

NAVAL WEAPONS STATION (WPNSTA), SEAL BEACH  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)  
AND COMMUNITY MEETING  
May 12, 1999

Participants:

Bettencount, Philip  
Campbell, Donald  
Dick, Andrew/SWDIV  
Dong, Jane/Orange County Environmental Health Department  
Embree, Melody/CH2M HILL  
Hamparsumian, Hamlet/Foster Wheeler  
Iacoboni, Mauro  
Lamond, Robert  
Masley, Andy  
Menzel, Barry  
Mingay, Marsha/Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)  
Monroe, Bruce  
Peoples, J.P.  
Rennis, Denise  
Robinson, Rob/WPNSTA Seal Beach  
Schmitt, Michael  
Sears, Terry/Golden Rain Foundation  
Sebring, Fred  
Smith, Gregg/WPNSTA Seal Beach Public Affairs Officer  
Voce, Mario  
Welz, Ed  
Willhite, Lindi  
Wong, Bryant/CH2M HILL  
Woodside, Greg/Orange County Water District (OCWD)

WELCOME

At 7:00 p.m., R. Robinson welcomed the participants to the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting. R. Robinson provided the RAB with an overview of the agenda.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

R. Robinson introduced A. Dick who provided the RAB with highlights of the WPNSTA Seal Beach's Installation Restoration (IR) Program project status. Copies of the slide presentation were made available as a handout at the meeting. Questions and answers made during the presentation are summarized below:

Slide 13 - Questions:

**Question:** A recent Los Angeles Times news article stated that the water quality at a depth of 200 feet below ground surface (bgs) under Site 70 was brackish. Is this the Navy's understanding or is this the interpretation by the newspaper? The OCWD does not recognize that water as brackish.

**Answer:** The statement in the newspaper article that states the water quality underlying Site 70 at 200 feet bgs is a misinterpretation of facts by the newspaper.

R. Robinson distributed several copies of the Navy's *Environmental Restoration for Fiscal Years 1999-2003*, for RAB members to review. Because there were not enough copies for all RAB members, it was suggested that two copies be put in the Information Repository at the Mary Wilson Branch of the Seal Beach Public Library for individuals to check-out (R. Robinson will provide two copies to the library). M. Voce, as the community co-chair, will also receive a copy. R. Robinson also requested that the survey form in the back of the meeting room be completed to provide feedback to the Navy.

SITE 1 WORK PLAN

R. Robinson introduced H. Hamparsumian from Foster Wheeler who provided the RAB with an overview of the Removal Action Work Plan for Site 1. Copies of the slide presentation were made available as a handout at the meeting. Questions and answers made during the presentation are summarized below:

Slide 16 - Dust/Emission Monitoring and Control:

**Question:** Because there is a sensitive population northwest of Site 1 (Leisure World), dust monitoring is critical. How often will the air quality be monitored?

**Answer:** Air quality will be monitored continuously as a safety measure not only for offsite populations but also for onsite workers.

**Question:** Will both the wind direction and velocity be monitored?

**Answer:** Yes, both the wind direction and velocity will be continuously monitored.

**Question:** What wind velocity would cause the work to stop?

**Answer:** At the time of the meeting it was not known what velocity of wind would cause the shutdown of removal activities, but Foster Wheeler will provide this information to the Navy. *(South Coast Air Quality Management District rules require shutdown when wind velocities exceed 25 miles per hour. As an extra precaution, specific construction activities [e.g., loading of soils] will cease at lower wind velocities when there is a greater chance for wind-blown dust.)*

**Question:** Is the site subjected to the same South Coast Air Quality Management District and health department regulations that a private site would be subject to?

**Answer:** Yes, agencies and regulations are the same. In addition, there are Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) that dictate when certain activities can and cannot be performed; all ARARs will be followed.

**Question:** At night, when removal activities are not being conducted, will the exposed site be covered to prevent wind-blown dust emissions?

**Answer:** Excavation activities will be performed one section at a time. Only clean areas or sections will be left uncovered at the end of the day. Contaminated soil piles will be covered to prevent dust emissions.

Slide 18 - Excavation:

**Question:** What is the depth to groundwater at Site 1?

**Answer:** Depth to groundwater at Site 1 is approximately 11 to 16 feet bgs.

Slide 20 - Waste Classification:

**Question:** Is it part of your evaluation of waste disposal options to look at the costs for out-of-state and in-state for disposal facilities?

**Answer:** Yes, the Navy takes into consideration the costs for out-of-state and in-state disposal options. The Navy often uses the out-of-state option because of cost-effectiveness.

**Question:** Where on the base will the soil be stockpiled?

**Answer:** The soil will be stockpiled adjacent to Site 1.

**Question:** What is the source of PCBs?

**Answer:** Based on the waste disposal history of the site, there is no obvious source of PCBs. Because the levels of PCBs are so low and incidental, the general conclusion is that the source of PCB is a regional one. The conservative nature of the Superfund human health risk assessment is such that even the incidental and low detections of PCBs found triggers a potential concern.

Slide 21 - Transportation:

**Question:** Why isn't transportation a major consideration for selecting the disposal destination?

**Answer:** The Navy will consider both truck and rail hauling. To address concerns of citizens over truck hauling, the Navy typically uses rail to haul soil off-site even if the costs of rail hauling is higher than truck hauling.

Slide 24 - Site Restoration:

**Question:** Will the 6-inch topsoil have nutrients and amendments added to it?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** What types of native plants will be used for revegetation?

**Answer:** The type and mix of plants to be used has not yet been determined, but the Navy plans to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for advice on this matter.

Slide 25 - Summary:

**Question:** After the removal action is complete, can the area be redeveloped for housing, school, drilling a drinking water well, etc.?

**Answer:** The site will have no land use restrictions because it will be cleaned up to residential standards. Regarding the installation of a drinking water well, the groundwater is brackish, so a drinking water well would not be reasonably expected to be installed. As discussed earlier in

the presentation, water quality data from Site 1 indicates contamination has not impacted groundwater.

**Question:** Will you test-grow crops to make sure the soil is clean?

**Answer:** No, contaminated soils will be excavated and the imported soil backfill will be certified as clean.

**Question:** Do you separate the contaminated soil to determine where to dispose of it?

**Answer:** Yes. In accordance with the Site 1 Removal Action Work Plan, composite sampling will be done for every 500 tons of soil excavated to determine the waste classification of the soil pile and the disposal facility. The waste classification process is described in detail in the Site 1 Removal Action Work Plan. The disposal facility requires the waste profiling for its records.

**Question:** How long does it take to get soil sample results?

**Answer:** The length of time to obtain sample results varies, sometimes 24-hours, 1-week, or 2-weeks; it depends on the type and needs of the sampling being conducted. Generally, we will be requesting a 3-day turnaround.

**Question:** Are the stockpiles separated geographically or by concentration of contaminants?

**Answer:** Soils are separated and stockpiled geographically.

#### COMMUNITY FORUM

M. Voce announced that a site tour of some of the key sites on the base is scheduled for June 9, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. in lieu of the regular RAB meeting. Participants should meet in the front parking lot, at the Seal Beach Boulevard main gate. The Navy will supply vans to tour the sites. Additional site tour information will be mailed to RAB members.

M. Voce introduced B. Monroe who provided the RAB with information about the threatened status of the military's environmental restoration cleanup funds. B. Monroe informed the RAB of an article in the *Military and the Environment* that stated base environmental cleanup and base closure funds are being cut. The article further states that the

ability to divert environmental and remedial construction funds to military readiness, and a change in the book-keeping practices will result in fewer dollars for environmental cleanup and protection. B. Monroe asked that this issue be put on the next regularly scheduled RAB Meeting Agenda to decide what kind of action can be taken as a group or as individuals to prevent these cuts from happening. Ideas include writing to local congressional representatives or to members of key congressional committees.

If RAB members are interested in subscribing to *Military and the Environment*, they can send an e-mail to [cpeo@cpeo.org](mailto:cpeo@cpeo.org) or write to:

Center for Public Environmental Oversight  
SFUI/San Francisco State University  
1600 Holloway Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94132-4027

For more information about the Center, see their web site at <http://www.cpeo.org>.

**Question:** Is there a budget for this base?

**Answer:** Yes, please see the Navy's *Environmental Restoration Plan for Fiscal Years 1999-2003*, for funding information.

Note: The funding amounts listed in the Plan are considered "ball-park" estimates.

**Comment:** A. Dick commented that it makes sense that as the Navy cleans up military bases, fewer funds need to be allocated.

M. Voce asked J.P. Peoples to provide the RAB with an update on the Membership Committee meeting. J.P. Peoples announced that the committee has decided to reduce the minimum number of RAB members from 25 to 20 because having fewer committed and motivated members is better than having more less-committed members. When selecting new members, the committee looks at an individual's interest, knowledge of related fields, ability to attend meetings, community diversity, and willingness to act as a liaison to his/her community. In addition, J.P. Peoples announced that the committee has recently selected four new RAB members; two were in attendance and introduced.

J.P. Peoples asked R. Robinson to introduce both new RAB members. R. Robinson welcomed M. Schmitt and P. Bettencourt and asked each to introduce themselves. M. Schmitt lives on the harbor and has an interest in the environment surrounding his home, he also has 15 years air quality experience. P. Bettencourt has experience in public administration and is currently in real estate development.

B. Monroe announced that if J. Bradley from the USFWS were present, he would ask for volunteers to help with revegetation efforts. Any volunteers please see J. Bradley in Building 226, the base's Nature Center.

M. Voce announced that R. Robinson has resigned his position at the Navy. No replacement has yet been named. M. Voce thanked R. Robinson for his time and commitment to the RAB. R. Robinson thanked the RAB, the regulators, the Navy, and the Navy contractors for all their hard work in making the RAB and the environmental restoration efforts a success.

R. Robinson announced the upcoming Public Meeting on the Draft Site 1 Action Memorandum/Remedial Action Plan will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 1999, at 6:30 p.m., in Building 110, on base. He also introduced M. Mingay from DTSC who provided additional information about the Public Meeting. She stated the Public Meeting will be a more formal process to record your comments and less of an interactive dialogue like this RAB meeting. The Public Meeting is being held to record the public's formal comments and questions, which will become part of the official Administrative Record for the cleanup of Site 1.

M. Voce adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.