

**Minutes of Meeting
Restoration Advisory Board Meeting #14
September 17, 1998**

**Naval Reserve Ordnance Plant
Fridley, Minnesota**

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting #14 was held at the Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant (NIROP), Fridley, Minnesota, on Thursday, September 17, 1998, at 10:00 AM. A copy of the agenda distributed at the meeting is attached as Attachment 1. Since RAB members were requested to sign in and provide contact information updates, no separate attendance sheet was circulated. Each of the attendees affiliation is identified on the attendance sheet.

1. Introduction

Substitute RAB Co-Chair Mr. Pat Mosites opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. All meeting participants introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of RAB Meeting #13

No corrections to the Meeting #13 minutes were indicated. The minutes were accepted.

3. Actions Since Last Meeting

NAVY

- a. Operable Unit #1 - Groundwater: Scott Glass, Navy RPM, said that construction on the treatment plant upgrade is progressing and nearing completion. Clean water testing is scheduled to start October 1.

The Navy, EPA, and MPCA are planning to work together to produce a mutually agreeable plan to investigate contamination in Anoka Park, and to mitigate it if necessary. The plan may result in the addition of new wells or other ways to mitigate contamination in the park.

Mr Richard Harris asked about the capacity of the plant upgrade. Scott said that the plant will produce 700 gallons per minute, which is about one million gallons per day, cleaned up to below the MCLs. This is the same volume currently discharged to the sanitary sewer.

Mr. Harris asked if extraction wells will be installed in Anoka Park. Scott said that it hasn't been ruled out. Any contamination identified will be addressed in the best way. Mr. Harris asked if there would be adverse visual impacts to the park, and Scott said that any new wells would be innocuous, and any pumphouse necessary would be tastefully done. Tom Bloom added that it is possible that other mechanisms than wells could be cheaper and more amenable to addressing any contamination identified. Mr. Harris asked if the plume extended to the water works. Scott said it appears the Navy portion only extends to the southern end of the park.

Doug Hildre asked about the status of the NPDES permit. Scott said a permit has been in effect since October, 1996. Scott said that it is possible that the state intends to modify the permit to address dealing with the plume, but he hasn't seen anything yet. But he is concerned by this. Dave Douglas added that he hasn't heard anything from the water quality group. Doug asked if this was still being pursued, and Dave answered that it is as far as he knows. Dave said that Water Quality feels that they have some role in regulating ground water discharge from the park into the river. Scott said that he doesn't understand the state's motivation to do this, since this action is already covered by the CERCLA response in agreement with the FFA. Doug said that he's asked for case law showing where this authority comes from, and he hasn't seen anything yet.

Mr. John Haukaas asked if there had been any new thoughts about connecting the water treatment plant to the City of Fridley system. Scott said that there has been some discussion and the door hasn't been closed. But the Department of Health would need to concur. There are health and safety issues and liability issues. Scott added that TCAAP is trying to give away better water than the NIROP system produces. It has a redundant carbon system, it is Prairie DuChiene water, and it is treated to below MCLs. Mr. Haukaas said that they have been using some of that for years through the New Brighton system. Scott said the Health Department has said that they would need to review any plans and specifications for a new tie in, and Dave agreed that any connection to a municipal water line would be subject to review by MDH. Mr. Haukaas said that he just wants to make sure that discussions continue.

Mr. Yasser Abouaish expressed concern over the polymer dosing necessary to treat one million gallons per day, and Scott said that its still expected to be 3 to 10 ppm polymer addition. Mr. Abouaish said that since he understands that the plant will not be staffed around the clock, the Navy may want to pay close attention at start-up to ensure that effective chemical addition controls are in place. Scott said that the start-up period can be extended as necessary to ensure that the plant is correctly operating. Mr. Harris asked if the polymer affects water quality, and Dave Douglas said that the polymer is FDA approved for food preparation. Scott said that no one has identified any health implications associated with the polymer. Mr. Abouaish said that his concerns were mostly about interactions with the water works treatment system. He asked if the Health Department has considered monitoring just upstream of the intake. Dave said that he understood that the natural level of mineral hardness in the river is higher than what the NIROP plant will be discharging. Mr. Abouaish said that his system is flexible enough to make adjustments as long as we know what we're getting.

Mr. Abouaish asked where the plant discharges at, and Scott answered due west of the guard shack, about one half mile from the intake.

- b. Operable Unit #3 - Soils Under NIROP Plant: Scott said that the OU3 investigation focused on identifying source areas under the main building. A draft report was issued August 26, and is currently under regulatory review. John Flora was sent a copy, as RAB co-chair. Mark Sladic said that the contamination identified in the soils was generally minor, but also generally widespread. The risk assessment concluded that the site was suitable for current and envisioned future use. The groundwater contamination identified, while not a focus of the investigation, is consistent with groundwater contamination elsewhere on site. Tom Bloom added that current or envisioned future use could not include, for example, a basement area where children would play 110 days out of the year.

Mr. Roger Van Tassel asked how many investigations there have been, and if there are plans to go back for more sampling. Mark Sladic answered that we feel enough information was collected the first time to allow a complete risk assessment to be provided in the draft RI report. Since site investigations are driven by risk, EPA and MPCA would need to determine that there is not enough information already collected to support the Navy's conclusion that there is not an unacceptable risk.

- c. Five Year Review: Tom Bloom said that the Navy, EPA and MPCA have reached consensus on the five year review. The consensus is that the remedy is effective, although residual contamination in the park is a concern. The document explains that there are plans to further investigate this. The ROD does say that the Navy is not done until Anoka Park is OK also. The document is ready to be signed off. Because of the partnering process, EPA and Navy will both be signatories. Historically, the EPA has had difficulty enforcing recommendations in the five year review, but this team's approach should improve on that.

- d. Ground Water Modelling: Scott said that continuing refinements in the ground water model support the five year review. It has been a team goal to improve the ground water numerical model. An improved model will allow us to help make better decisions and help to determine where to add wells. Currently, revision of the model is waiting for data from the recent USGS activities.

Mr. Harris asked how the RAB can see this information. Scott answered that the outputs would be included in the 1998 Annual Monitoring Report. Mr. Bart Biermat asked if the model will be more than one layer, and Mark Sladic answered that the model will be seven or eight layers.

PROPERTY TRANSFER

Kerry Morrow said that the Navy continues to progress towards being out of the real estate business. The Navy is pursuing a Covenant Deferral Request (CDR). The CDR is a legal authority for the Navy to transfer ownership of the property before the cleanup is completed.

Negotiations with UDLP about purchasing the property are continuing, but the CDR process is also continuing and will be ready to go if a deal with UDLP is not forthcoming. Kerry emphasized that the Navy wants to transfer the property over quickly to keep it in use, and wants to do everything in its ability to keep the plant an operating facility.

Tom said that normally the new owner in any property transaction would be responsible for a cleanup, but the CDR allows the former owner to maintain the responsibility. Mr. Harris asked if there was a date or timeframe for the transfer. Kerry answered that if UDLP agreed, the transfer could be made now. If transfer is made by CDR, then any time after November 16.

Mr. Harris said he asked the city manager if the plant was transferred, who would be responsible for fire protection since this could overwhelm the local department. He said the same applies for security.

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Dave Douglas said that although Dan Pena was not present, comments on the Health Assessment can be provided to MDH until the end of next week. Dave said that anyone requesting a copy could call him. Additionally, the final version will incorporate Navy, EPA, and MPCA comments. ASTDR signs the final version, and then it becomes a public document. Mr. Roger Van Tassel asked if Dan looked at stack emissions and the discharge to the river. Dave said he thought Dan looked at any toxic compounds exposure route.

Tom asked if this included asbestos and PCBs, and Dave said no, just Superfund.

UNITED DEFENSE

Maintenance and Monitoring Activities: Tim Ruda provided an update of the operation and maintenance of the containment pumping system.

Pat Mosites said that following the start-up of the plant, the only discharge to the sewer will be acid wash. Mr. Richard Harris asked when the discharge to the sewer will be discontinued, and when discharge to the river would start. Pat replied mid October, 1998.

See Attachment 2 for an O&M summary.

The next RAB meeting: RAB #15 December 3 at NIROP, 10:00 AM.