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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "CONTAMINANT FOUND IN BASE GROUNDWATER" MILLINGTON
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Contaminant found in base groundwater

State will perform assessment, inspection

By Patricia C. Stumb
Star Editor

Small amounts of a contaminant found in dry cleaning fluid was discovered on base property during groundwater testing, members of the Navy base Restoration Advisory Board were told last week.

Jim Morrison with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, said during a quarterly meeting of the RAB that perchloroethylene (PCE) contamination was found in background well No. 5 during testing the state is performing before the base is turned over to the city.

Morrison said when the PCE was found, more wells were drilled in order to pinpoint the origin of contamination. As the wells got nearer to Jet Way Cleaners (located on private property on Navy

Road) the contamination got more concentrated, leading the state to believe the chemicals are coming from that site.

"It's common sense that if you've got a contaminant from the dry cleaning process and it's not coming from upstream, you look downstream," he said.

The board was told by Morrison that last year the state implemented a dry cleaner program which places more stringent guidelines on how dry cleaning chemicals must be handled. Those restrictions should prevent future contamination, he said.

Morrison said the dry cleaner's proprietor has been made aware that the state will perform a preliminary assessment and site inspection.

He said it would be premature to speculate what type of clean-up will be required to make the site environmentally safe. Be-



Capt. Rondeau at her first RAB meeting last week

cause the contaminant was found 50 to 60 feet deep, Morrison said development of the city's adjacent light industrial park should not be affected.

In other business the board:

- Heard an update of site clean-up.
- Was told a hearing would be held in September on the Environmental Impact Statement.
- Heard a report from LCDR Terry Jones on the arrival of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.
- Was told by Base Reuse Committee member Jim Ferguson that the multi-million dollar lighting and fencing project at the Millington Municipal Airport is almost complete. He also said that the industry, Aramark, should break ground next month.

Base commander Capt. Ann Rondeau, who attended her first RAB meeting as co-chairman, told the board and the audience that she wanted to "infuse energy" into the RAB process. She said she wanted to hear more public input, and she wanted to let the community know about the board's responsibilities through speaking to civic groups.

While some RAB members said they believed the public trusted the government to do a good job with the clean-up, Rondeau said, "Let's not confuse trust with apathy."