

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Subject:		Meeting Date: 09 December 1996	
Project Status Teleconference Site 7 - West Basin Long Beach Naval Complex		Meeting Time: 1000 BNI - Norwalk Teleconference	
Attendees:			
<u>SWDIV</u>	<u>BNI</u>	<u>Agencies</u>	
Mike Radecki (RPM) Alan Lee Anna Ulaszewski Kim Ostrowski	Krish Kapur (PM) Ömer Kadaster (K) (CTOL) Tom McDonnell (BC) Serge Baghdikian Sharon Ohannessian (K)	John Christopher, Cal-EPA/DTSC Alvaro Gutierrez, Cal-EPA/DTSC Laurie Sullivan, NOAA Martin Hausladen, USEPA - Region IX Ned Black, USEPA - Region IX Karla Brasaemle, Weston (USEPA) Roger McGinnis, Weston (USEPA) Patricia Velez, Cal-DFG Hugh Marley, RWQCB-LA Carol Roberts, USFWS	
BC = Brown and Caldwell K = Kleinfelder			
copies to:			
Walter Sandza, SWDIV Chris Leadon, SWDIV Tony DiDomenico, SWDIV	Jim Moe, BNI John Kluesener, BNI Bong Kown, BNI Noriko Kawamoto, BNI	Sophia Serda, USEPA, Region IX Michael Lyons, RWQCB-LA	

Mike Radecki, RPM, welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. The objective of the meeting was to discuss with the Agencies the strategy for completing the West Basin RI. The project had been shut down for several months due to a lack of funding, and had been re-started a few days earlier. Therefore, an aggressive schedule will be followed in order to make up for lost time.

Omer Kadaster provided the status of preparing responses to the Agencies' general comments. All of the comments are scheduled to be responded to by the end of December, reviewed by mid-January, and subsequently transmitted to the Agencies, who will have a 1 month review period.

The DON and BNI have also begun responding to the joint Agency comments dated August 5, 1996; the additional analyses requested in the joint comments will be conducted concurrently with the Agency review of responses to general comments. A workshop with the Agencies is scheduled for March 1997 to discuss the responses to general comments and the findings of the additional analyses in response to the joint Agency comments.

Ms. Sullivan remarked that she would require a couple of weeks to review the results of the additional analyses prior to the workshop, and therefore requested that the workshop be held in mid-March. Mr. Radecki responded that the DON has no problem providing the Agencies with review time, but reiterated that delays would need to be reduced in order to maintain an aggressive schedule. Mr. Hausladen stated that Site 7 RI is a sensitive project because of the pending lawsuit, and therefore the Agencies must have adequate review time. Ms. Sullivan suggested informal exchanges with the Agencies prior to submitting formal responses; this approach has worked at other sites. Mr. Christopher notified the attendees that he would not be available 05 March 1997 through 14 March 1997.

Mr. Kadaster reminded the attendees that some of the general comments have been superseded by the joint Agency comments, and therefore the response to general comment review should be easier than originally perceived. It may be possible to reveal the results of the additional analyses to the Agencies prior to a formal written document.

Mr. Christopher suggested aiming for a 24 February 1997 workshop. Mr. Radecki replied that the analyses would not be completed and reviewed by then. Mr. Christopher then suggested a written findings submittal by 28 February 1997, and therefore the Agencies, including himself, would have adequate time for review prior to a mid-March workshop. He also suggested regularly scheduled technical workshops through the completion of the project. Mr. Radecki replied that such an approach may not be efficient, given the stages of completion of various project phases.

Mr. Hausladen requested clarification of the meaning of reanalysis; did this mean resampling? Mr. Radecki responded that no resampling would be conducted. Pursuant to the joint Agency comments, a significant amount of additional calculations, using already existing validated data would need to be conducted.

The meeting topic then turned back to the approach to be taken for the additional analyses. Mr. Kadaster asked if the 05 August 1996 joint Agency memorandum was a final copy. Ms. Sullivan responded that it was the final version.

Mr. Kadaster began responding to the problems raised by the Agencies in the 05 August 1996 joint comments:

Problem 1: Navy's Recommendation for No Further Action

Chapter 7 ('Conclusions') and the Executive Summary will be revisited and adjusted after the data have been reanalyzed.

Problem 2: Adequacy of the Work Plan

No response required.

Problem 3: Selection of Reference Stations

The DON and BNI will use the Agencies' Solution 1, i.e., reference station 40010 data will not be utilized, reference stations 40018 and 40032 data will be pooled together.

Ms. Sullivan suggested checking with NRADD, concerning the North Island sediment project. NRADD did not pool their reference station data; test stations were assigned to reference stations according to grain size. Mr. Kadaster responded that BNI did review grain size coverage of reference stations with respect to West Basin stations. Stations 40010 and 40018 overlapped each other in grain size ranges. Therefore, by removing station 40010 from the reference pool, the remaining stations 40018 and 40032 still cover the entire West Basin with respect to grain size range (i.e., no West Basin stations lose coverage with respect to grain size when station 40010 is removed from the reference pool).

Mr. Kadaster also added that the DON/BNI propose not to compare pier station data to reference station data due to lack of project reference pier; the pier data will be analyzed separately from the remaining West Basin stations. Mr. Christopher and Ms. Sullivan concurred with this approach. Ms. Sullivan then asked how BNI planned on analyzing the pier data. Mr. Kadaster responded that BNI was currently reviewing the literature for pier data, as well as planning to meet with experts who may have experience with, and insights into, marine habitats beneath piers. Mr. Christopher agreed to the lack of project reference pier, and reiterated that it made sense to analyze the pier data separately with respect to remediation, but wanted to make sure that this approach dove-tailed with POLBs future West Basin uses. Mr. Radecki responded that the approach was consistent with the future uses of West Basin, and did not think that the results would impact POLB. The pier data analysis will clarify the difference in environments between beneath piers and open water areas.

Mr. Kadaster suggested comparing POLB data with the West Basin RI data.

Ms. Velez requested the data analysis plan in writing. Mr. Kadaster explained that the minutes of this teleconference and the joint Agency comments memo would act as the work plan for the additional analyses.

Ms. Sullivan was concerned if the reference chemistry and toxicity data were suitable for comparison to pier data. Mr. Christopher responded that the piers have no reference. Ms. Sullivan then stated that the Agencies agreed there was no reference for the pier benthic community data, but had not agreed upon the chemistry and toxicity data. Mr. Christopher said that none of the parameters for piers match the non-pier data.

Mr. Radecki stated that the DON and BNI would solicit expert opinions on the beneath pier benthic community.

Ms. Sullivan warned to not leave the Agencies out of the pier data analysis planning stages, as this is a sensitive subject matter and may be a potential impediment to Agency concurrence.

Mr. Christopher suggested contacting Shirley Birosik of RWQCB-LA, as she has worked with other piers in the LALB Harbor area. Mr. Radecki stated that he was not aware of Ms. Birosik's pier knowledge. Mr. Marley said he would check if Ms. Birosik had any pier data of use to the project. Ms. Sullivan will also check with other NOAA staff for pier-related data.

Mr. Christopher suggested assessing the piers according to a level of risk that RWQCB-LA would deem acceptable.

Mr. Radecki reconfirmed that the pier data would not be included in the West Basin data set for purposes of comparison with reference data.

Problem 4: Defining and Using Sediment Evaluation Zones (SEZs)

Mr. Kadaster explained that as part of exploring the use of multiple parameters for establishing SEZs, first, pier data will be separated from the West Basin data set, and then four separate types of SEZs will be defined (based on benthic community, bioassay, chemistry, and physical parameter cluster analysis). The four types of SEZs will be collectively evaluated in interpreting the findings.

Mr. Christopher agreed to this approach. Removing the pier data will simplify the SEZ definition process. Then, after the SEZs are redefined four different ways, he is sure a data pattern will emerge.

Ms. Sullivan requested BNI informally notify the Agencies prior to reinterpreting the new SEZ data; this is a sensitive topic. Mr. Kadaster agreed that SEZ interpretation can be a group effort. Mr. Radecki suggested holding a workshop after the DON and BNI reevaluate the data. He reminded the attendees that formal revision of the RI report would not occur until April or May, and therefore all of the data reevaluation issues can be discussed at a workshop. Ms. Sullivan reinforced the importance of keeping the Agencies informally notified of sensitive data interpretation issues as soon as possible to avoid impediments to Agency concurrence at a later date.

Problem 5: The Benthic Community Analysis is Misapplied

Beneath-pier data will be analyzed separately from the remaining West Basin stations and reference stations. Expert opinion will be solicited. In addition, any data obtained from Ms. Birosik and Ms. Sullivan will be utilized.

Mr. Radecki stated that benthic community experts will be given a hypothetical scenario (i.e., sedimentation rates, amount of shell hash) and will be asked to propose a benthic community, absent of contamination. The DON/BNI inclination is that the beneath-pier environment is a natural occurrence, and that not all adverse effects are attributable to chemistry or the use of West Basin by the Navy. Benthic community experts will probably be sought from area universities; the Agencies may provide their own suggestions.

Mr. McGinnis suggested that if natural recovery options were being considered, the WASP EPA model may be applicable. Mr. Kadaster requested more information on such models from Mr. McGinnis.

Mr. Christopher asked if the basic question being answered is whether there is an adverse effect to the benthic community under the piers. Mr. Radecki stated the DON is not comfortable with the theory that effects are entirely due to contamination. Mr. Kadaster explained that the RI report will define the beneath pier environment with more clarity to support findings (i.e., the use of color photographs taken by the divers used to collect beneath pier sediment).

Conclusion

In concluding the discussion on the response to the joint Agency comments, Mr. Kadaster proposed that the minutes of today's meeting combined with the joint Agency memo would provide as guidance for the additional data analysis. He also restated the schedule regarding responses to the general and joint Agency comments. In addition, Mr. Radecki pledged to submit the revised project schedule to the Agencies along with the meeting minutes.

Ms. Sullivan wanted to know when the Agencies would next hear from the DON, especially with respect to the pier data analysis, at the March workshop? Mr. Radecki responded that the exact approach to the pier data analysis cannot be currently stated until further pier information is made available. At that time, the DON and BNI will submit a pier data analysis plan to the Agencies for approval.

Mr. Gutierrez announced that Michael Lyons has replaced Ms. Birosik as RWQCB-LA representative on the West Basin project, and that Patty Velez has replaced Michael Martin as California Department of Fish and Game representative on the project.

Mr. Kadaster requested closure on remaining data quality issues, especially with regard to tributyltin (TBT):

Mr. McGinnis stated that he had received the SOPs requested from the DON and BNI. His general comment was that the vast majority of the data was good and that "J" qualified data is usable, although it carries some degree of uncertainty. He had not seen the TBT holding time analysis results from the CTO-037 project.

Mr. Hausladen stated that the Site 7 TBT data is unacceptable and therefore no TBT data exists. Mr. Radecki countered that EPA agreed to reevaluate the TBT data based on new

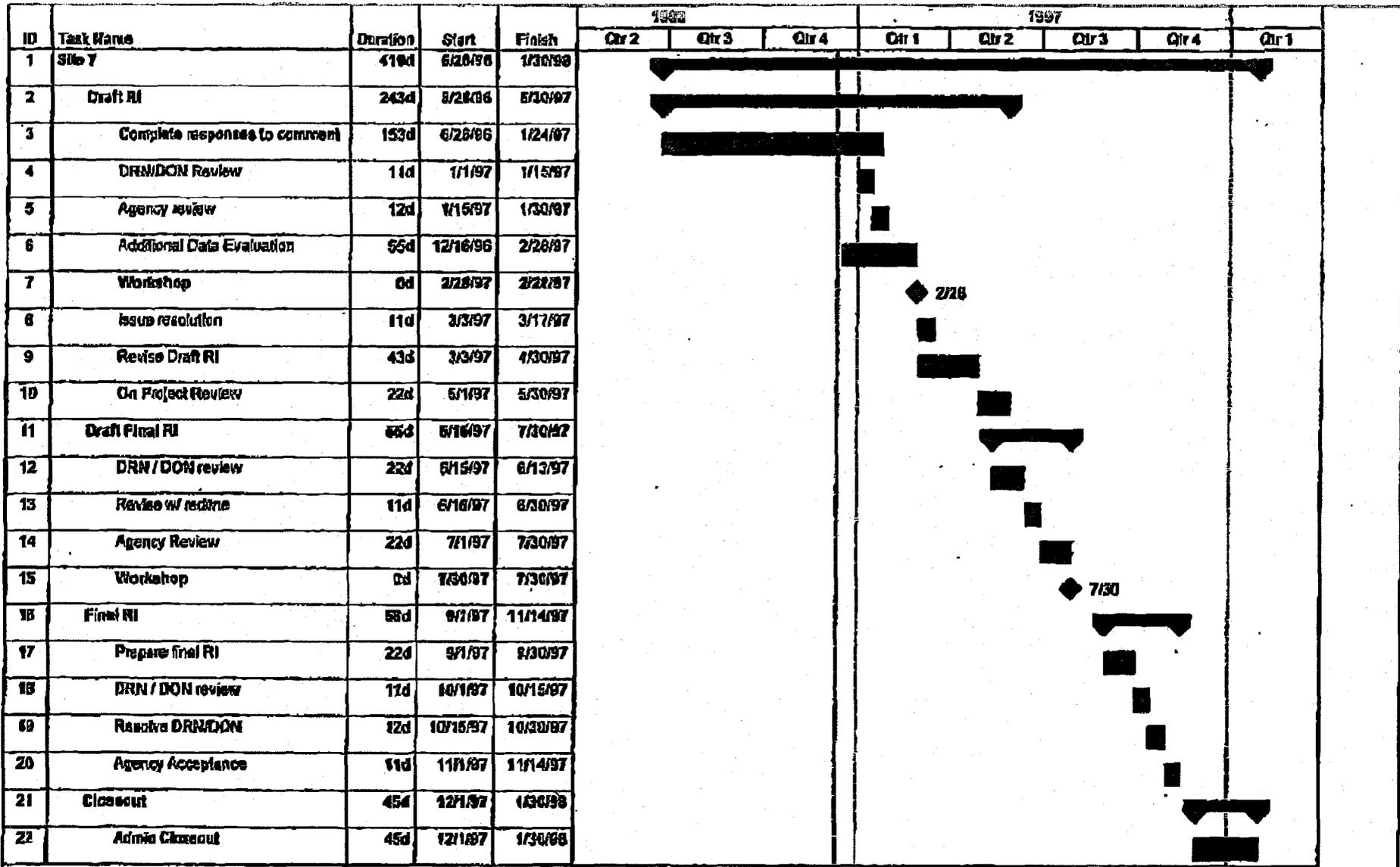
information (e.g., laboratory arrival temperature readings, EPA organic data quality guidelines, SOPs). After reviewing the TBT SOP, the percent recovery limits were no longer of concern. However, Mr. McGinnis stated that holding times, arrival temperature readings of 15°C to 20°C, and blank contamination are still outstanding issues for TBT even after evaluating the additional requested information. Mr. Radecki agreed, but stated that, to the DON's understanding, the evaluation of the additional information resulted in some acceptable TBT data, whereas prior to the additional information no TBT data were acceptable. Mr. Hausladen responded that EPA would generate a letter to the DON (in cooperation with Weston) summarizing TBT and general data acceptability via a summary table of findings. Mr. Radecki stated the importance of closing the data quality issue, especially with respect to determining if the remaining data set is sufficient.

Mr. Hausladen reinforced EPA support for clearing up sensitive issues early with the DON, by means of weekly conference calls, etc. Ms. Sullivan acknowledged the DON's time constraints. Mr. Kadaster reiterated that today's meeting minutes and the 05 August 1996 joint Agency memo will provide as guidance for completing the West Basin RI.

Mr. Radecki brought the meeting to a close with a short discussion regarding the potential lawsuit by Don May. He stressed the need to move forward on Site 7 closure, and not to allow one person's personal agenda side track the overall effort. He complimented the performance of the Agencies up to this point in the project, and asked that they not doubt the work this team (DON, BNI, Agencies) has already completed. The DON has not been able to specifically indicate current serious technical errors in the Site 7 RI process. The DON has readily acknowledged and corrected any mistakes that have inadvertently been made.

Action Items:

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Responsible Person</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
1	Summary Table of TBT Validation Results by EPA/Weston	Mr. Hausladen/ Dr. McGinnis	19 December 96
2	Information on natural recovery models and beneath-pier deposition models	Dr. McGinnis	19 December 96
3	Data on beneath-pier sediments from Ms. Birosik	Mr. Marley	19 December 96
4	Data on beneath-pier sediments from NOAA	Ms. Sullivan	19 December 96



Project: Site 7, Naval Complex, Long Beach
 Date: 12/11/96

Task [Symbol]
 Program [Symbol]
 Milestone [Symbol]
 Summary [Symbol]

Roll Up Task [Symbol]
 Roll Up Milestone [Symbol]
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REMARKS

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