

**MINUTES OF
CENTRAL OAHU RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
WAHIAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY
NOVEMBER 20, 2002**

ATTENDANCE: See attached.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mr. Nakamura opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He proceeded to outline the topics of discussion for the meeting. He also announced that Lt. Trent Wolfersberger would be replacing Ms. Lisa Chan as the acting Navy RAB co-chair. Mr. Nakamura stated that Lt. Wolfersberger was a good choice for the chair position since he is the Director of the Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Department.

Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. Per request by Mr. Jenkins, attendees also commented on how the RAB might attract more public involvement.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes. The minutes from the May 1 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

RAB Community Forum

Mr. Jenkins stated that he is impressed with the Navy's colorful Environmental Restoration Program brochure. He asked for several brochures so he could hand them out to friends and acquaintances. *[The Navy provided Mr. Jenkins copies of the brochure after the meeting].*

Mr. Jenkins also suggested that the Navy include Navy housing residents and families in their community outreach efforts. He also thinks that the reason more people do not attend the RABs is because there are no major controversial cleanup projects being conducted, and because the Navy has been proactive in providing information to the public. Mr. Miyasaka and Mr. Kato also shared this sentiment. Mr. Nakamura added that the Navy has attempted to reach out to the community by giving presentations to the neighborhood boards. He also said that Mr. Roome contacts RAB members prior to the meetings to encourage their attendance.

Several attendees (i.e., Mr. Azuma, Mr. Nakai, and Mr. Bennett) suggested that the Navy make presentations concerning environmental science to local schools, universities, and other youth organizations (e.g., Boy Scouts). It was suggested that the Navy might offer students the opportunity to conduct a hands-on, mock site investigation (i.e., historical research, visual site inspection, sampling and analysis, etc.).

It was felt that if children and teenagers become interested in environmental conservation and restoration issues, their parents might become interested too.

Mr. Nakamura requested comments on the time chosen to hold the RAB meetings. He mentioned that the U. S. Air Force (USAF) recently changed the time of their Hickam RAB meetings to 4:00 pm. There was little comment on this issue and most agreed that the 7:00 pm meeting time is convenient.

Mr. Jenkins shared that he recently attended a workshop on Environmental Justice. Mr. Jenkins indicated that he learned that environmental decisions can sometimes be based on the social-economic, racial or nationality characteristics of a community. While not suggesting that the Navy biases its environmental decisions on such factors, he encouraged Navy remedial project managers (RPMs) to receive Environmental Justice training. Mr. Jenkins also wondered if the RAB meetings could serve as a forum to discuss community environmental concerns not related to naval activities.

Mr. Nakamura announced that the Navy is considering bringing the Environmental Justice training to Hawaii so more RAB members and Navy personnel could participate.

1. Technical Presentations

a. Status of ongoing Installation Restoration Activities at the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) Wahiawa (7:45 -8:00 pm) – Mr. Cowan Azuma, Remedial Project Manager.

Mr. Azuma introduced himself as the RPM for the NCTAMS PAC Wahiawa. He explained that his presentation would cover project background, the status of on-going investigation efforts and the project schedule.

Mr. Azuma presented a map showing the active sites at NCTAMS PAC Wahiawa, the focus of the evening's presentation.

Mr. Azuma first discussed the progress of investigations at the following four disposal sites:

- Old Wahiawa Landfill
- Old Incinerator
- Dump Site Near Building 293
- Building 6 Disposal Area

Photograph slides of several of the sites were presented. Mr. Azuma stated that a draft RI/Feasibility Study (FS) report was completed for these sites in October 1997. Based on the results of this investigation, additional sampling was conducted in October 1998. Using soil sampling data, a screening ecological risk assessment was initiated in 2001 to assess whether chemicals detected at the site may detrimentally harm animals and plants in the area. This assessment was completed in October 2002. Mr. Azuma explained that the initial assessment,

which was based on very conservative assumptions about site conditions, suggested that the investigation sites could pose a risk to ecological receptors.

To get more realistic assumptions of site conditions, the Navy began conducting a Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment in October 2002 based on site-specific conditions.

Mr. Azuma next presented an update for the Service Station Gulch investigation. A presentation of the planned investigation activities at this site was presented at the Central Oahu RAB meeting held on May 1, 2002. Mr. Azuma explained that the site is adjacent to the Navy Exchange Service Station, Building 329. During the station's operation, waste oil, auto parts, and other solid wastes were disposed of in the gulch. The initial stage of the investigation at this site will identify contaminants of concern, which are expected to be petroleum-related constituents and metals.

Draft RI planning documents for the Service Station Gulch investigation were completed in March 2002 and are now under review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH). The public is also encouraged to review and comment on these documents. Once comments are received, they will be incorporated into the final planning documents. The Navy plans to sample surface and subsurface soil, stream sediment, surface water, and groundwater in Spring 2003. Based on chemical concentrations detected at the site, it will be determined if a release is likely to have occurred at the site. A screening human health and ecological risk assessment will be conducted. Sampling data and the results of the screening risk assessment will be documented in a draft RI report to be made available to regulators, the public and other interested parties for review and comment. Following this review, a final RI report will be prepared and cleanup will be initiated, if appropriate. A final decision document will be prepared to summarize the response action to be conducted.

Mr. Azuma also discussed the status of re-sampling of soil at Wahiawa transformer sites where polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-contaminated soil clean up was completed in 1992 (several photographs of the sites were presented). Mr. Azuma stated that a site inspection (SI) report had been completed in June 1989. Removal action to cleanup PCB releases was completed in 1992 at several transformers. Unfortunately, the independent laboratory contracted by the Navy to perform sample analysis was found to be conducting fraudulent laboratory practices. Thus, the validity of all sampling data previously reported by the lab is in question. Therefore, an additional round of sampling and analysis will be conducted at the sites to verify the previous data. Draft planning documents for this new round of sampling were prepared in October 2002 and are currently being reviewed by government regulators and the public.

Mr. Azuma also stated that a draft SI report was completed for nine additional transformer sites (at Buildings 121, 234, 236, 294, 342, 352, 386, 398, and 411) in May 2002. Based on this SI, three sites (at Buildings 121, 234, and 236) were determined to have PCB levels in soil above screening criteria.

Therefore, cleanup activities are planned at the three transformer sites in 2003. Contaminated soil at these sites will be excavated and transported to the PCB waste consolidation stockpile at Kalaeloa (the former Naval Air Station Barbers Point) for future on-site thermal treatment.

Sampling is also proposed at an additional transformer located at Building 352. A final SI report will be prepared to respond to comments received from regulators and the public. The final SI report is scheduled to be published in December 2002. Mr. Azuma presented photographs of the proposed cleanup sites.

Mr. Azuma stated that all planning and investigation reports are available to the public for review at the Wahiawa Public Library, Waianae Public Library, and the University of Hawaii Public Library.

Question. When will the thermal desorption facilities for PCB soil treatment be constructed at Kalaeloa?

Answer. The project is slightly behind schedule. The Navy is currently reviewing bids and contractor qualifications for the construction of the treatment facilities. A fixed-price contract should be awarded in December of this year or early next year. Fieldwork is expected to start in late spring or early summer of 2003.

Question. Will the Navy recover any monetary damages from the analytical laboratory that was found fraudulent?

Answer. The laboratory is now out of business. It was fined \$1.8 million for the fraud committed. However, because there are so many aggrieved parties, it is unlikely that the Navy will ever receive any money from the laboratory to conduct resampling and analysis at Navy environmental investigation sites.

b. Presentation on the Environmental Protection Agency's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) and the Navy's Technical Assistance to Aid Public Participation (TAPP) (8:00 – 8:15 pm) – Mr. Bill Roome, Commander Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office.

Mr. Roome introduced himself as the Commander Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office representative and stated that he would be providing a general overview of two federal programs that were created to assist the public in understanding the technical and scientific aspects of installation restoration activities. These programs are known as the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) and the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP).

Mr. Roome explained that the TAG program is managed by the USEPA and provides up to \$50,000 to qualified community groups. The funds can be used to hire an independent technical advisor, hire a grant administrator, or purchase office supplies, and print newsletters and fact sheets. Mr. Roome also identified activities that do not qualify for funding such as litigation, lobbying, social activities, and travel.

Community groups are eligible for TAG assistance if 1) they live near one of the sites listed on the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL); 2) you may be affected by a release or threatened release at a facility listed on the NPL, or proposed for listing on the NPL; 3) the response action at the site is underway; and 4) your group demonstrates you have or will have reliable procedures for record keeping and financial accountability relating to managing your TAG. Community groups must

also incorporate. Mr. Roome provided examples of groups that would not qualify for a TAG such as a potentially responsible party or university group.

Mr. Roome then reviewed the procedure for applying for a TAG and provided the following references for additional information about the TAG program:

- Mr. David Cooper Community Involvement Coordinator
75 Hawthorne street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94405
E-mail: cooper.david@epa.gov
- www.epa.gov/seahome/grants/src/grant.htm
- www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/tag

The Navy also provided a fact sheet explaining the TAG program in more detail.

Next, Mr. Roome introduced the TAPP program and explained that the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) manages this Department of Defense (DoD) program for Navy cleanup sites. The program is funded through the Environmental Restoration, Navy (ER,N) account and can provide RAB members with up to \$25,000 per year or one percent (1%) of the total cost of completing environmental restoration at an installation, whichever is less. The funds are only available to RABs.

Mr. Roome stated that TAPP funds should be used to assist RAB members in interpreting scientific and engineering data related to environmental investigation and cleanup. Eligible TAPP projects may assist the RAB to interpret technical documents; assess technologies for site investigation, cleanup and monitoring; participate in the risk assessment process; understand health implications related to the site, and; to receive technical training. Mr. Roome provided examples of activities that would not qualify for TAPP funds such as payment of attorney fees, generation of new data, health studies, and community outreach events.

Mr. Roome then provided a brief summary of the TAPP application process. He emphasized that the RAB should first look to alternative sources of funding (such as the TAG) before applying for TAPP funds. Once TAPP funds are distributed, the RAB co-chair must submit an annual report on the use of the funds to the CNO.

Mr. Roome provided the following Internet website reference to additional information about TAPP program: www.dtic.mil/envirodod/rab/tapphandbk/section2.htm. *[Note that this website link has been updated; please see:*

- www.dtic.mil/envirodod/Stakeholder/WCommunity/SI_WCTAPP.htm].

The Navy also provided a fact sheet that explained the TAPP program in more detail.

Question. Are TAPP funds appropriated every year?

Answer. No, they are reimbursable funds that have a cap of \$100,000.

Question. What technical training can the funds be used for?

Answer. Mr. Miyasaka explained that the funds are used to assist the public in understanding IR program elements. The training may be provided by independent technical consultants and include technical workshops, seminars, books and materials, and site visits. Mr. Jenkins stated that he would like to visit analytical laboratories and the engineering consulting firms. Mr. Nakamura clarified that TAPP funds can be used to pay for workshop tuition whereas Environmental Restoration Navy (ER, N) funds earmarked specifically for RABs cannot be used for this purpose.

Question. Would an individual RAB apply for TAPP funds or would all of the RABs apply for it jointly?

Answer. Individual RABs may apply for the assistance.

Question. Do RABs have to identify a particular need or type of technical assistance or have a budget plan to get funding?

Answer. Mr. Roome explained that the TAPP funds may be used to hire a consultant to help RAB members understand technical documents. Many times these documents contain technical language that is difficult for a layperson to understand. Mr. Nakamura provided a real-life example where investigation and cleanup reports for the Aiea Laundry site was reviewed by a biochemist who was also the head of a local school Parent Teacher Association (PTA). He would then report back to the PTA regarding the risk presented by the site to the community. *[UPDATE: A RAB must identify a particular need and request a specific type of technical assistance on the TAPP application form. A detailed scope of work and cost estimate for this assistance is prepared by the Navy and/or RAB and forwarded with the application to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) for funding approval. Note that a majority of RAB members must approve of the request and must seek alternate funding sources before applying for TAPP funds. There are also some forms of assistance that are not eligible for TAPP funding. Therefore, the RAB should consult with the Navy public affairs representative (Mr. Roome) to determine the eligibility of proposed projects.]*

Mr. Nakamura also explained that the Navy has received many comments in the past regarding the level of detail provided in our RAB presentations and fact sheets. Some commented that there was not enough detail, while others felt that there was too much detail making the projects difficult to understand. He stated that the Navy has to carefully balance the needs of all parties.

Mr. Nakamura clarified that RABs (as an entity) cannot qualify to obtain TAGs. However, RAB members may be part of a separate incorporated community group that qualifies for TAGs. TAPP funds are available to RABs representing Navy IR sites.

Mr. Jenkins suggested that the Navy put on flashier, "dog-and-pony" shows to increase public attendance at RAB meetings. However, the real "problem" is that there are no major environmental restoration activities currently being conducted, so the public has few reasons to be alarmed; therefore, they just don't show up to the meetings. Mr. Roome stated that the Navy still needs to disseminate program information into the community. Otherwise, community members may begin to speculate about the environmental conditions on Navy lands.

**c. Community Involvement Plan – Mr. Bill Roome, Commander Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs Office**

Mr. Roome informed attendees that the Navy is developing a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) that will identify issues relevant to the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program and the Navy's relationship with the community at large. The CIP will also provide the Navy and RAB members with additional tools to increase participation and interest in the IR program. The information will be obtained through interviews the Navy is presently conducting with community members such as elected officials, environmental groups, religious group members, business and home owners, Sailors, educators and others. To date, the Navy has conducted about 25 interviews and plans an additional 10 interviews in January. The draft CIP is scheduled to be completed in March or April 2003.

Question: Will the Navy expand the community interview efforts?

Answer: The Navy has identified some data gaps that will be addressed by interviewing community groups that have specific affiliations and interests such as Navy housing residents and elected officials. The Navy has also encouraged RAB members to provide the names and contact information for community members that should be interviewed.

Comment. Mr. Jenkins responded that Whitmore Village is a sub-community of Wahiawa that has its own identity and concerns. Efforts should be made to interview the residents of Whitmore Village.

Response. Mr. Roome explained that the Navy has tried to contact folks in the Whitmore Village area but could not find anyone interested in being interviewed. Mr. Nakamura added that, unfortunately, community members from Whitmore Village did not attend a recent Wahiawa neighborhood board meeting, held in Whitmore Village, in which the Navy presented the IR activities being conducted at the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Wahiawa.

2. Open Discussion (8:30 – 9:15 pm)

Mr. Curtis and Ms. Brady arrived at the meeting and joined the discussion. The group brainstormed ways to encourage more public attendance at the RAB meetings. Attendees suggested that the RABs provide good food to encourage public attendance. Mr. Nakamura agreed that this was a great idea but that the Navy IR program does not have a funding source that could legally provide such food. Mr. Jenkins suggested that we bring potluck to the meetings.

Ms. Brady expressed her desire to educate local folks about how precious our local environmental resources are and impress upon them that we all have to take responsibility if we want to live in a clean environment. Mr. Jenkins added that in an effort to get people to think more globally, the "Wahiawa RAB" was renamed the "Central Oahu RAB;" in hope of encouraging more participation from all communities in central Oahu.

Mr. Jenkins suggested that the Navy conduct a media campaign that would highlight success stories of the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program. These stories could be aired on the media (e.g., radio, public television) possibly every quarter. He also recommended inviting media representatives to RAB meetings and visits to RI sites.

Mr. Jenkins would also like the Navy to expend more effort to solicit input from Hawaiian residents. He suggested that the Navy mail the environmental brochure to various Hawaiian groups. Mr. Jenkins also emphasized that more people might attend the RAB meetings if the topics of discussion were more interesting and exciting. He suggested that the Navy invite Mr. Nainoa Thompson, master navigator of Hawaiian canoes, to speak about environmental values at a RAB meeting. Alternately, the Navy might present a speech about environmental terrorism.

Question. Is the time chosen to hold the RAB meetings convenient? Is it conducive to attracting public attendance? Mr. Nakamura mentioned again that the USAF had changed the time of their Hickam RAB meetings to 4:00 pm.

Answer. Mr. Curtis and Ms. Brady, who regularly attend the USAF Hickam RAB, said that the new meeting time for the Hickam RAB meeting has not resulted in increased public attendance. In fact, public attendance has been declining recently. It was stated that the 7:00 pm meeting time chosen for the Central Oahu RAB is convenient.

The meeting discussion turned to the topic of the CIP plan. Mr. Nakamura stated that the Navy will be evaluating and implementing, if appropriate, suggestions made to the Navy during the recent community interviews regarding improvements to its environmental program. Ms. Brady recommended that we call the plan a "Community Participation Plan." [UPDATE: It should be noted that the term "Community Involvement Plan" is preferred by USEPA and is used throughout their newly published guidance.]

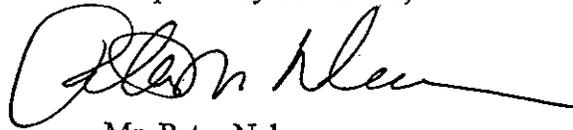
Ms. Brady stated that the Kaneohe Bay Task Force has identified many local people interested in the environment. She suggest that the Navy contact Mr. Dave Penn of the HDOH to obtain a list of local folks that may be interested in participating in the Navy's community interviews and RABs.

Question. When is the Waikele Stream section of the draft Total Maximum Daily Load report going to be available for public review?

Answer. The draft results of the Waikele Stream study were originally scheduled for discussion at a meeting at DOH today, but the project has been delayed. Instead, DOH and their contractor discussed the Kawa Stream data.

Adjournment. Mr. Nakamura adjoined the meeting around 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Nakamura", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Peter Nakamura
Acting Navy Co-Chair
Commander Navy Region Hawaii

Distribution List

RAB Community Members:

Mr. Cliff Jenkins, Acting RAB Co-Chair, Wahiawa Neighborhood Board
Mr. Ben V. Acohido
Ms. Sheri R. Bentley
Mr. Henry N.J. Lee
Mr. Tom Lenchanko
Ms. Helene Takemoto
Mr. Lawrence Moore
Mr. Michael Miyasaka
Mr. Leland Nakai

Elected Official:

The Honorable Robert Bunda, Hawaii State Senate
The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Hawaii House of Representatives
The Honorable Rene Mansho, Honolulu City Council

RAB Technical Members:

Mr. Lewis Mitani, Remedial Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
Ms. Gwendolyn Eng, U.S. EPA, Region IX, ATSDR
Mr. Brooks Yuen, Deputy Manager, Board of Water Supply
Ms. Laurie Sullivan, Coastal Resources Coordinator, NOAA
Mr. Michael Miyasaka, HEER Office, State of Hawaii, Dept., of Health
Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Group Honolulu, Coast Guard Base Sand Island
Mr. Gordon W. Tribble, U.S. Interior Dept., U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division
Chief Michael P. Jones, Federal Fire Department
Mr. John Naughton, National Marine Fisheries Service
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