

NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
Minutes of August 11, 1998
Live Oak Community Center
2012 Success St., North Charleston, SC

RAB Members Attending

Mr. Oliver Addison
Mr. Steve Best
Mr. Bobby Dearhart
Mr. Wilburn Gilliard
Ms. Gussie Green
Mr. Tony Hunt
Ms. Jeri Johnson
Mr. Ralph Laney
Ms. Wannetta Mallette-Pratt
Mr. Lou Mintz
Mr. W.A. Drawdy (for Henry Shepherd)
Ms. Fouche'na Sheppard
Mr. Dann Spariosu
Mr. Bob Veronee

Guests Attending

Mr. Daryle Fontenot
Ms. Judy King
Mr. Kevin Tunstall
Mr. Benjamin Washington
Eartley Washington
V.P. Simmons Union Heights Neighborhood Association
Mr. Johnny Tapia SCDHEC
Mr. Paul Bergstrand SCDHEC
Ms. Pam Bergstrand
Mr. Rick Albers DET
Mr. Jim Beltz NAVFAC, Southern Division
Mr. Gabriel L. Magwood NAVFAC, Southern Division
Mr. Danny Hughes Environmental Detachment, Charleston
Mr. J. Michael Reubish Environmental Detachment, Charleston
Mr. Larry Bowers EnSafe
Mr. Keith Johns EnSafe
Mr. Joseph M. Land, Sr. Galileo Quality Institute

Introduction of RAB Members and Guests

Mr. Lou Mintz, Community Co-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He began by introducing himself. Member and audience introductions were made.

Administrative Remarks

Mr. Mintz asked the gathered audience if they had any particular questions or concerns that should be raised at the beginning of the meeting. He noted that this was a new aspect in these meetings, but he hoped it would bring issues out at the beginning of the meeting that could be addressed during the scheduled presentations, or with special attention.

Mr. Hunt announced that Mr. Daryle Fontenot has left the Navy and has joined the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Subcommittee Reports

Community Relations Subcommittee

Mr. Mintz reported that the community relations subcommittee met on August 11th and are working on a radiological fact sheet that should be out by the next RAB meeting.

Environmental Cleanup Progress Report

Mr. Tony Hunt advised that the tank removal completion date is estimated for September; about 20 tanks are remaining. As of August 11, 1998, 89 tanks have been removed and require no further action.

Zone H assessments have been awarded to TetraTech and they will begin in September to look at what sort of contaminants might have been introduced into the area.

The bioremediation pilot study was completed and submitted to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for review. He noted that that project looks as though it will be approved. The corrective action report is being finalized by Southern Division.

RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Update

Mr. Tony Hunt informed everyone that Fact Sheet 12 (Zones F, G, & K) is complete and available for review tonight. The draft RFI report on Zone A has been sent to the regulators for approval. The draft Corrective Measures Study (CMS) for Zone A has been submitted. The CMS will begin to look at what methods will be used to clean up the site.

Mr. Hunt stated he would like to have a presentation from EnSafe, their contractor, at the next RAB meeting to discuss the tractability studies to clean up the contaminants.

The Navy has also submitted the SWMU 607 and SWMU 166 work plans. SWMU 607 was the dry cleaners where chlorinated solvents were released and there's evidence of groundwater and soil contamination. SWMU 166 was an automobile service rack with the same contaminants.

The RFI report for Zone I has been reviewed and has received some comments. These are being addressed by the Navy.

The RCRA Part B Permit has been reviewed and the public comment period has ended. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) will issue that permit by the end of the month.

Mr. Hunt stated that he hopes to have the RFI report addendum on SWMU 166 submitted to the regulators in the next two months, and continue the Zone H CMS.

Mr. Hunt also commented on the status of the Hess Company work. The work plan and assessments on this have been submitted to DHEC. One plan is to install wells and extract the contaminants from the soil as vapor. Some of the petroleum products present in the soil will help dissolve the chlorine contaminants.

Ms. King inquired about radioactive materials at the base. Mr. Hunt replied that over 100 acres were surveyed. Any radioactive and radiological contaminants have been removed. Mr. Dearhart disclosed that the EPA has sent out a letter stating the surveys were completed and there were no radiological concerns in this area.

Chicora Tank Farm

Mr. Hunt conveyed there is a demonstration going on at the first of the three tanks. Special equipment is in place that chips away the concrete and nibbles@ the steel rebar in the tanks. This project is proceeding as planned.

Ms. Green said there appeared to be a lack of grounds maintenance in the Chicora Tank Farm. Ms. Johnson responded, saying that the groundskeeper has cut the grass and picked up the litter and will continue to do so. Ms. King also said that people are not stopping at a stop sign where the road ends at the tank farm. The fence has been damaged here. Ms. Johnson said she would look into it.

Environmental Cleanup Progress Report

Ms. Johnson reported that the RDA approved a lease with Singleton Moving and Storage. Ms. Johnson also reported that the RDA has opened bids on the first EDA grant utilities improvement construction contract. The bid was 70 percent over their estimate so now they will re-bid that work.

On August 4th, the RDA met and considered a lease proposal for the Alpha pier and deferred any action on the proposed lease until the City of North Charleston has time to comment on it.

The RDA has also agreed to fund a total of \$825,000 for one year of fire and police protection.

The former McDonald's restaurant has been leased to a catering company called Sheer Delight. Also leased is the former chief's club.

The EDA has approved a \$1.7 million grant for water and sewer upgrades for the southern half of the base. Mr. Mintz asked about the situation with steam generated from the steam plant. Ms. Johnson responded that the Navy is still buying steam from the county.

Charleston Environmental Detachment Study

Mr. Dearhart gave a presentation on the Charleston Environmental Detachment. This group was organized in 1996. Their mission was to provide the government with an economical and quality alternative to address environmental concerns. The Detachment began with 172 individuals and are now down to 148 people. They have pulled over 300 underground storage tanks in the State of South Carolina and have recycled as much of the recyclable material as possible. Their group has specialized equipment that nibbles away at concrete tanks; a vacloader that sucks up asbestos; x-ray fluorescent analyzer, remote control backhoe, and an in-house lab for soil testing and asbestos analysis.

Mr. Dearhart said they have a box full of newspaper articles written about their work. He then detailed their work experience, noting that they've: removed asbestos and lead paint in over 200 projects, removed unexploded ordnance, cleaned up petroleum spills, completed radiological surveys, removed over 15 tons of coal from the shipyard, built tank trails, have done underwater debris removal, provide environmental oversight and inspection on the tour boat pier next to the aquarium; excavated petroleum-contaminated soil at Vice President Gore's home in Virginia; installed groundwater monitoring wells, have done school presentations for Earth Day and Career Day, taken part in rescue drills for people who have fallen into deep holes, and have supported the Coast Guard, State Border Patrol, Department of Defense, NOAA, U.S. Customs, and SPAWAR.

Mr. Dearhart noted that the Environmental Detachment is to be disbanded in September 1999, but they have been talking to congressmen to try to find a niche for themselves. Mr. Dearhart said that they would very much like to continue their work and be based in Charleston well into the future.

Ms. King asked what was done with the contaminants, once they are removed. Mr. Dearhart explained that contaminated material is taken to a local landfill that is approved to accept certain contaminants. Some of the coal went to SCE&G for steam generation and some went to asphalt companies. The coal that was unuseable went to a landfill where they use it as daily cover material.

Discussion of Last Meeting Minutes

Mr. Mintz asked for comments on the minutes from the June meeting. No comments were made on the minutes, and minutes were approved as distributed.

Comments and Questions

No other comments were made. The next RAB meeting is October 13, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at the Live Oak Community Center at 2012 Success Street, North Charleston, SC.

Mr. Dearhart presented a plaque and letter of appreciation to Daryle Fontenot in recognition of his service. Mr. Mintz also presented a letter of appreciation from the RAB members to Mr. Fontenot.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes approved by:

Tony Hunt, Navy Co-Chair

Louis Mintz, Community Co-Chair