

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION EL TORO**  
**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**27 JULY 1995**

***MEETING MINUTES***

A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro was held on Thursday, July 27, 1995 at the City of Irvine, City Hall, Multipurpose Room L102. The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. These minutes summarize the discussions and presentations from the meeting.

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, AGENDA REVIEW**

Ms. Marcia Rudolph, RAB Community Co-Chair, opened the meeting, greeted members, and asked Col. Joseph Barney to lead all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Rudolph asked all RAB members and attendees present to introduce themselves. Mr. Joseph Joyce, Navy/Marine Corps RAB Cochair, briefly explained the Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team (BCT) functions and identified the BCT members present: Bonnie Arthur, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and Juan Jimenez, California EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Mr. Joyce reviewed the agenda and made a few announcements regarding cleanup activities at MCAS El Toro.

- The effort to remove jet fuel floating on top of the groundwater below Fuel Storage Tank 398 is underway and the construction of the concrete pad and installation of piping has begun.
- Hazardous waste storage facility (Building 673-T3) that was permitted by DTSC to store hazardous wastes for up to one year is no longer being used and is now undergoing closure through DTSC.

Mr. Joyce announced that another RAB subcommittee is being formed that will focus on community relations activities including review of the Draft Community Relations Plan (CRP) that is being developed for MCAS El Toro. The CRP will serve as a work plan for implementing two-way communication between the public, the Marine Corps/Navy, various regulatory agencies, and other interested parties. Mr. Joyce encouraged RAB members to participate in this subcommittee and sign-up forms were handed out. ***Although RAB membership applications have been accepted by the Marine Corps/Navy at MCAS El Toro on an ongoing basis, a recruitment campaign to attract new RAB members is expected to begin in September and the new subcommittee is expected to have an active role in developing the strategy for the recruitment of new members.***

He also announced that the latest fact sheet was completed and mailed, and for those who did not receive it, copies are available at the sign-in table outside the meeting room. The fact sheet features an article on the Tank 398 cleanup efforts.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Tank 398 Cleanup Work**

In responding to a comment from RAB member, Don Zweifel, regarding the Tank 398 fact sheet article, Mr. Joyce reminded meeting attendees that planning documents were reviewed by U.S. EPA, DTSC, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and a RAB subcommittee. Also, a presentation was made by the subcommittee to the full RAB detailing the groundwater cleanup. When cleanup options for the contaminated soil around Tank 398 are developed, the RAB will have an opportunity to review and comment on draft documents.

### **Approval of 5/25 RAB Meeting Minutes**

*Ms. Rudolph provided an opportunity for changes or amendments to the minutes of the May 25 RAB meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes without any changes.*

RAB members expressed concern that they are not provided the opportunity to see agency comments to technical documents or the Marine Corps/Navy responses to these comments. A similar concern was expressed regarding responses to comments made by RAB members. Mr. Joyce explained that reviews of technical documents are concurrent (U.S. EPA, DTSC, RWQCB, and the RAB) and that the Marine Corps/Navy responses to comments are placed into the information repository. Ms. Arthur, acknowledged that RAB subcommittee members should have access to comments/responses so individuals can contact the agencies if they have any concerns or feel the need to discuss them. After further discussion, the RAB agreed that at monthly meetings starting in August, EPA, DTSC and other agencies reviewing technical documents will provide a brief presentation on significant comments given to MCAS El Toro. The presentations will focus on documents that are currently undergoing review, or have recently undergone review. The Marine Corps/Navy will provide brief summaries of responses to Agency comments at the next meeting if appropriately timed in the review/comment response cycle.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Community Relations Program Overview—Fraser Felter, U.S. EPA and Amy Schwartz, Bechtel National, Inc.**

Mr. Felter, Community Relations Coordinator for U.S. EPA, provided a community relations program overview focusing on the key points of public participation. Mr. Felter defined public participation as “an interactive process (effective two-way communication) where both the decision makers and the community members relay and receive information.” Also, a regular

dialogue is established and maintained between the project team and the community and comments and concerns are acknowledged, considered, and incorporated whenever possible into environmental decisions. Key stakeholders in the community relations process for the cleanup and restoration of MCAS El Toro include (but are not limited to): Marine Corps/Navy which is responsible for carrying out all cleanup, restoration and associated community relations activities; regulatory agencies, such as U.S. EPA, which provides oversight to ensure specific public participation activities are conducted according to federal regulations; and interested public members including residents, RAB members, local reuse authorities, and all other interested parties who raise issues and share their concerns.

Public participation activities, driven by federal regulations include public comment periods, public notices, responsiveness summaries, the administrative record, information repositories, the RAB, and development and implementation of the Community Relations Plan (CRP). Mr. Felter explained that to effectively conduct community relations activities a community relations plan tailored to the needs of the communities neighboring MCAS El Toro is currently being developed. He offered to help RAB members and general public foster ongoing communication among the stakeholders.

Ms. Schwartz provided an overview on the development of the updated CRP that will serve as a “work plan” for communication activities. The CRP outlines the “how, when, where, why, and whom” in regard to conducting community relations activities. Specifically, it defines outreach efforts in concert with technical milestones, addresses community concerns, provides a strategy for ongoing communication, and promotes opportunities for public involvement.

The development of the CRP begins with a community assessment that evaluates the current relationships among the stakeholders and also determines their level of knowledge, interest in the cleanup program, and concerns and information needs. To gather necessary information about the community and its stakeholders, interviews were conducted in April and May 1995 by representatives from the Marine Corps/Navy and DTSC. Information derived from the interviews will be summarized in the CRP.

Ms. Schwartz stated that the CRP details two key sets of activities: public information activities and public involvement activities. Public information activities involve the use of one-way communication tools such as fact sheets, press releases, information repositories, public notices, and door-to-door notices. Public involvement activities encompass two-way “full circle” communication between the lead and regulatory agencies and the public. Examples include participation as RAB members, attending public meetings, going on site tours, and reviewing documents and submitting comments during public comment periods.

Ms. Schwartz encouraged the RAB to review and provide comments on the draft CRP when it is available, by serving on the new RAB Community Relations Subcommittee. She stated that this is an opportunity to review a nontechnical document and provide input into the community relations program. Applications for this subcommittee were made available to RAB members.

### **News Article—Orange County Register**

Mr. Don Zweifel, RAB member, stated that the recent news article in the Orange County Register about the environmental cleanup program at MCAS El Toro painted an inaccurate picture of the clean areas at the base. He was interested to know how the Marines Corps/Navy, EPA and DTSC feel about this media coverage. Mr. Joyce clarified that the article correctly stated that 63 percent of the base property has been determined to be clean and uncontaminated and will not require environmental cleanup prior to reuse. Mr. Joyce also stated that the regulatory agencies, EPA and DTSC, wrote letters supporting 100 percent concurrence with the findings addressed by the article. Mr. Joyce reminded the group that the RAB also reviewed these findings, and made recommendations to include additional property in the clean category. Additionally, this information was presented to the full RAB by the Subcommittee Chair Mr. Larry Sievers.

### **Federal Facilities Agreement Overview—Joseph Joyce, RAB Cochair**

Mr. Joyce explained the purpose of the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) and the schedule of activities. Copies of the FFA Schedule were provided to RAB members. He explained that the FFA ensures that environmental impacts of the past and present activities will be addressed with appropriate remedial actions and that these actions are performed in a timely fashion. It provides the procedural framework and schedule for developing cleanup goals, work plans, conducting field work, preparing reports, proposed plans, engineering evaluations/cost analysis, and records of decisions. It is a legally enforceable agreement and schedules need to be met or the Marine Corps/Navy could face stipulated penalties by the regulatory agencies.

### **RAB Workshop Debrief—Don Zweifel, RAB Member, and Marcia Rudolph, RAB Cochair**

Mr. Zweifel and Ms. Rudolph both attended a RAB Workshop on June 2 and 3 at Cal State University, San Francisco. Over 100 people were in attendance. Each provided a brief description of workshop highlights.

Mr. Zweifel said that workshop attendees participated in seminars that put RAB members in the roles of decision makers with the responsibility of making cleanup recommendations for a variety of model scenarios. By participating in this process, Mr. Zweifel learned of the various factors that need to be considered in making such decisions. Most important in this decision making is the consideration of risks to human health posed by contaminants. Overall, he said the workshop gave him a new appreciation for the environmental staff of the Marine Corps/Navy and the regulators.

Ms. Rudolph said the workshop offered her an opportunity to network with representatives from a Northern California Community Council of RABs. A key issue discussed was the need for RAB Technical Assistance Grants that would provide funds for third party review of technical documents or training of RAB members so they can adequately review technical documents.

She said she learned of the importance of conducting outreach to stakeholders in hazardous waste/military base issues. She learned that reuse drives cleanup standards at closing bases; that there is an intertwining of reuse and restoration issues; and it is difficult to select proper cleanup levels that satisfy various stakeholders. Also, she observed that the Marine Corps/Navy is the most active branch of service in involving the community into the cleanup process. She said that the representatives from the Department of Defense present at the workshop do care about cleanup and the concerns of the community.

**An Overview of MCAS El Toro Environmental Activities—David Cowser, Bechtel National, Inc.**

Mr. Cowser provided an overview and update on cleanup investigation activities being performed at the base. He explained that the “vision” for the Installation Restoration Program at MCAS El Toro is to maximize restoration and reuse by 1999 while the “mission” is fast-track remediation to expedite reuse and to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Current activities include:

- Completing a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facilities Assessment that involves additional investigations and preparation of reports;
- Completing a former underground storage tank (UST) assessment that involves reviewing documents and doing additional investigations at sites where USTs were already removed to provide necessary information to close these sites;
- Completing site investigation work plans by incorporating comments from the RAB subcommittee, RAB members, regulatory agencies and the Marines Corps/Navy into the plans;
- Conducting mobilization efforts which involve survey work, examining condition of existing monitoring wells prior to the start of field activities; and
- Incorporating comments into Engineering Evaluations/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) documents for seven sites.

Beginning in mid-August, upcoming activities include sampling in the volatile organic compound (VOC) source area at Operating Unit 2 (OU-2) and at Sites 24 and 25, and landfill sampling at Sites 2, 3, 5 and 17. After sampling is completed for these two efforts, field staff will begin site sampling at the OU-3 sites. By using the same staff that is already in the field there is a significant cost savings in regard to field mobilization and on-site training. Draft Final EE/CAs for seven sites are expected to be available for public review later this summer and Action Memorandums with responses to comments on these EE/CAs are expected to be completed in December 1995.

Mr. Cowser said schedules for various reports and documents have been developed. These include issuing for review: a Draft VOC Remedial Investigation Report, February 20, 1996;

Draft Landfill Remediation Report, March 20, 1996; and additional EE/CAs, November 20, 1996.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- For those interested in base reuse, the names and phone numbers of the point-of-contacts for both reuse groups are: El Toro Reuse Planning Authority, Peter Hersh, City of Irvine, (714) 724-6455; and Tom Matthews, Orange County Planning, (714) 834-4643. Each group meets monthly, call the points-of-contacts for reuse meeting information. Mr. Matthews provided a handout on the status of the Orange County reuse effort and offered to provide similar handouts at future RAB meetings. These handouts will be placed on the sign-in table.
- Information on obtaining RAB meeting information on the internet will be provided at the August RAB meeting and included in these meeting minutes.

## **MEETING EVALUATION**

Mr. Joyce led a brief discussion to evaluate this RAB meeting to make sure the needs of RAB members have been satisfactorily addressed. Some RAB members expressed a desire to have a standard location for the meetings. Members were informed by Ms. Schwartz, Bechtel National, Inc., that in the past the RAB decided to have meetings on the last Thursday of each month, thus the best location is selected based on availability of the facilities at the City of Irvine or the Irvine Ranch Water District on this day. RAB members were reminded that the upper right-hand corner of each agenda lists the meeting location or they can call Ms. Charly Wiemert at (714) 726-2840 for meeting location information.

RAB members also commented that good, brief information from Bechtel National and others was presented at this meeting. RAB members also said that the fact sheet recently received in the mail was well done. Members suggested providing a color-coded base map with Installation Restoration sites and an aerial photo of the base at each RAB meeting.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

- Present briefings on realignment and status reports of Marine Corps squadron movements;
- Provide a presentation or discussion in the next two or three months that covers groundwater cleanup methods that are alternative options to pump and treat methods;
- Conduct a tour of the Tank 398 site to see the cleanup technology in operation. Mr. Joyce said the best time frame for this would be the end of September/October;
- "Future Land Use and Cleanup Levels" presentation originally scheduled for this meeting, re-schedule for the September RAB meeting;

- Presentation on the Superfund Reauthorization Bill;
- Presentation on off-site impacts posed by El Toro Installation Restoration sites;
- Presentation specific to the Site 2 landfill and potential interim measures that address exposure of the landfill from erosion and rainfall; and
- Present an overview of the thermal desorption unit and show the Cedarapids video.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**Attachments:**

Sign-in sheets

Community Relations Subcommittee Members List

*A copy of these minutes and copies of handouts provided at the RAB meeting on July 27 are available at the MCAS El Toro Information Repository which is located at the Heritage Park Library in Irvine. The address is 14361 Yale Avenue, Irvine; the phone number is (714) 551-7151. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; closed Sunday.*