Minutes
NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi
August 8, 2006

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at the Crystal Inn Conference Room on August 8, 2006:

Art Conrad (Navy Co-Chair)
Joseph Ford
Marie Hansen
Belinda Head
David Marshall
Joseph Mitchell

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

Administrative and technical support for the meeting were provided by:

Gordon Crane, NCBC Gulfport
Bob Fisher, Tetra Tech NUS
Mike Hawkins, AFCEE
Joseph Shaiman, ECC
Nancy Rouse, EnviroComs

Other attendees included:

Victor Andrews
Howard Edwards
Derrick Evans
Valerie Fryou
Sharon Jenkins
Helene Fryou Hact
C. L. Hansen
Judy Hansen

Melinda Harthcock
Betty Hope
Mike Keller (Sun Herald)
Tiffany Mitchell
Mary Pabachek
Howard Page
Shanna Page
Stephanie Ragier

Otis Sanders
Glen Sandberg
John Smith
Patsy Spinks
Fred Weissinger
Eileen Whittemore
Flora Windham
Henry Windham

August 2006 RAB Meeting

The August 2006 RAB meeting was held as an informal poster session during which RAB and community members were invited to review poster displays and handouts and to speak with the cleanup project team. The two key topics were the *Status of the Dioxin Cleanup* and the *Canal Road Dredge Piles*. A previously display of the *History of Herbicide Orange at the Seabee Center* was also presented to provide historical context. Copies of the two new poster displays (which were provided as meeting handouts) are attached.



The August 8, 2006 RAB Meeting was well attended.

Comments and Concerns of Community Members

Some of the comments and concerns voiced by community members are summarized in the following bullets:

- The majority of questions and concerns were related to health issues believed by some citizens to be associated with past exposures to Herbicide Orange and/or dioxins (i.e., before and during the cleanup that occurred in the late 1980's).
- Some residents expressed concerns regarding their perception that residents of the neighborhoods directly north of the base appear to have more illnesses (cancers, birth defects, and a few rare illnesses were cited) than would normally be expected.
- A few community members requested that a public health assessment be conducted for on the long-term residents of the northern neighborhoods. While feeling comfortable with reported dioxin levels today, most felt that historical levels would never be known and the only "sure" way to know was via direct sampling of human tissue (and serum) and a thorough review of local (not county-wide or city-wide) deaths compared to a regional average.
- Several community members wanted information about the availability of funds to hire outside consultants/physicians to review health and risk-related information that has been provided over the years.
- Some community members stated that they were not confident that all of the dioxin contamination had been found and removed from the neighborhoods. Specifically, one community member stated that he believed that the southernmost portion of the dredge pile had been moved to an area near an existing landfill located on the east side of Canal Road and north of the dredge piles.
- Some community members stated that they felt that the RAB mailing list should be updated because of changes to the neighborhood.
- There were comments related to an unexplained fish kills in Canal No.1 and Turkey Creek that occurred during the 1970's.
- There was one report of a localized defoliation of trees in the neighborhood.
- Many community members commented that they preferred the poster session format over a presentation format. There were also many comments stating that they preferred the Crystal Inn over other meeting locations.

Closure

The meeting was scheduled to be held between 6:30 and 8:00 pm. However, community members began arriving at 6:00 pm and remained until 9:00 pm to discuss their concerns.

Canal Road Sampling



Dredge Pile Facts

Low levels of dioxin were found in dredge piles along Canal Road.

The average concentration of dioxin found in the dredge piles was 15 ppt. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) action level for dioxin is 4.26 ppt dioxin for areas zoned as residential.

Current plans call for removing the piles and placing them on Site 8B, a section of the Former Herbicide Storage Area that has not yet been capped.

The material would be solidified with cement and capped in a manner similar to Site 8A.

Plans for cleaning up the dredge piles will be presented to the public for comment before a cleanup begins.

Sample result showed low levels of dioxin which contained TCDD, the type of dioxin found in the Herbicide Orange which was stored on NCBC Gulfport during the Vietnam War.



Dredge pile samples were collected in a densely wooded area along the west side of Canal Road. Access to the piles was very difficult.



A sediment sample collected from a fishing pond in the area, shown in this picture, contained a low level of dioxin (2.5 ppt).

Canal Road Dredge Piles



Dredge Piles are located along the west side of Canal Road between Ladnier Homes and Turkey Creek

The Dioxin Cleanup

Excavate, Consolidate, Stabilize and Cap

- Cleanup involved excavating dioxin-contaminated soil, ash, and sediment from various locations on the base and in an off-base area north of 28th Street.
- The contaminated material was placed on the Former Herbicide Orange Storage Area (Site 8), mixed with cement, and compacted.
- A cap consisting of roller compacted concrete (RCC) is being placed on top of the solidified contaminated material. The cap is designed to prevent human contact with the stabilized soil and as an additional measure to keep contamination from moving off of the site.

1 Excavation



Contaminated material from on and off base is removed with large excavators.

2 Stabilization

Excavated material is moved to Site 8A.



The material is blended, mixed with cement, placed on Site 8A, and compacted. The resulting layers are referred to as "stabilized soil."

3 Capping



The stabilized soil is capped with roller compacted concrete (RCC).

4 Institutional Controls and Monitoring



Access to the site will be limited with land use controls.

Environmental monitoring will ensure that dioxin remains on the site.



Site 8 Cleanup



Site 8 is the Former Herbicide Orange Storage Area. The ash piles shown here were created during the incineration of dioxin-contaminated soil in the late 1980's.



One of the first steps in the cleanup project was to consolidate ash piles prior to leveling Site 8.



Dioxin-contaminated soil, ash, and sediment were staged on Site 8.



A paving machine placed two six-inch layers of concrete over the solidified material, to create a 12-inch-deep cap.



Contaminated materials were mixed with 5% Portland cement, placed onto area 8A, and compacted. The resulting layers are referred to as stabilized "soil."



The concrete was then compacted with a roller. Compaction of 98.5% or better was achieved.



Concrete testing results showed unconfined compressive strength of greater than 5000 psi and flexural strength greater than 450 psi.

Site 8 Cleanup Facts

- Nearly 100,000 tons of stabilized soil were placed under the Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) cap.
- Dioxin concentrations in the stabilized soil layers were not detectable in laboratory samples.
- Testing has shown that the RCC is exceeding all strength requirements.



Site 8 near completion.

Off-Base Cleanup



The off-base area of excavation is shown in as "areas of excavation." This photo was taken just before hurricane Katrina.



The contaminated area north of NCBC Gulfport was located in a heavily wooded wetland.



Trees from the wetland were removed and used as a base for an access road for the cleanup.

Wetland Restoration Facts

Before beginning the cleanup, wetland areas were mapped and a survey of the plants species present was completed.

Plants present in the wetland prior to the cleanup included slash pine on the periphery; bald cypress, sweet bay and red maple on the margins; and bald cypress, sweetbay, and tupelo in the inner portion of the wetlands.

The wetlands are being restored in three steps:

- 1) The site was restored to pre-cleanup elevations to encourage natural hydrological processes to resume.
- 2) Soil used to fill the wetlands were selected to encourage wetland plant growth. The soil used was medium textured top soil with 5-8% organic matter.
- 3) The wetlands will be seeded with a mixture appropriate for non-tidal marshes in the coastal plain, including native rush, bulrush, and sedge, intermixed with various native wildflowers. Later in the year, when the soil is saturated, bare root seedlings of pine, bald cypress, water tupelo, water oak, and water hickory will be planted.



Contaminated sediment was excavated from the wetlands.



Excavated material was placed in a truck and transported to Site 8 on NCBC Gulfport.