
NAVAL WEAPONS STATION (NAVWPNSTA) SEAL BEACH
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
AND COMMUNITY MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2000

Participants:

Bettencourt, Philip
Bradley, John/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bullock, Jay
Eells, Brenda/CH2M HILL
Foreman, Kimberly/Cal-EPA, Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC)
Hamparsumian, Hamlet/Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWEC)
Jones, Carl/FWEC
Lamond, Robert
Leibel, Katherine/Cal-EPA, DTSC
Masley, Andrew
Pilichi, Carmine
Smith, Gregg/NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach Public Affairs Officer
Tamashiro, Pei-Fen/NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach Navy Co-Chair
Vancheeswaran, Sanjay/CH2M HILL
Vessley, Gene
Voce, Mario
Welz, Ed
Wong, Bryant/CH2M HILL

WELCOME

At 7:00 p.m., P. Tamashiro opened the meeting by welcoming the participants to the meeting and introducing herself as the Navy Co-Chair for the NAVWPNSTA, Seal Beach. She announced that Andrew Dick, Remedial Project Manager (RPM) from SWDIV, and Lindi Willhite, RAB Community Co-Chair, were both unable to attend the meeting. P. Tamashiro also thanked G. Vessley for providing the chocolate chip cookies.

FOCUSED SITE INSPECTION PHASE II REPORT

P. Tamashiro introduced B. Wong, Project Manager from CH2M HILL, who provided the RAB with a presentation of the Focused Site Inspection Phase II Report. Copies of the slide presentation were made available as a handout at the meeting. Questions and answers made during and following the presentation are summarized below:

Slide 6 - Site 12 Sampling Objectives

Question: Does Site 12 have least tern habitat?

Answer: Yes, NASA Island is presently used as a least tern habitat.

Slide 26 – Site 25 – Bldg 95 Fire Fighting Test Area

Question: What is the chemical makeup of fire-fighting foam?

Answer: The fire-fighting foam used at this site is protein-based.

Question: Is that the same as what is used for fighting forest fires?

Answer: No. Borate is typically used for fighting forest fires.

Question: Was there any demilitarization of ammunition at this site?

Answer: No. Activities at this site were limited to cartridge actuated devices (CADs).

Slide 41 – Site 37 PCB Findings and Conclusions

Question: Were transformers at this site filled with Aroclor 1260?

Answer: The only report we have that documented the 1982 transformer leak did not indicate the type of PCBs in the transformer fluid. Nevertheless, we analyzed for the entire spectrum of PCBs.

Slide 57 – Site 42 Sump Release Findings and Conclusions

Question: Can you talk a little about the Ocean Plan?

Answer: The Ocean Plan is a water quality document developed by the State of California for protection of marine water/wildlife. It establishes water quality levels based on risk to aquatic ecological receptors.

Question: Even though the Ocean Plan is a state document, is still used for inland bodies of water such as those of the National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)?

Answer: Yes. The Ocean Plan contains water quality standards that are the most appropriate given the ecological receptors of concern. However, the Ocean Plan is designed for evaluating surface water quality, although we are comparing those standards to chemical concentrations in groundwater.

Slide 59 – Site 42 Recommendations

Question: What kind of site management practices are being recommended.

Answer: Site management practices may include anything that would minimize the potential for pollutants to reach the catch basin and discharge to the NWR. The base is probably conducting such practices through the development and implementation of a Stormwater Management Plan that requires the use of best management practices.

BREAK

A break was held between 8:00 and 8:10. At the conclusion of the break, B. Wong continued with his presentation.

Slide 2 – AOC 6 – External Paint Area

Question: Is AOC 6 the same as Site 6?

Answer: No. AOC 6 is located in the southwest portion of the base and Site 6 is in the southeast portion.

Slide 14 – SWMU 24 Findings

Question: Did you take more samples at SWMU 24 because of the step-out approach?

Answer: Yes. We ended up collecting 104 samples instead of 71 that was originally planned.

Slide 17 – SWMU 24 Recommendations

Question: What steps are taken to prevent run-off from the site pending removal action?

Answer: Run-off is not much of a concern at this site because it is relatively flat. The relative risk at this site is low. The primary concern is for ecological receptors not humans.

Question: At some sites that are not flat, it seems that there could be offsite flows that you would want to contain.

Answer: Containment of offsite flows may be a good idea for some sites.

Comment: If you use dikes at a site, it would result in water ponding, and you may create another problem by causing a downward flow of contaminants.

Slide 18 – SWMU 56 Hazardous Waste Drum Storage (Bldg 246)

Question: Is SWMU 56 located in the southwest corner of the base.

Answer: Yes.

Slide 25 – SWMU 56 Recommendations

Question: Do you have any idea why pentachlorophenol (PCP) was found at this site?

Answer: SWMU 56 was a former hazardous waste drum storage area, so it may be a waste residue. PCP is commonly used as a wood preservative. It may be that there is a nearby telephone pole that was treated with PCP, for example.

Slide 26 – SWMU 57 – Paint Locker Area (Bldg 59)

Question: Why is this site called a SWMU (Solid Waste Management Unit)?

Answer: In 1989, EPA did a Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facility assessment at NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach. They identified anywhere hazardous materials were stored as SWMUs. “Solid Waste Management Unit” is a defined term used in the RCRA program.

Slide 51 – Site 74 Recommendations

Question: How were the lead shots from the site retrieved?

Answer: A 6-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe was used to outline the sampling area, then the top 3 inches were removed and run through a series of sieves to separate vegetation and soil from the lead shots.

Question: What does this say about skeet ranges around the country that will not do this kind of cleanup?

Answer: Yes, there would be many potentially contaminated sites resulting from the use of lead shots at skeet ranges. However, at NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach, our skeet range is rather unique because it encompasses the NWR, which serves as a habitat for some sensitive and endangered wildlife species. This enhances the concerns at this skeet range. Presently, the Department of Defense is developing a Range Rule to identify, investigate, and cleanup contaminated ranges including skeet ranges.

Slide 61 - Summary of F/SI Phase II Recommendations (Cont'd)

Question: What happened to SWMU 57?

Answer: SWMU 57 should be listed under Sites Recommended For Removal Action.

COMMUNITY FORUM

P. Tamashiro announced that the next RAB meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2001. She also reminded RAB members to return their survey form, if they have not already done so.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.