

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING  
FOR CREATION OF A RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) AT  
NAVAL WEAPONS STATION (NWS) EARLE, COLTS NECK, NJ  
FEBRUARY 7, 1995

The meeting opened at 8:00 PM in the main conference room of the Monmouth County Health Department in Freehold. Lester Jargowsky, the County Health Officer, welcomed everyone to their facilities and then introduced Mr. Ted Narozanick, a Monmouth County Freeholder.

Mr. Narozanick welcomed members of the public as well as the representatives from NWS Earle. He commented that NWS Earle had been a major presence in the county since 1943. He thanked the NWS Earle Commanding Officer, CAPT Shick, for having this meeting to discuss the restoration program. Mr. Narozanick said he was happy to see that input from local citizens would be considered in any decisions regarding base clean-up.

CAPT Shick then discussed the Installation Restoration process and the number and types of sites at NWS Earle. He said that NWS Earle had recently received concurrence from the regulators that no further action was necessary at 14 "EPIC" sites. He also commented that NWS Earle has had a Technical Review Committee for several years which includes representatives of area communities.

Greg Goepfert of NWS Earle's Environmental Division asked the meeting attendees to introduce themselves and to identify any groups they may be representing. An attendance list is attached. Mr. Goepfert then asked John Kolicius from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command to explain the difference between a Technical Review Committee and a RAB. He said the main differences are that a RAB holds public meetings and seeks opinions from affected groups where a Technical Review Committee is a group which looks primarily at the technical merits of any proposed actions. The RAB also has a co-chairperson who is selected by the community members of the board. Individual members of the RAB help to spread information about restoration activities to the groups they represent.

Mr. Goepfert and Bob Berardo of the Monmouth County Health Dept. presented a map of NWS Earle which had been prepared using the Health Department's Geographic Information System. Installation Restoration sites were plotted on the map using satellite-based technology. Stream and wetland information obtained from the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection was also plotted.

After the map presentation, Mr. Goepfert showed a site action matrix which he had developed and then focused on an ongoing clean-up at Site 18 which was a former demilitarization furnace for destruction of small caliber munitions. The furnace has been removed, but soils at the site still contain high levels of lead.

Mr. Goepfert asked for questions. Mr. Kolicius commented that the Navy was looking for potential members of the RAB, but that other opportunities for public input would still exist. All RAB meetings will be open to the public and an Information Repository of all relevant documents is maintained at the Monmouth County Library.

CAPT Shick said he wanted to point out that although numerous sites have been identified at NWS Earle, the placement of the base on the National Priorities List (NPL) is due to one site, Site 19. Unlike private facilities, when a section of a military facility is scored high enough to make the NPL the entire base is considered the NPL site. He said NWS Earle would not warrant listing if not for Site 19. Mr. Kolicius said this might not be completely true, because investigations conducted at some of the other sites have uncovered contamination. He pointed out that these investigations may have been more stringent because of the NPL designation based on Site 19. Mr. Jargowsky noted that he had been to all of the sites at Earle and that none of them compared to the private NPL sites he'd seen in Monmouth County. CAPT Shick said members of the RAB will be invited to visit the sites.

A local resident asked what type of treatment was going to occur at the sites. He was particularly concerned about incineration on site. Mr. Kolicius said the investigations were still ongoing so no treatment decisions have been made. He said incineration was unlikely. He explained that any remedial action is proceeded by a formal Record of Decision which is issued as a public notice and requires a public comment period. Additionally, the creation of the RAB will help to spread the word on any decisions.

Another attendee asked if any additional Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) were likely to be identified. Mr. Goepfert said this was unlikely because operations were being scaled back.

A question was asked whether NWS Earle was closing. CAPT Shick said any decision would come from the Base Closure Commission, but he was cautiously optimistic NWS Earle would not close.

A resident asked why NWS Earle was building a new Hazardous Waste Storage Facility if operations were being reduced. CAPT Shick explained the new facility will replace inadequate ones and that NWS Earle may have to accept more waste from ships as the number of bases is reduced.

Mr. Kevin Bova, the NWS Earle Safety Director, said a hazardous material minimization program is being implemented to reduce the amount of wastes generated.

Since there were no further questions, CAPT Shick concluded the meeting at 8:50 PM. Informal discussions continued over light refreshments until approximately 9:15 PM.