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NAS WHITING FIELD
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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA, SUMMARY, AND SLIDES 27
JANUARY 1998 NAS WHITING FIELD FL
1/27/1998
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

Agenda

NAS Whiting Field Restoration Advisory Board Meeting Santa Rosa County School Board Complex 603 Canal Street, Milton January 27, 1998, 5:30 P.M.

- **Welcome/New Member Introductions and Responsibilities** Pat Durbin
Navy RAB Co-Chair
- **Proposed Plan Layout** Bill Kollar
ABB Environmental Services (ABB-ES)
- **Offsite Sampling Results** Gerry Walker, ABB-ES
- **Break**
- **Site 2 and 18 Remedial Investigations** Terry Hansen, ABB-ES
- **Impacts of Historic Pesticide Use (tentative)** Jim Cason - FDEP
Craig Benedikt - USEPA
- **Contractor Transition** Linda Martin
U.S. Navy, Southern Division
- **Upcoming Field Work** Phil Ottinger
Brown & Root Environmental

- **RAB Business**

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members

**Naval Air Station Whiting Field
Restoration Advisory Board Meeting, January 27, 1998
MEETING SUMMARY**

RAB members attending:

Craig Benedikt
Garnett Breeding
Anita Breeding
Jim Cason
Pat Durbin, Navy Co-chair

Robert Fowlkes
Archie Hovanesian, Jr.
Jimmie Jarratt
Linda Martin
Nellie Parker

NAS Whiting Field representatives:

LCDR Jim VandeVoorde, Public Works Officer
Senior Chief Dave Younquist, Public Affairs Officer
Jim Holland, Public Works Department

Contractor support personnel:

Terry Hansen, ABB Environmental Services (ABB-ES)
Bill Kollar, ABB-ES
Gerry Walker, ABB-ES
Bryn Houze, Tetra Tech NUS
Tom Conrad, Bechtel Environmental

Pat Durbin opened the meeting at 5:34 p.m. and welcomed the RAB and others in attendance. She introduced new RAB members Nellie Parker and Jimmie Jarratt. A motion to approve the November RAB meeting summary was held pending distribution of some revised pages. Those revisions include two points of clarification and will be included with the January 1998 meeting summary.

Ms. Durbin then briefly reviewed the history of the RAB for the new members. She noted that the board was formed in August of 1995 and has held 13 meetings since then. Six meetings are scheduled for 1998. There were originally ten community members, and that number has increased to eleven with the recent additions. Ms. Durbin added that Logan Fink is in the midst of a three year term as Community Co-Chair and is the primary RAB contact for the community members.

Member responsibilities were then reviewed. Members agree to serve for a minimum of two years, and those who miss more than three consecutive meetings may be asked to resign. Ms. Durbin explained that RAB members are asked to review and comment on documents as requested, provide input and express concerns on IR program activities in general, and promote information exchange between the Navy and the community. Ms. Durbin noted that RAB activities and meetings are publicized in local media, but added that members can help spread the word as well. Finally, Ms. Durbin asked the RAB for training suggestions to help the new

members serve more effectively. Possibilities included site tours, field videos, and technology and scientific demonstrations.

Proposed Plan Sample Layout

Bill Kollar of ABB-ES presented a sample layout for the numerous Proposed Plans that will be developed over the next several months. Mr. Kollar stressed that Proposed Plans are primary public participation documents where preferred site response actions are presented and public comment is actively solicited. Given this, RAB input on the sample layout is important to ensure these documents meet community needs.

Mr. Kollar then reviewed the major topics covered in the sample Proposed Plan. They included:

- proposed response(s) for the site
- prior investigations and findings
- field program overview
- public involvement opportunities
- site history
- applicable environmental regulations
- basis for the proposal
- mail-in public comment form

Mr. Kollar then asked for RAB feedback on the sample layout. The response was generally favorable, with a specific suggestion to add a glossary of technical terms. A member of the public in attendance suggested adding dates to the IR process graphic on page 2.

RAB Questions on the Proposed Plan Sample Layout

Will Proposed Plans be published and, if so, how? Proposed Plan summaries will be distributed by mail to the community RAB members. The complete plan will be available in the NAS Whiting Field Information Repository at the West Florida Library branch in Milton. A public meeting on each draft Proposed Plan will also be held, and the documents will also be available at these meetings. Notices of the meetings and their attendant public comment periods will be published in local newspapers

Will Proposed Plans typically be the length of the sample (four pages)? It depends on the proposal for the site, since more information will be presented in Proposed Plans for sites where active cleanup is being taken. However, the documents will likely run between four and six pages in most cases.

Are Proposed Plans being developed for individual sites or for groups of sites? The first batch of Proposed Plans (for the Perimeter Road Sites) will address single sites and one grouping of two sites. The latter two sites are grouped because of their proximity and on similarities in waste disposal history and proposed cleanups. The current schedule calls for twelve Proposed Plans for the Perimeter Road sites over the next several months, as investigations at these sites have been completed and response actions can now be considered. Work continues at other NAS Whiting Field sites that have not yet reached the decision making stage. In addition, work at two sites (nos. 5 and 8) has been completed.

Report on Offsite Sampling Results

Gerry Walker of ABB-ES updated the RAB on recent groundwater sampling at offsite monitoring wells located east and west of NAS Whiting Field. He first provided some history on work in the western area, which focused on Clear Creek and private property further west. Analytical results for the most recent groundwater samples from west of NAS Whiting Field did not indicate the presence of contaminants associated with NAS Whiting Field.

Offsite sampling east of the base is part of studies at Site 13, a former sanitary landfill. Groundwater sample analysis showed low concentrations of 1,2 dichloroethene, a byproduct of chemicals used in many industrial processes. The most recent sampling confirmed the low levels previously detected. The source of this chemical may be onbase, as groundwater flow in this area is generally to the east-southeast. The residences in this area are served by a public water supply system. However, the NAS Whiting Field Public Works Department has identified a single residential well in the area, and plans to sample it in the near future.

RAB Questions on the Offsite Sampling Results

Are the two areas east and west of the base the only instances of potential offsite contamination?
Based on current information, these are the only two areas of potential offsite contamination.

Are the studies at Clear Creek completed? No. Additional work at and near Clear Creek is one of the priority activities in the NAS Whiting Field IR program.

The Site 2 Remedial Investigation (RI) Report

Terry Hansen of ABB-ES reported on the recently-completed RI at Site 2, the Northwest Open Disposal Area. Site 2 is a twelve acre parcel located near the North Air Field. The key points of Mr. Hansen's briefing included:

- site and waste disposal history
- findings for soil and shallow groundwater
- RI recommendations
- completed field work
- risk assessment findings

Mr. Hansen noted that no further action is being proposed at Site 2, based on RI findings and estimates of potential risks. Groundwater at the site will be investigated in a basewide groundwater study.

RAB Questions on the Site 2 RI Report

Were any chemicals detected in groundwater at levels that are unacceptable under State or Federal guidelines? Two chemicals, iron and aluminum, were found in groundwater at levels above those considered acceptable under FDEP and EPA maximum contaminant standards. However, the human health risk assessment estimated that potential risks posed by exposure to these chemicals were within FDEP standards for current or hypothetical future site residents.

Historic Pesticide Use in the NAS Whiting Field Area

In response questions raised at the November meeting, Jim Cason of FDEP made some brief comments on pesticide use, and in particular arsenic. He explained that FDEP is assessing potential risks posed by pesticides, and is looking at whether potential risks are posed by pesticide use itself, by disposal of material that may have come in contact with pesticides, or by naturally-occurring arsenic found at many other Florida sites including NAS Whiting Field. Craig Benedikt of EPA added that arsenic cleanup is particularly challenging because actions at one site could set precedents for others. He noted his personal experience at a naval facility in Panama City, where arsenic was found at a site of historic pesticide use, and elevated arsenic levels were also found in other areas where no such use had taken place. Mr. Benedikt noted that removal of all arsenic-contaminated soil in that case would not have been practical or necessary to protect human health and the environment.

Contractor Transition

Linda Martin of the Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, briefed the RAB on the ongoing transition between contractors at NAS Whiting Field. There are currently two contractors working on IR program investigations, and this will be reduced to one by the end of Fiscal Year 1998 (September 30, 1998). A separate contractor performs actual site cleanup work. By September 30, ABB-ES (the contractor currently assigned the bulk of the work) is scheduled to have completed activities at all the sites around the perimeter of the base (twelve sites total). These sites are primarily former landfills or other areas of past waste disposal. Tetra Tech NUS will then continue work on the interior sites, including those in the industrial area of the facility. Work at several of these sites is currently underway. Tetra Tech NUS will also complete the basewide groundwater investigation. Tetra Tech NUS is currently under contract until 2005.

Upcoming Field Work

Bryn Houze of Tetra Tech NUS summarized plans for upcoming field work at Sites 3, 4, 30, 32, and 33. He reviewed the planned work on a site-by-site basis, and added that field work at these locations is scheduled to begin on February 9. The first reports on these studies are expected by September of this year.

RAB Administration

The next RAB meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Rosa County School Board Complex at 603 Canal Street, Milton. The board tentatively scheduled a dinner meeting on April 28 at NAS Whiting Field. Pat Durbin said she would look into a suitable location and notify the members.

General Questions from the RAB

Is the IR program at NAS Whiting Field part of the Federal Superfund program? No, the IR program is the Navy equivalent of USEPA's Superfund program. The IR program is, however,

largely carried out under the same regulations that guide Superfund. It is funded from Department of Defense accounts and not by the funding pool that supports work at Superfund sites.

How much IR funding goes to site investigations and how much goes to site cleanup? The current Navy goal is to expend 30 percent of IR funds on study and 70 percent on cleanup. However, funding is typically determined by site-specific conditions, with conditions that potentially impact human health receiving funding priority.

What is the typical turnout at Proposed Plan public meetings like those discussed at tonight's meeting? In the experience of the NAS Whiting Field IR program team, turnouts are typically light for Proposed Plan meetings at active sites, and heavier at sites that are slated for closure.

No further questions were heard, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Replacement page 2: NAS Whiting Field RAB meeting summary, November 13, 1997

RAB Questions on the Site 1 RI Report

What is the potential source(s) of aluminum and other metals (primarily iron) found in the groundwater samples? Aluminum and other metals occur naturally and are commonly found in the regional aquifer. During the rainy season, the flow rate of the aquifer increases and may cause more of the metal compounds to become suspended, resulting in higher detected levels of these compounds. Consequently, groundwater sampling was conducted during the dry season so that a more representative sample could be obtained.

Is the groundwater at Site 1 safe to drink? All relevant data collected to date indicate no unacceptable potential human health risks from the groundwater at the site. However, groundwater is not a drinking water source in the Site 1 area.

What is the potential source(s) of arsenic found in the groundwater samples? Arsenic was commonly used as a pesticide and herbicide in area agriculture, particularly on cotton and pecan crops. Therefore, arsenic concentrations in soil and groundwater tend to be higher in the Gulf Coast region than elsewhere. Arsenic may have also been used by the Navy as a pesticide at NAS Whiting Field. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have formed a task force to study the historic use of arsenic-based pesticides in Gulf Coast area agriculture. It should be noted that risk estimates conducted for Site 1 found no unacceptable potential risks to human health.

Would additional investigations be needed at Site 1 if NAS Whiting Field was closing? Yes. However, the risk assessment conducted for Site 1 considered future residential use at the site, a conservative approach to human health risk assessment. Based on risk assessment findings, there are no future land use restrictions required at the site.

Clear Creek Field Work Update

Gerry Walker (ABB-ES technical lead at NAS Whiting Field) updated the RAB on field investigations in Clear Creek and vicinity. Mr. Walker discussed the recent sampling program, which included groundwater, surface water, and sediment sampling. He noted the sampling locations, and the chemicals that samples were analyzed for. Major findings of the sampling event included:

- xylene detected in the westernmost groundwater monitoring well; well was resampled and results available in two months (postscript: resampling results detected no xylene).
- no benzene found in offbase wells; this supports assumption that contaminants are not moving under Clear Creek.
- benzene and chlorinated solvents were found further south in Clear Creek than expected; surface water benzene concentrations are above allowable limits for combined water and fish consumption; however, concentrations did not exceed allowable limits for fish consumption only and there are no known drinking water intakes on Clear Creek; surface water contaminants will dilute before reaching Blackwater River.
- acetone detected in some surface water samples; potentially a lab artifact (acetone is commonly used to clean lab equipment) but may have been used as a solvent at the base;

**PHASE IIC
REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION
FIELD ACTIVITIES
FOR
SITES 3, 4, 30, 32, AND 33**

NAS WHITING FIELD SITES 3, 4, 30, 32, AND 33

INTRODUCTION

- **Installation Restoration Program**
 - Preliminary Assessment
 - Site Inspection
 - Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
 - Proposed Plan and Record of Decision
 - Remedial Design and Remedial Action

- **Remedial Investigation In Progress**

NAS WHITING FIELD SITES 3, 4, 30, 32, AND 33

BACKGROUND

- **Previous Investigations Identified Petroleum Hydrocarbons (BTEX) and Solvent Compounds**
- **Objectives of Phase IIC of the Remedial Investigation that will be performed Mid-February to Mid-April are:**
 - **Determine Nature and Distribution of Contaminants. (Fill in Data Gaps from Previous Investigations).**
 - **Collect Geotechnical and Natural Attenuation Data Necessary to Evaluate Potential Remedial Alternatives**
 - **Identify Potential Threats to Public Health or the Environment**

NAS WHITING FIELD SITES 3, 4, 30, 32, AND 33

PROPOSED FIELD ACTIVITIES

- **GENERAL**

- **Soil and Groundwater Samples will generally be analyzed for:**
 - **Volatiles**
 - **Semi-Volatiles**
 - **Inorganics**
 - **Pesticides/PCBs**
 - **Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons**

- **Natural Attenuation Parameters to be Determined at Each Site:**
 - **Dissolved Oxygen**
 - **Nitrate**
 - **Iron II**
 - **Sulfate**
 - **Sulfide**
 - **Oxidation-Reduction Potential**
 - **Organic Carbon**
 - **etc.**

NAS WHITING FIELD SITES 3, 4, 30, 32, AND 33

PROPOSED FIELD ACTIVITIES

- **GENERAL (cont.)**
 - **Geotechnical Parameters to be Determined at Each Site:**
 - **Density**
 - **Permeability**
 - **Specific Gravity**
 - **Moisture Content**
 - **etc.**

- **SITE 3 INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES**
 - **Install 4 Soil Borings**
 - **Collect and Analyze 1 Surface and 10 Subsurface Soil Samples**

- **SITE 4 INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES**
 - **Install 10 Soil Borings**
 - **Collect and Analyze 10 Surface Soil and 30 Subsurface Soil Samples**

NAS WHITING FIELD SITES 3, 4, 30, 32, AND 33

PROPOSED FIELD ACTIVITIES

- **SITE 32 INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES**
 - Install 9 Soil Borings
 - Install 17 Monitoring Wells (Sites 3, 4, and 32)
 - Collect and Analyze 20 Subsurface Soil Samples
 - Collect and Analyze Groundwater Samples from 17 New Wells and 55 Existing Wells.

- **SITE 30 INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES**
 - Install 6 Soil Borings
 - Collect and Analyze 1 Surface and 14 Subsurface Soil Samples

- **SITE 33 INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES**
 - Install 7 Soil Borings
 - Collect and Analyze 1 Surface Soil and 16 Subsurface Soil Samples

NAS WHITING FIELD SITES 3, 4, 30, 32, AND 33