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**Former Naval Surface Warfare Center-White Oak (NSWC-WO)
Federal Research Center
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Update
September 2002**

This update is based on information received from Walter Legg and Kristen Harstad, Navy Engineering Field Activity (EFA) Chesapeake, Bruce Beach, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Bob Ridgway at a meeting with John Tino, RAB Co-chairperson on 10 September. The update does not represent the Navy's position on the project, but is a summary/interpretation by John Tino, one of the Community Co-chairs. This is the first of the RAB updates now scheduled for distribution every six weeks.

Note: My sincere apology; this is more like a 9-week update. I had to attend a funeral in PA the week the update meeting was scheduled, and a reschedule of the update meeting was not possible until 10 September. John Tino

News.

The Navy has updated the Community Relations Plan. It will be available in the near future.

This summer two Records of Decision (RODs) were signed and distributed. One for the Site 8 and one for the Site 11 soils. A brief ceremony was held at the LABQUEST meeting and Bruce Beach described the RODs and distributed copies to the General Service Administration (GSA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), FDA Union, and Community representatives.

Budget/Schedule.

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT) is using a detailed schedule to follow the various tasks and reviews. They review at each of their monthly meetings. The next fiscal year (FY) budget process is going well. The Navy is reviewing various funding options to close out all their BRAC clean-up work ASAP.

Site Update.

The following update is based on the BCT report at the July RAB meeting and their last BCT meeting.

***Site 33.** Will be closed as a no further action (NFA) site.

***Area of Concern 2.** Screening report in review. Early calendar year (CY)-03 to reach decision; it contains several NFA candidates.

***Explosive Survey.** Draft work plan to clean up issues at the drop towers is in review. Reviewing all data to determine if additional work on drains and exterior of buildings is needed.

Note: It is understood that GSA may have money to begin demolition of buildings in the explosive (300) area. This is good. BUT, a plan is needed to assure GSA consults the

clean-up status before rushing to a contract. This is true in several other areas. For example, which, if any, existing sewer and storm lines will GSA connect to the FDA buildings and are they OK from a clean up view. A new road is being considered; will it go through a site and is that site ready for a road to be constructed on or through it? Extraction wells or treatment processes may be in its path. Finally, it is understood that GSA wants to use the Site 1 and 2 capped landfill for solar panels. This could be bad for the integrity of the capped landfill. I personally urge GSA to work with the BCT and for GSA to figure out a way that all the different GSA groups are aware of these issues. I would suggest we discuss at the October RAB. John Tino.

***Sanitary Sewer and Storm Drain Survey.** Work plan to check some issues raised by recent reviews.

***Site 49.** More wells and sampling. Some problems getting Montgomery Count Parks and Planning (P&P) approval for a key well.

***Sites 28 & 47.** The Proposed Plans for RODs for these sites are ready. Notice in papers about mid-September and plans available ~23 September. Public hearing at 1830 on 8 October before the RAB meeting. All RAB members are invited and encouraged to attend.

***Site 3.** Risk assessment to human health re polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) found after landfill removal in review. May do more bio work in stream to assess long term ecological risk.

***Site 10 & 14.** The Radiological Affairs Support Office (RASO) saga continues; enough said.

Note: If they don't remove stuff soon, the half-life will be reached and removal won't be necessary. Just a little nuclear physics humor. John Tino

***Operable Unit (OU) 2 (Sites 1 & 2).** The long-term monitoring plan moves closer to agreement. Clearly, the day to day processes must be carefully defined and resolved. With construction of the "FDA power plant" in this area and beginning soon, this plan needs to be completed soon.

***OU 1/Site 46.** The study reports are in review. It has wisely been decided to develop ~4 RODs for this area to deal with the long term handling of the several sources/plumes. However, what is really exciting is the BCT is probably going to use advance technology to handle the trichloroethylene (TCE) source and area of plume with the higher reading of TCE. They are considering an air purging process where air is sent into the earth and groundwater, which volatilizes the TCE in the subsurface. The TCE then migrates to the surface where it can be collected.

Note: I am really excited about this as four years ago the BCT and contractors were

very conservative about using technology. Clearly, this has changed and should help shorten the time to resolve groundwater issues. Yea! John Tino

***Site 4.** Risk assessment being reviewed.

***Sites 5, 13, and 48.** Screening report should be out this week. It appears it will be “gentle” re the need for significant additional work.

***Site 7.** Work to remove the soil containing explosive material is beginning. A 500-foot long by 25-foot wide by 2-4-foot trench will be removed. BUT, hold on! More technology! Before replacing soil, a layer made up of wood chip and vegetable oil will be placed in the excavation to create a “salad” for the “critters” to eat to grow more “critters” to “biotech” any explosive molecules that may exist.

Note: I can't wait to attend the Stephen King movie based on this. Just kidding, and my final humor for the month. I really think it is a great, great step and use of biotech stuff. I am so pleased that the BCT is considering and using what the scientific community provides. John Tino

Upcoming RAB Meeting

The next RAB meeting will be on Tuesday, 8 October at 7:30 PM. PLEASE, PLEASE, note the new time for the meeting.

Meeting will be in conference room in Building 1 as it has been. Please enter by THE MAIN ENTRANCE.

Remember, there will be a public hearing meeting on the two plans at 6:30 PM just before RAB and in the same conference room. Please attend.

***6 week update next meeting: 19 November at 1200 at WO-FRC someplace TBD.**

***Future RAB Meeting: 14 January 2003 at WO-FRC. Site and time TBD**