

NAVAL WEAPONS STATION (NAVWPNSTA), SEAL BEACH
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
AND COMMUNITY MEETING
SITE TOUR
JUNE 14, 2000

Participants:

Bettencourt, Philip
Castillon, Rich
Clarke, Dean
Dick, Andrew/SWDIV
Eells, Brenda/CH2M HILL
Foreman, Kim/Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
Henshaw, Patti
Lamond, Robert
Nguyen, Quang/Orange County Environmental Health
Smith, Gregg/NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach
Tamashiro, Pei-Fen/NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach
Vesely, R. Gene
Willhite, Lindi/Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Community
Co-chair
Wong, Bryant/CH2M HILL

WELCOME

At 6:05 p.m., P. Tamashiro welcomed the participants to the NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach Installation Restoration (IR) sites tour. She introduced B. Wong from CH2M HILL who would be conducting the tour and giving a brief overview of each site.

A map showing the locations of IR Sites 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 22, 40, 70, and 74 was provided as a handout to the participants of the site tour. Questions and answers discussed during the site tour are summarized below:

SITE TOUR

Site 5 - Clean Fill Disposal Area

Question: How do you find unexploded ordnance (UXO)?

Answer: UXO is located by using geophysical and metal-detection technologies.

Question: Did the Navy contractor have to dig for UXO or was it at the surface.

Answer: The Navy contractor conducted a surface dig.

Question: Were asbestos tiles disposed of at this site?

Answer: Although it is possible that asbestos tiles may have been disposed at Site 5 because this was a site used to dispose building debris, no observations or reports of asbestos-containing materials have been made.

Question: Can people access the National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)?

Answer: On a daily basis, the general public cannot enter the NWR without a base security pass. People or groups can access the NWR with prior arrangements or during the regularly scheduled "public day" on the last Saturday of each month. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative conducts a two-hour tour of the NWR on these public days.

Site 14 - Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks

Question: Is the Orange County Water District still overseeing this project?

Answer: No, the Orange County Water District was only involved in a joint-research project with the Navy and Stanford University at this site. The research work done at this site was completed in 1998. The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (RWQCB) now oversees this project.

Question: Is there any pumping of drinking water from this area?

Answer: No, the groundwater at this location is considered non-beneficial use water because of its natural salinity.

Question: Does the City of Seal Beach have a well on Westminster Avenue?

Answer: The City has three wells on Westminster Avenue.

Site 40 - Concrete Pit/Gravel Area

Question: What are the practical future limitations of the site due to the presence of the chlorinated solvent contamination?

Answer: There would potentially be deed restrictions on the property to warn of the groundwater

contamination. The detected soil contamination was at levels that were below public health concerns, so there would probably be no surface land use restrictions.

Question: Could you graze animals or raise crops on this site?

Answer: To answer all questions about a transfer of ownership or change of use for this site would require additional environmental evaluation, such as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). If this site were to change ownership, the contamination problem and mitigation requirements could also transfer to the new owner, but there are a host of other scenarios also possible. However, the Navy does not have any plans to close NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach or change the use of the site for other than its current use.

Site 22 - Oil Island

Ron Cain and Chris Williamson of BreitBurn Energy Corporation met the RAB Tour at Site 22 and discussed current oil drilling activities.

Question: Is the oil-trucked offsite?

Answer: The oil is temporarily stored in tanks and then trucked offsite.

Question: Is the oil very viscous?

Answer: No, the oil is actually pretty thin.

Question: Where does the natural gas go?

Answer: The gas is sent by pipeline to Southern California Edison and then sent to the City of Long Beach.

Question: Does BreitBurn have a long-term contract with the Navy?

Answer: BreitBurn owns the mineral lease which pre-dates the Navy's acquisition of the land that is now the NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach.

Question: Are the ponds still used?

Answer: The ponds are no longer used for drilling mud storage. They are currently used for rainwater storage since no runoff is allowed off the island.

Question: What happens when there is no more oil at this site?

Answer: When we stop drilling for oil at this site, we will remediate the site.

Question: What is the remaining oil drilling life at this site?

Answer: That depends on the price of oil, but we estimate we have approximately 12 to 18 years.

Site 70 - Research, Testing, and Evaluation (RT&E) Area

Bob Schilling of Bechtel National, Inc. met the RAB Tour at Site 70 and gave a presentation of the site investigations and facility history with the use of visual aids.

Question: What is the cost to test each well?

Answer: The laboratory analysis cost per well is approximately \$700.

Question: Why is this a Navy problem and not a Rockwell problem?

Answer: That is an on-going issue for the Navy. The Navy is trying to recover costs from Rockwell (now Boeing).

Question: So it costs over \$700 quarterly for each well?

Answer: Yes, if you include just laboratory costs. Labor and administration costs are additional.

Question: Is there a public health threat from this site?

Answer: No, the plume is contained within the Station and there are no drinking water wells within the plume or down-gradient of the plume.

Question: Is there any concern the plume might spread?

Answer: Yes, that is why there is ongoing monitoring.

Question: Do you negotiate with the RWQCB and DTSC for cleanup levels?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Does the NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach use City water?

Answer: Yes.

Site 74 - Old Skeet Range

No questions were asked at Site 74.

Site 6 - Explosive Burning Ground

Question: Would this site be a potential site for a Port of Los Angeles mitigation pond?

Answer: Probably not.

Site 7 - Station Landfill

Question: How deep were the landfill trenches?

Answer: The trenches were no more than 10 feet deep.

Question: Is there any surface debris?

Answer: If you were to walk along the areas where disposal took place, you would see some occasional metal debris at the ground surface. Typical debris might be metal scrap and metal banding.

Question: What are the records of public dumping at this site?

Answer: There was a relatively short window during the operational life of the landfill, perhaps just a few years, when some off-site waste was permitted to be disposed of here.

Question: When you evaluate a removal action, will you take into account the disturbance of the NWR?

Answer: Absolutely, especially because this site has minimal human and ecological risks. We must consider all impacts, including those to the current ecological habitats and off-site impacts (e.g., increased traffic and truck noise).

Question: How much landfill material is in place?

Answer: I don't know that number off the top of my head.
[Checking calculations after the RAB Tour
indicated a rough estimate of the waste volume is
30,000 cubic yards.]

Site 4 - Oil on Roads

Question: Why would you look at the human health risk of
vegetable growing in an area where that wouldn't
happen?

Answer: DTSC suggested we evaluate the risk of vegetable
growing because there is some farming done on the
base. The thinking is that the Navy could say
that the "worst-case" scenario was considered.

CONCLUSIONS

The tour concluded at 8:15 p.m.