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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 4 OCTOBER 2007 SITES 8 AND 10 NCBC GULFPORT MS (PUBLIC DOCUMENT)

10/4/2007

NCBC GULFPORT

Gulfport, Mississippi

Minutes

NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting

Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi
October 4, 2007

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at The Crystal Inn on October 4, 2007:

Art Conrad (Navy Co-Chair)
Gordon Crane
Marie Hansen
Belinda Head
David Marshall
Bob Merrill
Joseph Mitchell
Skip McDaniel (Community Co-Chair)
Cherie Schulz

Administrative and technical support for the meeting were provided by:

Bob Fisher, Tetra Tech NUS
Jason Bourgeois, Tetra Tech NUS
Nancy Rouse, Tetra Tech NUS
Yarissa Martínez, Tetra Tech NUS

Other attendees included:

Jeanne St. Amant
Fred Boykin, Jr.
Lettie Caldwell
Howard Edwards
Sharon Simmons Genkins
Bob Lankford
M.O. Lawrence
Howard Page
Paula Vassey

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

Response to Public Comments: Bob Fisher of TtNUS provided an overview of the written comments received during the Public Comment Period(s) for the Canal Road Dredge Pile and Parade Field Ditch proposed cleanups. Summaries of the comments received are provided as attachments. A synopsis of the question and answer period that followed the presentation follows:

Question: Will the tailgates of the haul trucks be welded shut?
Answer: The details of the design have not been completed, but welding of the truck tailgate is typically preferred over using plastic liners in the haul trucks as a means to prevent contaminated soil from leaving the vehicles during transportation.

Question: Would they use solvents to decontaminate excavation and hauling equipment?
Answer: Solvents are typically not used for decontamination because that practice results in the generation of a waste that may then need to be handled as a hazardous waste.

Question: Are other places in the United States contaminated with dioxin?
Answer: Yes, but it should be noted that the dioxin cleanup at NCBC Gulfport would not be required if the federal EPA or other states were overseeing it.

Question: Do other states have more stringent dioxin cleanup standards?
Answer: Not at this time. Mississippi has the lowest (therefore most stringent) standards for dioxin cleanup in the United States. However, the state of Florida may adopt a more stringent standard in the future.

Comment: Miscarriages have been linked with Agent [Herbicide] Orange, and many miscarriages have occurred in the neighborhood around Canal Road.

Question: How did the dioxins get into the Canal Road Dredge Piles?
Answer: Herbicide Orange was stored in drums in Site 8A on NCBC Gulfport. Some of the drums leaked, contaminating the soil on Site 8. The soil eventually moved off of the site and into ditches during storm events. During an NCBC Gulfport stormwater management effort, the contaminated soil in the ditches was excavated and placed on alongside Canal Road.

Comment: Sampling of dioxins in Turkey Creek by other agencies show that the levels of dioxin have not decreased over time.
Response: Dioxins are very slow to degrade in the environment. There are also many sources of dioxins other than Herbicide Orange. More commonly dioxins come from burning and other human activities. We are looking specifically at the dioxin TCDD that comes from Herbicide Orange to determine the source(s) of the dioxins reported by the laboratory. As we have discussed before, when TCDD is the dominant congener in the result, Herbicide Orange is the likely source.e
Question: How long will dioxin stay in the cement?
Answer: Dioxins will bind with the cement preventing it from moving off site. Further, sediment recovery traps have been placed in the ditches leading from the site, and the trapped sediment are being tested to ensure that the dioxins are not leaving the site. The dioxins will stay in the cement as long as the cap is maintained.

Question: Will we be contaminated if another hurricane comes?
Answer: No. Removal of the piles and stabilization with cement prevents the dioxins from leaving the site in a storm event.

Question: There is a tendency of covering things up. The community wants the truth. Why have you not sampled or investigated north of 28th Street?
Answer: The area north of 28th Street has been studied using best scientific practices. Further, reports of possible areas of contamination from community members have been taken seriously and have been investigated whenever warranted. With respect to health concerns, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) performed a Public Health Assessment of the area. Their conclusions were published in a report that is available in the Information Repository located at the Gulfport Harrison County Public Library.

Question: Will there be Target Analyte List (TAL) samples collected?
Answer: We did not specify TAL samples in the Action Memo or EE/CA because the dioxins are the only known contaminant of concern. From a technical standpoint, any other persistent organic chemicals (PCB, pesticides, and herbicides) contained in the piles will be removed along with the dioxins.

Question: How long will the cement stay in place at Site 8? Is it a long term solution? Will they continuously monitor the site? What is the total acreage of the site?
Answer: Site 8 is approximately 30 acres. The dioxins are bound with the cement to stabilize the dioxin. However, whenever waste is left in place, regardless of the amount or form, long term monitoring and five years reviews are required by federal statutes. The dioxins will remain bound in the cement as long as it is maintained.

Comment: The dominant and persistent characteristics of Agent Orange are dangerous. Many veterans were exposed during the Vietnam War and when they went back home they contaminated their wife and kids.
Response: If anyone from the community feels that they have been exposed to high levels of contaminants while working for the Department of Defense, you may contact Gordon Crane who will help you direct your concerns to the right agency.

Update on Recent Sampling Near Canal Road: Jason Bourgeois of TtNUS provided a briefing of the sampling efforts and an update of the following activities. A total of 13 samples were collected at depths from 6 to 12 inches. The area of investigation is located east of Canal Road and north of 28th Street.

Question: How can you know that there are not more areas needing to be sampled?
Answer: This is a new effort and we are basing our investigation on information given by a former worker from the base. We are studying the areas where he recalls dumping the soil. However, if anyone has more or different details and is able to provide additional information please let us know.

Installation Restoration Program/Administrative Order Update: Art Conrad, the Navy Co-Chair of the RAB, provided the following overview of all of the environmental restoration projects currently underway at NCBC Gulfport:

Site 8 – The Former Herbicide Orange Storage Area: This project includes sampling, delineating, removing, transporting, stabilizing, and capping contaminants associated with Site 8. The status of the project as of the date of the meeting follows:

- Low level dioxin contaminated material was found along Canal Road.
- An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis was completed for the material found in Canal Road. The alternative selected is to remove the dioxin contaminated material from the Canal Road Dredge Piles transferring and solidifying the material in Site 8B.
- Other areas along Canal/Turkey Creek are under investigation.

Site 1 – Disaster Recovery Disposal Area: Site 1 is an inactive landfill where a mock disaster recovery training area is currently located. The landfill was used from 1942-1948. A Remedial Investigation is underway.

Site 2 – World War II Landfill: Site 2 is an inactive landfill where general refuse generated at the base was disposed. The landfill was used from 1942-1948. A Remedial Investigation is planned to begin in mid- 2008.

Site 3 – The Northwest Landfill and Burn Pit: Site 3 is an inactive landfill that was the primary disposal area from 1948-1968. A burn pit on site was used for fire-fighting training from the mid-1950's to 1966. A Remedial Investigation is underway with a report to follow.

Site 4 – Golf Course Landfill: Site 4 operated as a landfill from 1966-1972. A Remedial Investigation has just been completed and the report is in review. A Feasibility Study and a Remedial Design are being planned.

Site 5 – Equipment Training Area Landfill: The landfill located at Site 5 operated from 1972 to 1976. The site is currently used for heavy equipment training. A Remedial Investigation has completed and a report is in review. A Feasibility Study is underway and a Remedial Design is in planning

Site 6 – Fire Fighting Training Area: Site 6 contained two fire-fighting training pits which operated between 1966 and 1975. An enhanced bio-slurper system has ended productive removals. A site evaluation was presented to MDEQ, additional sampling was completed and a Decision Document which recommends site closure is in review.

Site 7 – Rubble Disposal Area: This 3-acre site reportedly received only construction rubble from 1978-1984. A Remedial Investigation is planned for mid-2008.

Site 10 – Parade Ground Ditch: PCB's were found in the ditches of the NCBC Gulfport parade ground. Remedial Actions were taken in 1999 to remove the source of PCB contamination. A Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study and a Remedial Design have been completed. Plans to remove the remaining PCB's are underway.

Conclusion

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the first week of February.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.