

MINUTES  
NAVAL WEAPONS STATION (NAVWPNSTA) SEAL BEACH  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)  
AND COMMUNITY MEETING  
SITE TOUR  
July 11, 2006

Participants:

Blake, Geoffrey  
Dadakis, Jason / Orange County Water District  
Frey, Paul  
Garrison, Kirsten / CH2M HILL  
Jordan, Jack  
Le, Si / Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest (NFEC SW)  
Peoples, J.P. / RAB Community Co-chair  
Tamashiro, Pei-Fen / NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach and RAB Navy Co-chair  
Upton, Gail  
Wong, Bryant / CH2M HILL

WELCOME

At 6:00 p.m., P. Tamashiro, Installation Restoration (IR) Program coordinator and Navy Co-chair, began the site tour by welcoming the participants. She introduced S. Le, NFEC SW, Lead Remedial Project Manager (RPM), B. Wong, Navy contractor with CH2M HILL and site tour leader, and J.P. Peoples, RAB Community Co-chair.

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves. Following the introductions, P. Tamashiro announced that the RAB site tour would proceed with a summary from B. Wong of the sites that would be visited and reminders for conduct during the tour.

B. Wong indicated he would be leading the IR Program site tour given his historical involvement as a Navy contractor for the IR Program at the NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach. He encouraged participants to ask questions during the site tour. B. Wong indicated that a total of eight sites would be visited during the 2006 IR Program Site Tour, beginning with those sites closest to the ocean, and then moving inland:

Site 7 - Former Station Landfill  
Site 74 - Old Skeet Range  
Sites 44/45 - Former Waste Otto Fuel Drum Storage/Building 88 Floor Drain  
Site 14 - Abandoned Underground Storage Tank (UST)  
Site 42 - Auto Shop Sump/Waste Oil Tank  
Site 40 - Concrete Pit/Gravel Area  
Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 57 - Paint Locker Area  
Site 70 - Research, Testing, and Evaluation (RT&E) Area

B. Wong added that Site 5 - Clean Fill Disposal Area and Site 22 - Oil Island, were currently in dormant states and would not be visited during the site tour. He added that both sites would be visible during the tour. A site map was distributed to identify the locations of the sites that would be visited and/or discussed during the tour.

B. Wong reminded the site tour participants that the tour would last approximately two hours and end around 8:00 p.m. He indicated that participants should bring along a jacket or sweater for warmth, as it tends to get chilly by the end of the two-hour tour. B. Wong stated that while the participants would not be exposed to hazardous or toxic materials during the tour, they were requested to stay together for health and safety reasons.

P. Tamashiro requested that attendees turn off their cell phones and refrain from smoking while on the site tour.

Questions and answers discussed during the site tour are summarized below.

*Note: The following contains only questions and answers discussed at formal stops along the tour. Informal discussions were not recorded, including those held while viewing sites from within the vehicle and during travel between sites.*

**SITE 7**                      **FORMER STATION LANDFILL**

**Question:** You indicated that Perimeter Pond represents the western extent of Site 7. Was Perimeter Pond in existence at the time the landfill was actively being used?

**Answer:** No, Perimeter Pond did not exist at that time.

**Question:** Were polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) present in the soil removed from Perimeter Road?

**Answer:** The soil was analyzed for PCBs and this contaminant was not detected in concentrations of concern.

**Question:** Was Perimeter Pond constructed as part of mitigation activities for the Port of Long Beach?

**Answer:** Yes, Perimeter Pond was constructed as part of the Port of Long Beach mitigation program. Build-out activities at the Port of Long Beach often involve loss of wetland habitat. The NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach allowed the Port to create new wetlands within the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to compensate for the wetland loss.

**Question:** Do the ponds connect to the ocean?

**Answer:** Yes, the mitigation ponds are connected to the Pacific Ocean and they experience diurnal tidal fluctuations.

It is generally appropriate to describe the habitat within Site 7 as wetland habitat to the west of the access road and upland habitat to the east of the access road.

**SITE 74**

**OLD SKEET RANGE**

**Question:** What type of testing did the Navy conduct at Site 74 to determine risks to wildlife?

**Answer:** A Tier II Ecological Risk Assessment was conducted at Site 74. Site-specific bioassay, bioaccumulation, and bio-accessibility studies were conducted as part of the Tier II Ecological Risk Assessment.

**Question:** Are the findings of the bioassay, bioaccumulation and bio-accessibility studies available in the IR Program library?

**Answer:** Yes, the findings of these studies are available in the Tier II Ecological Risk Assessment.

**Question:** Have any decisions been made on the proper remedial action for Site 74?

**Answer:** No decisions have been made. The Navy is still evaluating the engineering alternatives.

**Question:** After the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) are completed, will the results of the studies be presented to the RAB?

**Answer:** Yes, a presentation will be made to the RAB regarding the results of these analyses. The RAB will have an opportunity to comment on both the EE/CA and NEBA.

**SITE 44/45**

**FORMER WASTE OTTO FUEL DRUM STORAGE/BUILDING 88 FLOOR DRAIN**

**Question:** You indicated that it has been determined that high concentrations of nickel and zinc at Site 44/45 are harmful to ecological receptors. What specific kind of ecological receptors are these?

**Answer:** The screening ecological risk assessment for Site 44/45 used the American kestrel and the ground squirrel as representative ecological receptors.

*Note: This information was identified after the RAB site tour and corrects the information provided on the tour.*

**Question:** Is the proposed removal action to dredge the drainage ditch along the southern edge of the site?

**Answer:** Yes, the plan is to excavate the ditch sediments until the elevated nickel and zinc concentrations are removed. The removal action will include confirmation sampling to verify the contamination is removed.

**Question:** Does the contamination include any chlorinated hydrocarbons or perchloroethylene (PCE)?

**Answer:** No, testing was conducted for PCE, but was not detected at concentrations of concern.

**Question:** Which IR Program site contains the PCE/trichloroethylene (TCE) contaminated groundwater?

**Answer:** The PCE/TCE contaminated groundwater plume is located at IR Site 40.

**SITE 14** **ABANDONED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS**

**Question:** When were the tanks removed and contamination discovered at Site 14? I didn't realize methyl tertiary butyl ether (MtBE) was being used as a gasoline additive at that time.

**Answer:** The benzene and MtBE contamination was discovered when the tanks were removed in 1983.

**Question:** You indicated that studies at Site 14 assessed natural attenuation. What contaminant was being assessed for natural attenuation?

**Answer:** The natural attenuation potential of benzene contamination was being assessed. MtBE concentration levels detected do not pose a threat to the human health or the environment at this site.

**SITE 5** **CLEAN FILL DISPOSAL AREA**

*Note: Site 5 was discussed from afar after questions and answers at Site 14.*

**Question:** What is the purpose of the tall steel pipes visible within Site 5?

**Answer:** These are groundwater monitoring wells.

**SITE 42** **AUTO SHOP SUMP/WASTE OIL TANK**

**Question:** Is the source of copper contamination at Site 42 from vehicle radiators?

**Answer:** Yes, that is the likely major source of the copper contamination.

**Question:** Are the documents that address progress made on bioremediation activities at Sites 40 and 70 available in the IR Program library?

**Answer:** All current IR Program documents should be accessible on the NAVWPSTA Seal Beach website at:  
[http://www.sbeach.navy.mil/Programs/Environmental/IR/Reading\\_Room/Read\\_SB/Read\\_SB.htm](http://www.sbeach.navy.mil/Programs/Environmental/IR/Reading_Room/Read_SB/Read_SB.htm).

**Question:** Is the annual groundwater monitoring report available for Site 40?

**Answer:** It should be available. The Navy will review the website to confirm.

*Note: Subsequent to the site tour, it was confirmed that the Site 40 First Semiannual Performance Monitoring Report is available on the website.*

**SITE 40** **CONCRETE PIT/GRAVEL AREA**

*Note: In order to stay on schedule, Site 40 was not stopped at during the site tour. A brief discussion of the site was held inside the tour vehicles while driving by the site. Therefore, no formal questions or answers have been recorded in association with this site.*

**SWMU 57**

**PAINT LOCKER AREA**

*Note: In order to stay on schedule, SWMU 57 was not stopped at during the site tour. A brief discussion of the site was held inside the tour vehicles while driving by the site. Therefore, no formal questions or answers have been recorded in association with this site.*

**SITE 70**

**RESEARCH, TESTING, AND EVALUATION AREA**

**Question:** Can you clarify which water storage tank is currently being used for emergency fire fighting?

**Answer:** The middle water storage tank is being used for this purpose.

**Question:** What is the current use of the concrete block house (adjacent to building 123)?

**Answer:** I believe this is used for information technology (IT) services for the NAVWPNSTA.

**Question:** But the adjacent Building 123 is no longer used, correct?

**Answer:** Building 123 is currently used for high elevation microwave testing prior to being placed back onto Naval vessels.

There are future demolition plans for Building 112 within the next 2-3 years. In the meantime, this building is being used for office space and storage.

**Question:** What kinds of activities are conducted across from Site 70 at Boeing?

**Answer:** That facility is owned and operated by Boeing, an aerospace engineering firm, and is not affiliated with NAVWPNSTA Seal Beach.

**Question:** What is the relationship between the Boeing aerospace facility across the street from Site 70 and the aerospace facility across town (in Huntington Beach)?

**Answer:** The Huntington Beach aerospace manufacturing facility is also owned and operated by Boeing, but was formerly a McDonald-Douglas facility.

**Question:** Do any of the buildings within Site 70 have historical significance?

**Answer:** All of the industrial buildings in the Research, Testing, and Evaluation Area are considered historical buildings representative of the Apollo-era. However, the Navy has coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and it has been determined that the historic significance of the Research, Testing, and Evaluation area has been sufficiently documented and demolition of these buildings has been approved by SHPO.

**Question:** Wasn't Site 70 used for nuclear research?

**Answer:** No, Site 70 hosted testing activities associated with a centrifuge system, but all testing was mechanical in nature. No uranium was ever present at Site 70.

**Question:** Does the underground tunnel between Boeing and Site 70 still exist?

**Answer:** Yes, but it is no longer used.

**Question:** How many injection wells are located within the contamination source area of Site 70?

**Answer:** There are 57 injection wells proposed within the source area of Site 70.

#### COMMUNITY FORUM

P. Tamashiro encouraged the site tour attendees to contact her via telephone or e-mail with any additional questions regarding the IR Program. She also requested that individuals interested in becoming RAB members contact her for an application form.

#### ADJOURNMENT

P. Tamashiro adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Note: This is a meeting summary, not an actual transcript.