

Minutes of the
NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 13, 2001
Sterrett Hall, Hobson Avenue, North Charleston, SC

RAB Members Attending

Tom Fressilli	Community Member
Wilburn Gilliard	Community Member
Don Harbert	Community Member
Tony Hunt	Navy Co-Chair
Wannetta Mallette	Community Member
Lou Mintz	Community Co-Chair
Dann Spariosu	U.S. EPA

Guests Attending

Kevin Tunstall	Community Member
J. Michael Reubish	Community Member
Carol Hutchinson	Step-Ahead
Lillii Silvey	Step-Ahead
Loretta Sims	Step-Ahead
Priscilla White	Step-Ahead
Cheryl Forbes	Step-Ahead
Yolanda Wright	Step-Ahead
Sheila Brooks	Step-Ahead
Debra Hightower	Step-Ahead
Gwendolyn Stanley	Step-Ahead
Carolyn Jackson	Step-Ahead
Hortense Simmons	Step-Ahead
Kelly Pate	Step-Ahead
Monica Young	Step-Ahead
Daisy Frazier	Step-Ahead
Yolanda Minus	Step-Ahead
Angela Ford	Step-Ahead
Erika Burton	Step-Ahead
Rosemary Jupiter	Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church
Lillie R. Davis	Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church
Frank Portera	Academic Magnet H.S.
Mark Cowell	Charleston Center
Lisa Belton	Charleston Center
Ben Brazil	Post and Courier
Tom Hutto	General Engineering
Steve Connor	SC State Ports Authority
Jerry Franks	CTP
Paul Bergstrand	SC DHEC

Guests (continued)

Mihir Mehta	SC DHEC
David Scaturro	SC DHEC
Tiki Whitfield	U.S. EPA
Rob Harrell	Southern Division, NAVFACENGCOM
William Elliot	CH2M-Jones
Paul Furara	CH2M-Jones
Vijaya Mylavarapu	CH2M-Jones
Suzanne Zoda	EnviroComm
Keith Johns	EnSafe Inc.

Welcome and Administrative Remarks

Tony Hunt began the meeting and introductions were made. Mr. Hunt announced that the January meeting had been postponed until additional data was collected. The next scheduled meeting will be the second Tuesday in March. There were no comments on the minutes of the meeting from December 2000.

AOC 607 and Building 225 Update

Suzanne Zoda presented a summary of the activities around the former dry cleaning building, Building 1189, also known as AOC 607. Last September the Navy and their contractor began discussing plans to clean up Building 1189. In the November and December RAB meetings, the question came up if the residents in Building 225 (the Step-Ahead program) were exposed to any contaminants.

Ms. Zoda said that, in December, there was need for additional sampling. Three types of sampling were done; indoor air inside Building 225, soil gas from around the building, and groundwater. Ms. Zoda provided a handout entitled "Update: Results of Environmental Testing at Building 225," dated 2-13-01 (attached). A diagram in the handout showed the locations of where indoor air was sampled, soil gas samples were taken, and ground water monitoring wells installed.

Ms. Zoda reported that the sampling results show that the residents are not being exposed to contaminants. Sampling also showed that there was contamination in the groundwater. The health experts feel that the groundwater contamination does not currently pose a threat to any of the residents of Building 225. Ms. Zoda added that the groundwater contamination is not spreading to other areas.

She said that there more information is needed to continue the clean up. The recent sampling showed that the clean up action is going to be much closer to Building 225 than originally thought. It's very important to clean up this contamination quickly so that there will not be any future exposure. It's not going to be possible for residents to stay in Building 225 during this clean up process.

Lisa Belton asked why unoccupied rooms were sampled for indoor air quality, as opposed to occupied rooms. Vijaya Mylavarapu replied that these rooms were the closest rooms to the contaminants and, being closer, are more likely to contain any air vapors from the contamination. Ms. Mylavarapu also said that the sampling technique required that the air canisters be left undisturbed in a room for eight hours, which is difficult in an occupied area.

Mr. Mintz inquired if the contamination would be more concentrated in unoccupied rooms rather than

rooms with fresh air coming in. Ms. Mylavarapu agreed, responding that air samples collected in a room that's not being used, you may see higher concentrations. She added that there was nothing that exceeded health risks in these samples that were taken.

A community member inquired when the actual cleanup would take place. Mr. Hunt responded that additional monitoring will be done first. The lease the Navy gave to the RDA expires on March 15th. Ms. Belton has been working on a plan for a new location for the Step-Ahead residents' new location. The Navy will consider any reasonable and practical schedule that Ms. Belton submits and would plan the cleanup after that.

A community member inquired if there would be an extension on the lease. Mr. Hunt replied that it would depend on the schedule submitted from the Step Ahead program.

Mr. Mintz inquired how long the contamination has been in the ground in that area. Mr. Hunt responded at least since the early 1980s. Mr. Mintz stated the contamination is not bothering anyone now, and if nothing was done, he felt it wouldn't bother anybody in the future. Mr. Hunt answered that the Navy is the caretaker of the property. Their job is to remediate the property and have it transferred. Leaving this kind of contamination is not an option.

Mr. Mintz inquired why contamination was found in new wells and not in the old wells. Mr. Hunt replied that's not entirely true. The results of the sampling were not completed yet.

Mr. Mintz inquired if the contractor should check the existing wells near the new monitoring wells. Mr. Hunt responded that new wells gave the extent of the contamination and how close it was to Building 225. Ms. Mylavarapu noted that seven new monitoring wells were installed. One of those wells had a concentration of 3880 parts per billion. She said this is the first time they found high concentrations in the shallow wells. Mr. Mintz stated there was an existing well within two feet of that well.

Mr. Mintz inquired how deep the old wells were. Mr. Bergstrand replied the wells are about 15 feet deep. Mr. Mintz stated that one is eight-and-a-half feet deep and one is at 13 feet. Contamination was found in the eight-and-a-half foot deep well.

A community member inquired if there was a new location yet for the Step-Ahead program, and if the Navy just wanted to get the program off the base. Mr. Hunt responded the Navy doesn't want the Step-Ahead program off the base. He added that the Redevelopment Authority has offered some very suitable facilities on-base.

A community member was concerned about the health of children and herself. They are directly upstairs from where the wells were being dug and felt that air samples should have been taken in a room that was open to the sampling locations. Keith Johns responded that no contamination was found in the closed rooms, which would have more contamination than an open room; because the fresh air movement keeps the air in the open room flushed out. Ms. Mylavarapu added that if the bottom floors are safe, then the top floors are even safer because you're moving further away from the contaminants and also the rooms on the top floor have ventilation.

A community member wanted to know if she and her children were safe. Her door is open all the time. Mr. Johns replied her room is in good shape because she's getting fresh air. Ms. Zoda read out loud the last two sentences in the second paragraph in the handout, which state that, while dry cleaning chemicals were found

in the samples collected, the risk of exposure is much smaller than health experts were saying would be a problem to anyone.

Another community member asked if she needs to be worried about her kids. Ms. Mylavarapu said no. Mr. Harbert stated the Step-Ahead program is going to be moved anyway. Mr. Cowell stated if the contaminants seep up, it's not going to blow around in the air.

A community member stated she had been there six months and has some concerns. Mr. Johns responded the contaminants don't blow around in the air; they are only in the ground. Mr. Hunt stated it's similar to radon.

Mr. Hunt said the Navy was evaluating if the contamination accumulating in groundwater under the building can seep up into cracks in the building and into the breathing space of the bottom-floor rooms. Based on the sampling information from the closed rooms, there's no exposure to the residents. Just like smoke, it blows away, and the residents are not exposed.

Tiki Whitfield explained that this air contamination is similar to a foul smell; the further away you are, the less you smell it. In this case, the further away you are, the less you are exposed to it. Ms. Belton explained to the concerned Step-Ahead residents that's why the testing was done, to find out if the air in and around the building was safe. She said that the experts from South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control don't work for the Navy. They work for the public's health, and the air is perfectly safe. The chemicals are eight feet down in the soil. They haven't gotten in the air yet. She added that the Step-Ahead residents need to be moved so that this contamination can be cleaned up safely.

A community member asked how high the levels of contamination were in the groundwater. Mr. Hunt replied the highest concentration detected was 3880 parts per billion. He noted that no one is drinking this groundwater. Drinking water is supplied by Commissioner of Public Works. This water was tested by the county and no contaminants were found.

Project Schedule Update

Gary Foster presented a summary of the activities completed by CH2M-Jones since the start of the program. A lot of what they've done is finalize the investigative work already begun, and still more investigation needs to be done.

- X Once a month, there are meetings with USEPA, DHEC, the Navy and the contractors to discuss different activities. They have reached agreements on several site-wide technical issues which affect how to proceed with the cleanup.
- X Twenty-two documents have been submitted to DHEC for approval, and most have been approved.
- X Two soil removal interim measures have been approved for later this month.
- X A draft of Phase Two property transfer has been submitted and under review.
- X There are 12 documents scheduled to be submitted to DHEC this month by the contractors.
- X The contractors have done additional investigative work which included AOC607, SMWU 166 and 196.

Mr. Foster presented slides of a well being installed. The contractors have completed lead-based paint abatement in Buildings 760, 761, 762 and 763. A slide showed where the doors were removed in quarters A and taken to an enclosure and paint removed. For underground storage tanks, 18 sites have closure out of a total of 67 sites. Thirty-two corrective action plans were submitted and 25 were approved.

Pilot testing at solid waste management unit 39 (SWMU 39) and soil excavation at Areas of Concern 607 and 516 (AOC607 and AOC 516) are scheduled for February. About 100 tons of soil is to be removed from

one underground storage tank (UST) site. There will be additional investigation of groundwater sites and continued monitoring of ground water at UST sites. The value of the contract awarded so far is about half a million dollars.

Mr. Mintz inquired if a plan was submitted for AOC607. Mr. Foster stated they had submitted an interim measure plan. Mr. Mintz inquired if the plan has been fully approved for six-phase heating cleanup procedure. Mr. Foster responded that this plan hasn't been submitted yet. The plan for the cleanup will be submitted when they to make a determination on a time period with the Navy.

Open Discussion

A community member asked when the Step Ahead residents would be moving. Mr. Hunt responded as soon as he receives a draft plan from Ms. Belton, a decision will be made. Ms. Belton said that she anticipated this new RDA site can be renovated in six months if the program can come up with money for the renovations. Mr. Cowell stated that they're looking at federal, state and county sources for this money. Mr. Hunt stated the Redevelopment Authority might do the renovation if the county would reimburse them. Mr. Cowell says the money needed for this renovation is not in the state budget, county budget or the federal budget.

Mr. Hunt announced that next months's meeting will be at the Olde North Charleston Meeting Place, 1077 East Montague Avenue, a block away from North Charleston High School.

Meeting Adjourned.

Immediately following the meeting, Mr. Don Harbert was elected as the new Community Co-Chair of the RAB.

Tony Hunt
Navy Co-Chair

Don Harbert
Community Co-Chair