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NAVAL STATION, ROOSEVELT ROADS

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Fact Sheet #1
November 1994

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD NAVAL STATION, ROOSEVELT ROADS, CEIBA, PR

Introduction

This fact sheet was developed to announce the formation of the Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) which will facilitate and improve community participation in the Installation Restoration (IR) Program.

The IR Program is an ongoing environmental investigation and cleanup program being conducted at military installations nationwide to address areas of potential contamination from past spills and waste disposal practices.

A key element of the IR program is continuous public involvement, including the establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

The existing Naval Station Technical Review Committee (TRC), the group designated to review environmental cleanup plans and actions, will be expanded to include additional community members who reflect the diverse interests of our local community. The RAB will have a greater opportunity to provide input into the Navy's environmental programs at the Naval Station.

What is a RAB?

The RAB is a group established for the purpose of allowing individuals the opportunity to provide comments to Naval Station on its IR Program and to act as a focal point for the exchange of such information between the Naval Station, and the local community. The RAB will bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values and needs between the community and the Naval Station.

The RAB will work in partnership with the Naval Station on cleanup issues and related matters. RAB members are expected to meet with community members and groups to relay information about the cleanup programs and report public comments back to the RAB.

The RAB will not make decisions on environmental restoration activities, but will provide information, suggestions, and community input to be used by the navy in making decisions on actions and proposed actions for the environmental cleanup program.

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RABs will not take the place of community outreach and participation activities required by law, regulation or policy. All community relations requirements must still be met.

How is a RAB Established?

At the Naval Station, the existing TRC will:

- ▶ expand to include additional community representatives;
- ▶ establish co-chairs, one from the community members of the RAB and one from the Navy; and
- ▶ open meetings to the public.

Responsibilities of a RAB

The responsibilities of the RAB are as follows:

- ▶ conduct regular meetings, open to the public, at convenient times and locations;
- ▶ keep meeting minutes, make them available to interested parties and the local media;
- ▶ develop and use a mailing list of names and addresses of interested parties who wish to receive information on the cleanup program;
- ▶ provide a forum for individual members to give advice and make recommendations on environmental restoration issues to the Navy. RABs will not vote on issues or make recommendations as a body.

- ▶ establish a procedure for public participation and respond to questions and comments from the public at RAB meetings.

Requirements for RAB Eligibility

In order to be eligible for RAB membership, community members must be:

- ▶ able to make the time commitment. Meetings will be held approximately every quarter, depending on the pace of cleanup. Members will be asked to serve a one-year term minimum to ensure an effective RAB.
- ▶ an interested community member who may potentially be impacted by the cleanup program.
- ▶ willing to serve as a liaison between the Naval Station and the community.
- ▶ willing to serve in a voluntary capacity.

RAB Selection

A committee comprised to review committee members will select RAB members who represent the diverse interests of the community.

For additional information please contact:

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