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NCBC GULFPORT
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MINUTES FROM 14 NOVEMBER 2006 RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING NCBC GULFPORT MS

11/14/2006

NAVFAC SOUTHEAST

Gulfport, Mississippi

Minutes
NCBC Gulfport RAB Meeting
Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi
November 14, 2006

The following members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met at The Crystal Inn on November 14, 2006:

Art Conrad (Navy Co-Chair)	Skip McDaniel (Community Co-Chair)
Gordon Crane	Cherie Schulz
David Marshall	Joyce Shaw
Bob Merrill	Philip Shaw

Administrative and technical support for the meeting were provided by:
Bob Fisher, Tetra Tech NUS
Bill Olson, Tetra Tech NUS
Jean Remley, NCBC Gulfport
Nancy Rouse, EnviroComs

Other attendees included:

Judy Dauro	Sara Koch
Susanne Davis	Patsy Spinks
Mike Keller (Sun Herald)	

Welcome
Skip McDaniel, the Community RAB Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 7:15 pm.

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: This project includes design and implementation of a plan to sample, delineate, remove, transport, stabilize, and cap contaminates associated with Site 8. Work at the site includes clearing, excavating, transporting, and stabilizing contaminated sediments both on and off base and covering with a concrete cap capable of providing support for a heavy equipment lay-down area. At the time of the meeting, excavation of material contaminated with dioxin at concentrations above 38 parts per trillion (ppt) had been completed and excavated material had been stabilized in "lifts" on Site 8A. Contamination remaining in the excavated areas was below 38 ppt. Excavated ditches on base had been restored, excavated areas off base had been filled and mulched, and seeding and planting was underway to restore the area as a wetland. Dioxin contaminated material found along Canal Road had been characterized below restricted levels and an engineering evaluation was underway which will recommend excavation and transfer to Site 8B and 8C.

Site 1: Remedial Investigation is planned to begin in March 2007.

Site 3: A Remedial Investigation is underway with a report to follow.

Site 4: A Remedial Investigation had just been completed and a report will follow.

Site 5: A Remedial Investigation was completed and a report was in preparation. A Feasibility Study was underway.

Site 6: An enhanced bio-slurper system has ended productive removal of contaminated groundwater and a site evaluation was presented to MDEQ. Additional sampling was completed and a site closure recommendation is underway.

Site 10: Remedial actions were taken at Site 10 in 1999 to remove the source of PCB contamination. A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study has been submitted to MDEQ. Final excavation is planned for mid-2007.

Site 4 (Golf Course Landfill) Investigation Update
Bill Olson of TTNUS presented an update on the Remedial Investigation (RI) at Site 4, the Golf Course Landfill which was operational between 1966 and 1972.

In 1995, as part of a base-wide groundwater sampling study, one sample at Site 4 was found to contain a chlorinated organic compound (CVOC). In 2004 a groundwater sample collected at the site showed that the CVOC was still present and that the natural degradation processes (called "natural attenuation") were not occurring at the site. A treatability study, discussed later, is being conducted to determine if natural attenuation processes could be enhanced and used as a remedy for the site.

The RI included collecting soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment samples. The soil samples collected were found to contain concentrations of arsenic which are typical for Mississippi coastal soils. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs[1]) were also detected in one sample at levels higher than MDEQ's Target Remediation Goals (referred to as TRGs).

Question: Why were the arsenic levels high?
Answer: Arsenic is a compound that occurs everywhere. Much of the arsenic contamination is the result of historical crop dusting or fertilizers. Compounds containing arsenic were used extensively in the cotton fields. Arsenic was also used in the past to kill the vines of potatoes before harvesting. Bob Merrill of MDEQ added that arsenic is not naturally occurring, but it is a common background contaminant.

Question: Could the high arsenic levels be attributed to the storage of bauxite on the base?
Answer: No, arsenic is not typically found in bauxite and samples collected during the removal of the bauxite piles did not indicate levels of arsenic higher than typically found in the region.

The groundwater assessment identified the limits of the organic solvent plume located in the southwest portion of Site 4. In addition to the solvents, one sample contained an elevated concentration of iron and another had an elevated antimony level.

[1] Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of over 100 different chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic substances like tobacco or charbroiled meat.

There were no chemicals detected in the surface water above the MDEQ Target Remedial Goals. Sediment samples identified the typically elevated concentrations of arsenic, three locations containing elevated concentrations of PAHs, and two locations containing elevated concentrations of dioxin (primarily the variety (congener) of dioxin created by burning).

The risk assessment evaluated the contaminants mentioned above that were above the MDEQ Target Remediation Goals. The human health risk assessment identified risk only for site residents using the shallow groundwater near the plume; however, a survey of shallow well use did not find residents using the shallow wells within two miles of the site. The ecological risk assessment found no risk to ecological receptors at the site.

As discussed above, the Site 4 Organic Solvent Groundwater Treatability Study was performed to determine if conditions at the site were suitable to allow naturally occurring bacteria to break down contaminants into less harmful substances. Once it was found that the site was not actively degrading the organic compounds, the next step was to determine if contaminant destroying bacteria were already present at the site, and/if present, to determine if enough organic carbon (food for the bacteria) was present and/or if inorganic elements (iron, sulfur) were working against the bacteria. This test included injecting bacteria and amendments (sodium lactate to reduce oxygen and increase hydrogen) to the groundwater and monitoring the changes in the degradation of the organic compounds.

Question: When do you expect to see the treatability study results?
Answer: We will evaluate results in December, and we anticipate seeing some progress by then.

Site 3 Investigation Update
Robert Fisher of TTNUS provided an update on the investigation at Site 3, the Northwest Landfill and Burn Pit, operated as a landfill from 1948 until the mid-1960's. The fire-fighting training pit on the site was frequently used from the mid-1950's until 1966. During that time, approximately 30,000 tons of solid waste and 130,000 gallons of waste fuels, oils, and solvents were disposed and/or burned at the site. The site is currently covered by the 16th Fairway and Green of the Pine Bayou Golf Course.

Investigations at the site have involved geophysical studies to define the boundaries of the site and to locate disposal cells; a soil gas study to map areas contaminated with volatile organics, such as gasoline and diesel as well as solvents; and direct-push sample collection with analysis in a mobile laboratory to expedite results.

Results from the current investigation include establishing the boundary of the site and identifying a plume composed of liquid wastes. These findings were incorporated into a Remedial Investigation workplan which will include completing the groundwater study and further investigating the contaminants of potential concern (COPCs).

Question and Answers
Question: I'm concerned about the unusual cases and quantities of cancers in the area.
Answer: Concerns about local cancer rates were addressed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in response to a request for a Public Health Assessment by a

community member and supported by NCBC Gulfport. ATSDR determined that the levels of dioxin in samples collected were too low to merit further involvement by that agency.

Conclusion

The next meeting will be held on February 13, 2007. [The meeting was subsequently changed to February 6, 2007.]

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.