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NAVAL WEAPONS STATION (NAVWPNSTA), SEAL BEACH  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)  
AND COMMUNITY MEETING  
SITE TOUR  
13 June 2001

Participants:

Abu-Shaban, Sam/Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA)  
Bettencourt, Philip  
Chen, Judy/Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)  
Clark, Dean/Orange County HCA  
Essington, John  
Garrison, Kirsten /CH2M HILL  
Landaas, Stanley/NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach Environmental  
Le, Si / Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (SWDIV)  
Leeb, John  
Oyona, Bert CDR/NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach (Executive Officer)  
Peoples, J.P.  
Smith, Gregg /NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach  
Tamashiro, Pei-Fen /NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach and Navy Co-chair  
Tieu, David /Orange County HCA  
Wong, Bryant/CH2M HILL

WELCOME

At 6:15 p.m., P. Tamashiro, Navy Co-chair and Base Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Coordinator, began the 2001 IR Site Tour by welcoming the participants and introducing B. Wong, CH2M HILL Project Manager.

A map illustrating the locations of IR Sites 5, 6, 7, 14, 22, 40, 70, and 74 was provided as a handout to the participants of the site tour. B. Wong explained that the eight sites selected for the 2001 IR Site Tour were chosen because project activities will take place in these locations which may involve upcoming remediation or removal actions. B. Wong also mentioned that the tour would take us through the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) which is the home of several endangered or sensitive species. The Navy's concern for the NWR and its proximity to several of the IR sites play a significant role in the decision-making for these sites. The order of the sites visited are that as listed below. Questions and answers discussed during the site tour are summarized below.

SITE TOUR

Site 7 - Station Landfill

Question: What volume of material will be excavated from the two trenches located between the water ponds (Perimeter Pond) located closest to the beach?

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Answer: This information was not available at the site tour. Based on information reviewed back in the office, the estimated volume of material that will need to be excavated is between 1,600 and 14,700 cubic yards depending on the quantity of potentially contaminated soils. This estimate was made based on limited soil sampling and using geophysical techniques.

Question: Would excavation at Site 7 only occur at the two trenches?

Answer: Not necessarily. Excavation of the two trenches near Perimeter Pond would be a common component of each of the three removal alternatives considered in the upcoming Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for Site 7. Besides the No Action alternative, the EE/CA will be evaluating a Title 27 cap, long-term monitoring, and excavation and offsite disposal.

Question: Does capping at Site 7 include any monitoring activities?

Answer: Yes, in compliance with Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations.

Question: Are the maintenance activities post-closure type activities?

Answer: Yes.

#### Site 6 - Explosive Burning Ground

Question: When the pond was excavated for the Port of Long Beach, did they disturb Site 6?

Answer: the Port of Long Beach mitigation pond did not disturb Site 6. But the excavation of the pond did unintentionally remove portions of Site 16, the former Primer Salvage Yard (not visited on the 2001 Site Tour)

#### Site 74 - Old Skeet Range

Question: In the process of determining the extent of lead contamination at Site 74 using your grid sampling approach, a "step-out" was equal to another 100 feet?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Was lead detected all the way to the tidal marsh adjacent to Site 74?

Answer: Yes. The lead contamination distribution found at Site 74 was consistent with activities at the skeet range - once a shot is fired, the lead pellets settle on the ground surface. The highest concentrations were found along the center of the shooting arc roughly 100 yards from where the shooters stand. Contamination at Site 74 was detected within the top three inches of soil. Samples taken at 2-foot depths contained lead at background levels with one exception.

Question: When shooting, how far away does the target travel?

Answer: If a target is not hit, about 70 to 200 yards depending on the angle and type of shot used.

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Question: What is the remediation plan for Site 74?

Answer: A Phase II Focused Site Inspection (FSI) Report that addresses this site was distributed to the RAB and regulators in late December 2000 and it is currently being reviewed. The report identified the presence of significant contamination and recommended a removal action at Site 74. The Navy is planning to do an EE/CA to evaluate the feasibility of cleaning up Site 74. The challenge of conducting a removal action at Site 74 is balancing the cleanup activities with the disturbance of the sensitive habitat of the Seal Beach NWR. The Navy is working closely with the NWR Manager (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to ensure the solution is not worse than the problem.

Question: What is the nature of the soils at Site 74? What is the pH?

Answer: The soils at Site 74 are silty clays and are somewhat alkaline due to seawater.

### Site 22 – Oil Island

Eric Witten, of Breitburn Energy Corporation met the RAB Tour at Site 22 and discussed current oil drilling activities.

Question: Are these wells pump wells?

Answer: Yes, oil production occurs further away from the island and pumps draw the oil out.

Question: Do you still have 19 production wells operating?

Answer: Not sure, operational wells have visible rods connected to the pump.

Question: How far away from the island do wells exist?

Answer: Not sure, but wells could easily be drilled some three miles out.

Question: Are you still extending wells?

Answer: No, just pumping oil from existing wells.

Question: Is Oil Island located on Navy land?

Answer: Breitburn holds a lease for the oil rights below ground surface from a private individual. The land itself is a federal property.

Question: Do you hold easements through the NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach to distribute the oil from this facility?

Answer: Yes, however, the custody and liability transfer occurs once the product is taken from our facility.

Question: Does the State of California Division of Oil and Gas supervise activities at Oil Island?

Answer: Yes, mineral rights were obtained prior to the Navy's acquisition of the land, so our facility is governed by the State of California. The offshore lease is

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federal however, and governed by the Department of Interior and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Question: Is each well connected to a different pump?

Answer: Yes.

Question: When drilling a new well, is the initial pipe inserted perpendicular to the ground surface and then angled to the desired location?

Answer: Yes, we know which direction to guide a well from information collected during surveys.

#### Site 5 – Clean Fill Disposal

No questions were asked at Site 5.

#### Site 14 – Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks

Question: Was there any oversight of the monitoring wells by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, including protocol guidelines and required review?

Answer: Yes; however, because chlorinated hydrocarbons were found in the groundwater, DTSC still remains the lead agency for activities at Site 14.

#### Site 40 – Concrete Pit/Gravel Area

Question: What is the fate of chlorine remediated by cleanup activities at Site 40?

Answer: Chlorinated compounds would be broken down to its basic components and the chlorine component would eventually be reduced to chloride.

Question: There were no leaks in the pit detected?

Answer: No, the wastes were discharged via an underground disposal pipe, which was sealed in the 1980's. The wastes did not leak from the maintenance pit. The degreasing solvents that were used by shop workers were discharged to the surrounding ground surface, and, based on sampling results, a major disposal point appears to be southeast of the Locomotive Shop building.

#### Site 70 – Research, Testing, and Evaluation 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 sampling frequency at Site 70?

Answer: Quarterly.

Question: Do you use QED micropurge pumps?

Answer: Yes, we use micropurge bladder pumps.

Question: What is the reasoning behind using nitrogen instead of compressed air to pump well samples?

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Answer: Nitrogen is more benign.

Question: Are you far enough along in your investigations to be sure that contaminated groundwater couldn't be discharged from the site through the sewer system?

Answer: Wastewater from the NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach is conveyed to a publicly owned treatment plant. The sanitary sewer district that operates the plant issues the base a permit which limits the quality of the wastewater that can be discharged to the plant. Groundwater from these investigations are pretreated by running it through the granular activated carbon filters (to remove the contaminants) and tested prior to discharge to the ground surface to be sure that the quality of the groundwater is in compliance with the RWQCB's policy on surface discharge.

Question: Is the NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach on the City municipal system?

Answer: Yes, the base does not operate a wastewater treatment plant.

Question: Are you detecting pesticide or herbicide contamination from adjacent agricultural fields in your groundwater samples?

Answer: No, early testing involved looking for pesticides and herbicides, but none were found. Groundwater sampling no longer tests for these compounds.

Question: What is the highest concentration of TCE (trichloroethene) detected at the source of contamination?

Answer: 800 parts per million

Question: What is the remediation recommendation for Site 70?

Answer: Two areas have been targeted for remediation activities. The TCE source area will be handled differently than dissolved TCE throughout the rest of the plume.

At the source, chemical oxidation methods are proposed. Hydrogen peroxide will be injected, converting the contamination to innocuous by-products. We will be testing this approach in a few weeks to evaluate the effectiveness of this technology.

The rest of the TCE plume will be pumped hydraulically to keep it from expanding.

Question: Why did the Navy conclude to not take action against Rockwell for the contamination left behind when they shut down their facilities?

Answer: The Navy would like to reserve comment with respect to that issue.

Question: What is the time frame on implementation of the remediation action at Site 70?

Answer: Prior to full-scale remediation activities, a pilot-test will be conducted to determine if the previously discussed chemical oxidation approach will be successful. Once the effectiveness of this approach is determined, the Navy

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can move forward. A report addressing the pilot-test should be released for review in approximately six to eight months.

ADJOURNMENT

The 2001 IR Site Tour ended at 8:15 p.m.