

1D-00187

NAVAL AIR STATION MEMPHIS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

18 April 1995

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City of Millington

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Naval Air Station Memphis

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Mr. Charles F. Smith

Mr. John A. Smith

Dr. David M. Watt

BRAC Cleanup Team Members

... David L. Porter
Department of Defense

Mr. David G. Williams
EPA Region IV

Mr. Clint Willer
State of Tennessee

Adjunct Technical Advisors

Mr. Tareq Alhams

Mr. Lawson Anderson

Ms. Tonya Barker

Mr. Jack Carmichael

Mr. Jordan English

Ms. Sue Hosmer

Ms. Sue Lawley

Mr. Jim Morrison

Commander Larry Elkins

Mr. Mark Taylor

mander Rich Mason

Dear RAB Members:

On behalf of Captain Willis, I am forwarding minutes from the February 28th meeting for your information and review.

As discussed at our February meeting, one of the agenda items for our meeting on April 25th is a review of our charter as part of our one-year anniversary as a group. I have enclosed a copy of the charter. Please take a few moments to look it over and organize any thoughts you may have with respect to the board's operation (such as membership composition, chairmanship, attendance, etc.), and any changes you see necessary.

I look forward to seeing you on April 25th at Baker Community Center. As you recall, we will begin at 6:30 p.m., rather than 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for all your work over this past year as a member of this board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (803) 743-0610, or you may call Ms. Sue Hosmer, NAS Memphis Public Affairs Office, at 873-5761.

Sincerely yours,



David L. Porter
BRAC Environmental Coordinator

enclosures: Meeting Minutes
RAB Charter

Meeting Minutes
NAS Memphis Restoration Advisory Board
February 28, 1995
Baker Community Center
Millington, Tennessee

Attendees:

Mayor George Harvell
Captain T. LaMar Willis
Frieda Ellerbrook
Kenny Kelly, Sr.
Russell Neighbors
Russell Noble

David Porter
Tom Seale
John Smith
David Watt
David Williams
Clint Willer

Captain Willis welcomed everyone and opened this evening's meeting with introductions of all RAB members in attendance. He then asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the January meeting, other than his own. The minutes were accepted with Captain Willis' administrative remarks. Corrected copies of these minutes will be placed in the repository and in the library.

Captain Willis then announced that Mr. Steve Green, from EnSafe/Allen & Hoshall, would be available after the meeting to demonstrate a CD ROM database that contains information from the Environmental Baseline Survey. He also noted that this information, and the equipment to view it, will be available in the Base Transition Office, on the first floor of the headquarters building, South 1.

After reviewing the agenda for tonight's meeting, Captain Willis introduced Mr. David Williams from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the BRAC Cleanup Team status update.

Mr. Williams began by briefly reviewing the recent history of environmental investigations at Naval Air Station Memphis. He explained that the current study is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation, or RFI. Approximately a year and a half ago the cleanup team began to develop a model of the subsurface around the base because they felt that one area of greatest concern was the potential for contamination of drinking water sources, specifically in the Memphis Sand aquifer beneath the base. The main concern was contamination from solvents used to clean electronic parts and from past plating activities in the hangar referred to as North 126 (Solid Waste Management Unit, or SWMU, 7). They were also concerned about the electroplating facility at North 121 (SWMU 3).

The conceptual geological model was developed, with assistance from the U.S. Geological Survey, to get a cross section of the subsurface geology of the base. Combined with a geophysics survey, it created a three dimensional picture about how contaminants might flow under the ground. Once this was accomplished, the investigation could proceed with direct push technology in the exact zones, identified in the geological cross sections, where contaminants were likely to be located.

The cleanup team applied the information from a verification sampling investigation to make decisions about the parcels of property that were designated "gray" in the Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS: a site-by-site study of the environmental condition of each parcel of property). Gray areas are those which were not able to be categorized, due to the lack of information about any actual contamination that had occurred or lack of information about the site itself. This work is called the Gray Area Investigation. Test results are coming back from the investigation of these gray areas. Mr. Williams then introduced Mr. Clint Willer of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, who provided an update on progress to date.

Mr. Willer pointed out that the cleanup team has focused in on parcels labeled "gray" first so that these areas might be available for faster transfer or so that any contamination might be categorized, determining what further steps would need to be taken.

Direct Push Technology (DPT) was used at the six Assembly A (first priority) SWMUs. Analytical data from these studies has been gathered and analyzed. By using DPT, an on-site laboratory, and rotasonic drilling, for this portion (which began in November) Mr. Willer estimated that the work was six weeks ahead of schedule. Seventy-five monitoring wells were installed using the rotasonic drilling technique. Rotasonic drilling gave the team some good information as to what the ground looks like beneath the base, what could be expected as far as the groundwater transport of contaminants, and where problem areas might be found.

Mr. Willer also noted the Assembly B and Assembly C site investigation plans have been submitted to all regulatory agencies. He said that the Navy was continuing to submit draft plans for assemblies that are to be completed before the deadline of October 1, 1995. This is the deadline for having most of the property classified for transfer.

Mr. Willer also announced that a "fly-over" for a new map of the base has been completed. Using the new map with the global positioning system, surveys will help accurately locate all of the monitoring wells and SWMUs, enabling the team to better work with the technical information. It may also be used with the database of information from the EBS for future decisions.

Mr. Willer also pointed out the difference in the amount of transferable property between the old (1994) map of the base and the new (1995) map. He explained that this resulted from the reclassification of parcels, based on results from the Gray Area Investigation.

Lastly, Mr. Willer congratulated the RAB for trying to get information out to the community, and trying to develop interest in the community for this topic.

Captain Willis then introduced Mr. Mark Taylor from Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Mr. Taylor began by showing a graphic schedule for the investigation mentioned by Mr. Willer, demonstrating the six week time savings. He then showed the schedule for the Assembly B investigation. Currently, the Navy is incorporating comments on this work plan from both the EPA and the State of Tennessee. He noted that additional comments received after the meeting would be welcomed. He then summarized the Assembly B Work Plan.

Assembly B consists of SWMU 4, which is a drainage ditch from the North 121 plating shop; SWMU 6, a concrete storm sewer line that originates at Building North 126 and discharges into an open ditch; SWMU 10, the eastern portion of the north side landfill; SWMU 31, the aircraft wash rack at Fourth Street; and SWMU 40, Salvage Yard Number 1. He pointed out the approximate locations for seventeen sediment samples, which will be primarily shallow (0-6 inches deep) samples. Deeper soil samples will also be taken where needed. A full scan analysis - all of the volatile organic compounds (found in degreasers and spot removers), the semi-volatile organics (such as some petroleum by-products), PCBs, pesticides, herbicides, and metals - will be performed on each of these samples. It was clarified that this testing would cover anything likely or possibly found at the site.

After some discussion, it was noted that a list of some easily recognizable or household items would be helpful to associate with the types of compounds that are commonly mentioned in these discussions. In addition, some indication of high and low levels of these materials would be useful.

In answer to a question, Mr. Taylor noted that six of the original 62 sites have had investigations completed, the sites in Assembly A. Seven more assemblies will be addressed. Mr. Taylor then added that work plans

for Assembly C were still available in the RAB Library. Comments would be accepted through the end of the meeting. He expected to have the work plan finalized by the first part of April.

Mr. Taylor also mentioned that work plans for removals at two sites; SWMU 66, the disposal area near the radar facility, and SWMU 67, the disposal area in the horse pasture; had been received and would be in the RAB Library the following week. He anticipated these removals to take place in the latter part of April. Debris at these sites will be sorted and disposed of properly, depending on whether the material is determined to be hazardous or not, based on sampling data.

Captain Willis then introduced Mr. Jack Carmichael from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for a brief introduction to the geological investigation taking place on the North side of the base.

Mr. Carmichael began by explaining that the Navy wanted a conceptual model to be developed to give a little better understanding of the geology underneath the base. The USGS was contracted to perform this work. He explained that they brought a drill rig out to the base and drilled 5 test holes. These holes served three purposes. One was to investigate the geology beneath the base and get better information about the geology specific to the North side of the base. Second was that this information would be useful for future planning purposes, giving them a geological background from which to work. The third was to look for the clay confining unit that lies over the Memphis Sand, which is part of the drinking water source that supplies the base and the city of Millington. He mentioned that the report detailing the findings from this study would be available in 30 to 60 days.

He explained that, while the USGS purposely did not want to go through the Cook Mountain clay formation into the Memphis Sand Aquifer, the drilling did penetrate that layer by accident. He explained that, in one spot, the Cook Mountain clay was closer to the surface than expected. After 30 or 40 feet of clay (thinking it was a different clay formation) the drill dug 50 or 60 feet of sand. At this point, they realized that they would be in the Memphis Sand, anyway, so they stopped drilling. The holes were then filled with concrete. Mr. Carmichael pointed out that their study found that the Cook Mountain formation appears to be present everywhere it needs to be to protect the Memphis Sand Aquifer.

He also mentioned that the USGS also studied the possible relationship between the shallow aquifer (not used for drinking water) and the Memphis Sand. They used an age-dating technique where samples of groundwater were collected from different zones and were analyzed for tritium. Tritium is a by-product of nuclear testing that began in the early 1950s. The presence of tritium in groundwater indicates that there is a connection with rainwater, which was able to carry tritium from the surface down through the soil to the aquifer. The USGS sampled the two Memphis Sand wells that exist on the base and both wells came back tritium-free. Samples from the shallower sand and gravel aquifer did contain tritium. The conclusion was that the confining layer (Cook Mountain formation) is intact. He indicated that this report will be made available in the RAB library.

In answering questions, Mr. Carmichael said that the concrete used to fill the drill holes was a concrete-bentonite grout. He said that sampling was done upgradient ("uphill" for groundwater) of known SWMUs where it was possible to determine from past information. He clarified that where he said that the Cook Mountain formation was high, it was because the Cockfield formation was thin at that spot. He also said that the Cook Mountain formation is around 35 feet thick and between 100 and 120 feet below the surface.

The comment was made that, while water may not be able to penetrate the clay, some chemicals, such as trichlorethylene (TCE), might be able to. The following question was on how fast TCE can travel through clay. The answer was that there were too many factors involved to pin down a speed. It depends on the tightness of the clay, the organic content of the clay, and the mobility of the chemical in the water, among others. It was noted that the ground in this area has a high content of naturally occurring organic materials, which slow the progress of chemicals like TCE.

Captain Willis then introduced Mr. John Smith, RAB Community Member.

Mr. Smith began by mentioning that the community members of the RAB held a community outreach meeting the previous night. The purpose of the meeting was to hand out copies of the finalized community presentation and discuss the method of presenting. He noted that presentations would be coordinated through Sue Hosmer of the NAS Memphis Public Affairs Office. He also noted that the Millington Chamber of Commerce would be the test run of the presentation, and that one more meeting would be needed to learn how the presentation could be improved. He asked that, if anyone knew of a group that would like to hear this presentation, they please contact Sue Hosmer or one of the RAB members.

With no questions, Captain Willis then introduced Mr. Frank Ryburn from the Millington Municipal Airport Authority and Mr. Phil Whittenberg, from the Millington Base Reuse Committee.

Mr. Ryburn said that the Airport Authority now has four part-time temporary controllers in the tower on the base and that they have a contract with Federal Express for using the base as an alternate air field. He also mentioned that the final public hearing for the Master Plan is to be on March 7 at 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Millington City Hall.

Mr. Whittenberg presented the fact the consultants for the base reuse plan have been under contract since mid-January. He also noted that there will be a public hearing on the reuse plan on March 23.

Captain Willis then opened the floor to questions.

A concern was expressed again that minority and Shelby County government representation were still lacking on the board. It was mentioned that the next meeting would be the first anniversary meeting and a logical place to review membership, chairmanships, charter, attendance, and other aspects of board operation. A board member suggested several names as potential contacts for helping round out the membership of the board. It was also suggested that the opportunity for membership be presented whenever the community outreach presentation was given.

With no further comments or questions, Captain Willis then approached the next order of business, the agenda for April. It was agreed the next meeting would be on Tuesday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items will include the following: review of RAB charter, report on any presentation made to community groups, an expected lengthy review from the BRAC Cleanup Team on technical actions, discuss the election of new co-chairs, attendance requirements, membership, and a discussion of Findings of Suitability to Lease (FOSLs) and how they tie into the reuse plan.

The motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and passed without objection.