

CHARLESTON NAVAL COMPLEX
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
July 8, 2003, 5:30 p.m.
The Olde North Charleston Meeting Place
1077 East Montague Avenue
North Charleston, SC

Web site for meeting minutes, fact sheets and other
Restoration Advisory Board documents and information:
<http://www.efdsouth.navfac.navy.mil/environmental/rab/chas>

RAB MEMBERS

Keith Collinworth	S.C. DHEC
Bob Dearhart	Community member
Wilburn Gilliard	Community member
Donald Harbert	Community Co-Chair
Tony Hunt	Navy Co-Chair
Wannetta Mallette	Community member
Lou Mintz	Community member
Arthur Pinckney	Community member
Dann Spariosu	U.S. EPA
Bob Veronee	Community member

VISITORS

Steve Terrier	
Regina Hunt	Community member
Jim Augustin	Community member
Tiki Whitfield	U.S. EPA
Mansour Malik	S.C. DHEC
Gil Rennhack	S.C. DHEC
Jim Beltz	SouthDiv, NAVFAC
Rob Harrell	SouthDiv, NAVFAC
Gary Foster	CH2M-Jones
Dean Williamson	CH2M-Jones
Keith Johns	EnSafe

Introduction and Administrative Remarks

Tony Hunt began the meeting with the introduction of RAB members and visitors. There were no comments on the minutes of the March 2003 RAB meeting. Visitors and RAB members were welcomed to ask questions during the meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

There was no community relations subcommittee meeting held this month.

Environmental Cleanup Progress Report

Mr. Hunt explained that the Finding of Suitability for Early Transfer (FOSET) is in the final stages. Comments were received from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) last week and have been resolved. A Letter of Concurrence should be received by early next week. The Navy (Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command - SouthDiv) will then send the FOSET through the chain of command to headquarters and eventually to the Secretary of the Navy. From there, the approval letter will be sent to the Governor of South Carolina requesting transfer of the property to the Redevelopment Authority. All of this will happen by the first of August.

Currently, Phase 4 parcels of land have land use controls in them. The land use controls are implemented through the interim measures. The Navy and EPA have not looked at these interim measures yet.

An extensive Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) accompanies the Finding of Suitability to Transfer document (FOST), which includes zoning in the shipyard area. The EBS has been through review and comment, and has been revised.

The FOSET for non-CERCLA issues -- lead-based paint, asbestos, and the petroleum program -- is in the process of being developed. A public comment period will be at the end of August for this FOSET. The eventual transfer of the property to the Redevelopment Authority usually takes place 60 days after the signature of the FOST or FOSET. The Redevelopment Authority has legal obligations to transfer the parcels of land to the City of North Charleston and the State Ports Authority.

The Border Patrol has finally decided on the 150 acres in the southern end of the base. The Navy will now be able to start the transfer of Phase 3. The Border Patrol negotiations had to be resolved before the FOSET map could be drawn accurately to show exactly what is being transferred and the land use controls in place for each parcel. This transfer is going to be treated like a "fed-to-fed" transfer but it provides a reverter clause: When the Border Patrol is finished with the property, it goes back to the Redevelopment Authority through an Economic Development Conveyance. Mr. Hunt will check on what will happen if the Redevelopment Authority is nonexistent and unable to receive the property back. Mr. Beltz stated the deed will specify the heirs or assigns of the state agency. Mr. Hunt noted that the Navy is still responsible for the cleanup obligations.

Questions

Ms. Mallette inquired if Phase 4 was going to be completed before Phase 3. Mr. Hunt responded the Navy was waiting on whether the FOST covered all of the parcels in Phase 3 and, actually, one area along Shipyard Creek wasn't covered. That has now been included, and Phase 3 is moving forward. The Redevelopment Authority will have ownership in a week or so. Deeds

have already been prepared and all the documentation is in place.

The Chicora tank farm will be transferred within the next 45 days. Additional assessments are being done. The FOST and Memorandum of Agreement are in place. The remedy proposed, monitoring natural attenuation, appears to be appropriate. The Navy was just checking to make sure no additional contamination was found. This property will be going out for public sale.

Mr. Mintz questioned if the ammunition bunkers have been cleared environmentally. Mr. Hunt replied they have been investigated and have received no further action. The skeet and rifle ranges, both were investigated and interim measures done. These areas are under land use controls. Once the groundwater issues are addressed, that area can be released for unrestricted use.

The Unexploded Orndance area, AOC 503, has been extensively investigated. The Detachment has dug 15 feet down and created a big crater. A number of metallic anomalies have been removed but no unexploded orndance were found. This area has land use restrictions.

The Navy is trying to get a grant for the unexploded orndance sites and the Cooper River site. This grant is awarded through the Office of Naval Research. SouthDiv is hoping to get Naval Research's research methods and state of the art tools to help continue the cleanup and to coordinate with dredging down to the correct depth. Right now there are still dredging restrictions in the Cooper River.

Zone J's effluent evaluation has been completed. This study was delayed for a while because of drought. Mr. Harrell stated SouthDiv has reached an agreement with DHEC to submit the ecological risk study in three parts. SouthDiv is about 80 percent completed on the Shipyard Creek study. SouthDiv will be coordinating with CH2M-Jones on the sites that don't go through the storm water system. Then a study of the runoff contaminants from the base for Noisette Creek and Cooper River will be started, going as far as six inches into the sediment to look for contamination.

Mr. Pinckney wanted to know when the entire cleanup process would be completed. Mr. Hunt replied that the groundwater contamination could be cleaned up in as many as 30 years. The Navy is looking into what groundwater remedies to implement. The excavation of contaminated soil on other parcels is completed. Within the next three years, all remedies will be in place. Then the procedure will be to simply operate, monitor and maintain the remedies.

Certificates of Appreciation

Mr. Hunt spoke on behalf of the Navy in appreciation of the service given by the community members of the Restoration Advisory Board. The cleanup program in the BRAC process cannot be done without the community's involvement. Restoration Advisory Boards are to give the Navy information and input from the community; to find out what the concerns are from the community.

Mr. Hunt said that it's rare to find Restoration Advisory Board members interested in

environmental topics, much less interested enough to maintain that interest. The Navy expresses their appreciation. Charleston Restoration Advisory Board community members have contributed a significant amount of their time and effort on this board. Everyone got involved and challenged the Navy along the way such that the Navy has learned a great deal.

Mr. Hunt thanked the board from the bottom of his heart for their longevity, interest, participation and “stick-to-itiveness” in this process.

Mr. Collinsworth (SC DHEC) mentioned Ann Ragan. Ann helped charter the citizens’ groups around base closures in Myrtle Beach, Charleston and the Savannah River site in Aiken. He noted that it's difficult for the local redevelopment authority or Navy to have a sounding board for cleanup decisions with meaningful input from the community. It's astounding and invaluable to have a board like Charleston's with the community members who have stayed so long and consistent. Mr. Collinsworth thanked the board members.

Mr. Spariosu (US Environmental Protection Agency) advised that the EPA looked at the Restoration Advisory Board as an opportunity to experiment with new ways of involving EPA with the community and having interaction and communication from the community. The old way was to have big public meetings, which would end up being just gripe sessions with nobody happy at the end. The RAB system has been a complete success. It has provided scientists and engineers with human contact and the opportunity to get to know the community. It gives the community an opportunity to air their opinions. These RAB folks deserve every bit of appreciation the EPA can give them.

Mr. Harbert mentioned the Restoration Advisory Board convention that he and Mr. Spariosu attended. At that convention, there were a lot of complaints from convention participants about their Restoration Advisory Board groups. He noted that the Charleston Restoration Advisory Board has not had a lot of problems. Mr. Harbert recognized Mr. Hunt’s leadership as a large part of the reason there have been so few problems.

Jim Augustin (audience member and former Navy Co-Chair) mentioned Captain Pearlman, who was the first Navy Co-Chair and put together the membership. He noted that she has gone on to be a Rear Admiral in a different place. Nobody could have expected the interest or the dedication to last this long. It's impressive.

Mr. Augustin said it takes two to have a conversation. The Navy, EPA and DHEC are willing to listen and vice-versa. The Restoration Advisory Board community members attend these meetings and say what they want to say and also listen. The strength of this group has been a long and good conversation toward what everybody was interested in happening. It's very impressive the Restoration Advisory Board community members have taken time out of their busy schedules to participate in these meetings.

Mr. Pinckney advised Mr. Hunt had good leadership but also Mr. Augustin. The Restoration Advisory Board community members didn't mind asking the hard questions. The Navy has done a pretty good job in the cleanup.

Mr. Mintz gave notice that he was taking this opportunity to resign and allow new blood to come in with fresh ideas.

Wannetta Mallette, Lou Mintz, Arthur Pinckney, Wilburn Gilliard, Don Harbert, and Bobby Dearhart received certificates of appreciation. The certificates read as follows:

“This certificate is awarded to _____, in recognition of valuable contribution to the Charleston base cleanup program. Your meaningful participation on the Restoration Advisory Board assures the community's interest by identifying and assisting the decision makers in faster, more effective, less costly cleanup, that meets the needs of the community while protecting the environment and human health.”

Each certificate was signed by Tony Hunt, Dann Spariosu and Keith Collinworth.

Jim Beltz took pictures of each RAB member receiving their certificates.

The meeting was adjourned.