



Naval Air Station South Weymouth, MA Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes June 10, 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr. David Barney, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator, opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 PM. Mr. Barney stated a year has passed since RAB meetings moved to a virtual meeting format. Navy expects that an in-person RAB meeting will be held in December 2021.

Mr. John Goodrich, RAB facilitator from the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration, provided instructions for the meeting. To avoid background noise, microphones would be muted during the presentations and attendees were asked to hold questions and comments until after each presentation. Mr. Goodrich read the names and affiliation of the webinar attendees. Microphones were then temporarily unmuted so that telephone participants could state their name and affiliation. RAB minutes from the February 2021 meeting were accepted without comment.

The June 2021 RAB meeting included one presentation that provided a status summary for active environmental restoration sites at the former Naval Air Station (NAS) South Weymouth. The presentation on active environmental restoration sites was led by Michelle Colón of Resolution and Chelsea Fellows-Stanley of Tetra Tech.

2. ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION SITES PRESENTATION

The presentation provided updates for the following sites:

- Off-Site PFAS Private Drinking Water Investigation
- Industrial Operations Area (IOA)
- Review Item Area (RIA) 111, Old Hangar 2
- Rubble Disposal Area (RDA)
- Solvent Release Area (SRA)

Off-Site PFAS Private Drinking Water Investigation

The off-site investigation in designated sampling areas near former NAS South Weymouth began in November 2020. The sampling effort was initiated due to a Navy policy to identify and address sites with the potential for exposure via drinking water. Navy identified former NAS South Weymouth as a location where PFAS may have potentially migrated in groundwater off the former base property.

Five designated sampling areas were established, Areas A, B, C, D, and E. The areas were identified based on perimeter well PFAS data, the groundwater flow direction, and the location of potential drinking water aquifers. Based on the initial response from private well owners in the designated sampling areas, one private irrigation well was sampled in November of 2020. The total perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)

and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) concentration was below the Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) of 70 parts-per-trillion (ppt).

Due to the limited response from the first mailing, Navy issued second chance sample request letters in January of 2021. Five additional responses were received and Navy obtained property owner approval to sample their private wells. Four of the properties were recently sampled and Navy is currently trying to schedule the fifth.

Based on the results of the initial sampling and the limited response from residents during the initial sampling event, the Navy is expanding the designated sampling areas from one-half mile to one mile in the downgradient groundwater flow direction from the on-base perimeter wells. A map of the expanded sampling areas was shown. The presenter noted that Area D was not further expanded because the original sampling for Area D had already been expanded based on the presence of the high yield aquifer area west of the former base boundary. The entire high yield aquifer was included in the initial Area D.

Although the initial results did not exceed the EPA LHA, the Navy is moving forward with expanding the designated sampling areas in order to increase the number of sample locations and provide sufficient data to ensure that communities near the former NAS South Weymouth are not being exposed to water with PFAS in concentrations greater than the EPA LHA. The additional sampling is scheduled for the summer of 2021. Once all validated results are received, the Navy will review the full dataset with partnering agencies and determine next steps.

Industrial Operations Area (IOA)

This past February, wastewater was removed from the site. In March all of the soil and debris with less than 50 (parts-per-million) of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (approximately 1,888 tons) were transported to a Pennsylvania landfill for disposal. In April, the tanks used to store wastewater were decontaminated and removed from the site. The remaining soil and debris with PCBs greater than 50 ppm (approximately 2,890 tons) was transported via rail car to a Michigan landfill in June. Southfield Redevelopment Authority has decided to maintain the existing fence that surrounds the IOA area.

Navy is in the process of preparing a Remedial Action Completion Report and a Finding of Suitability to Transfer for the IOA. Once the documents are finalized, the property will be eligible for transfer. The only remaining land use control at the IOA will be related to PFAS in groundwater.

Review Item Area (RIA) 111 – Old Hangar 2

The Phase 2 Supplemental Data Gap Investigation was completed in March 2020. The purpose of the investigation was to investigate soil in the northern slab area and fill data gaps identified for the southern slab area where petroleum contamination was previously observed at two catch basin locations. The investigation fieldwork included topsoil removal, utility clearance, a geophysical survey, soil boring advancement, test pit excavation, soil sampling and vault inspections. The results of the investigation were summarized in the final data report which was issued in April 2021.

The presenter described a historical photo from the 1940s that showed the Old Hangar 2 building and another photo of the cleared northern slab area looking in a westerly direction that was taken in March 2020.

The following recommendations were outlined in the Final RIA 111 Data Report:

- No further action for petroleum-impacted soil previously identified at two catch basins. The extent of this contamination has been found to be limited.
- No further action for soil with respect to VOCs, VPH, EPH, PAHs, and PCBs as concentrations did not exceed their respective Project Action Levels (PALs) and background values.
- No further action with respect to metals detected at concentrations that exceeded their respective PALs and background values. Metals concentrations were less than 2 times the background concentration and with the absence of other contaminants of concern or a specific source area of these metals, it is plausible that these metals concentrations are consistent with general background conditions.

In summary, RIA 111 was recommended for closure with a no further action decision document in accordance with the Phase 2 Environmental Baseline Survey process. Deed notifications regarding the presence of structures, utility corridors and suspected asbestos-containing material in the subsurface will be required for property transfer.

Rubble Disposal Area (RDA)

The Navy completed an additional landfill gas investigation in July 2020. The investigation was conducted to determine the presence of methane at and beyond the property line along the northeast portion of the landfill and adjacent to the Bill Delahunt Parkway and/or in adjacent utility features. Methane monitoring was conducted north of RDA, along Bill Delahunt Parkway and in areas of potential future building development northwest of RDA. The results of the investigation were provided in a Final Technical Memorandum that was issued in March 2021.

Based on the data collected, methane concentrations greater than the MassDEP action level (1.25% methane) are present at and beyond the RDA property boundary in the subsurface. However, shallow monitoring locations (surface soil and utilities) do not show impacts of elevated methane concentrations and do not pose risk to utility workers or other current use activities along the Parkway. The proposed recommendations include the following:

- Continue semi-annual landfill gas monitoring of the gas probes and vents in accordance with the current long-term monitoring (LTM) sampling and analysis plan (SAP).
- Continue landfill gas monitoring of four temporary gas probes which were specifically installed for the landfill gas investigation.
- Evaluate future building and construction considerations for any developments within the area of potential future construction located northwest of RDA and consider if mitigation systems are warranted.

The most recent landfill gas monitoring event was completed in spring of 2021.

Navy has updated the RDA facility inspection checklist, so that facility inspections are conducted on a semi-annual basis and will include inspecting the area north of RDA and document observations of earth work or construction activities.

Solvent Release Area (SRA)

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the SRA included overburden and bedrock source area enhanced bioremediation via enhanced reductive dechlorination (ERD) and mulch permeable reactive barriers (PRBs), which were subsequently changed to injection-based PRBs. Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) included preventing migration of constituents of concern to surface water, prevention of exposure

to building occupants from vapor intrusion, exposure of construction workers during excavation and downgradient migration of groundwater with constituents of concern (COCs) which could pose unacceptable risk to the various receptors.

A map of the SRA location was shown. A summary of the work Navy has completed so far at the SRA relative to the Remedial Action was discussed. Navy first began injections in the 2015 to 2016 time frame with the Phase 1 injections which focused on overburden and bedrock target treatment zones. The areas were shown on a figure. The 2017 Phase 2 injections focused again on the overburden area and was expanded to the southern half of the overburden target treatment zone. Weathered bedrock injections also occurred in a wide portion of the site. In 2018 Navy returned to the site and filled in some of the larger areas where injections had not previously been conducted. The treatment areas were shown on a map (northwest target treatment zone and PRB 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). The PRBs were set up as rows of injection wells where injections are used to create barriers so as groundwater migrates downgradient it flows south of the site and is treated as it passes through the various PRBs.

The East Mat Ditch was pointed out on a map. Navy is working to prevent upgradient impacts from migrating into this East Mat Ditch or beyond.

The next steps will be to implement Phase 3 work. The objectives of Phase 3 are to :

- conduct additional injections to maintain conditions at the site that are favorable for continued ERD in areas where injections have already occurred.
- expand the treatment area both in overburden and weathered bedrock where CVOC concentrations have the potential to migrate further downgradient.
- continue monitoring the bedrock wells. Bedrock injections are costly and the data to date indicates that the weathered bedrock injections are migrating downward and positively impacting bedrock. We will continue to monitor bedrock and then further evaluate the need for bedrock injections in the 2023-2025 time frame once we have fully evaluated the impact of the 2021 injections which will be done later this year.
- continue monitoring in areas where injections were previously performed to make sure that the compounds we are treating are being fully dechlorinated.

Additional injections will be conducted on the East Mat where concentrations are relatively low. There are some locations where there are exceedances of remedial goals. Navy will conduct additional injections in the area as a preemptive effort to prevent impacts from migrating south. Figures showing the proposed injections points were shown.

The work plan for Phase 3 was recently finalized. Brush clearing necessary for the equipment to access drilling locations was also completed. The installation of the new injection and monitoring wells is scheduled to begin on June 14 and is expected to last approximately three weeks. Once the wells are installed and developed, Navy will conduct a pre-injection sampling event and use that data to adjust the dosing of the amendments that will be injected. Injections will be conducted in the August time frame. We expect them to last approximately six weeks.

The first post-injection sampling event will be in April 2022. Navy will then sample annually in October for three years. Once a full dataset is available, Navy will decide what the next steps are.

QUESTIONS

Rockland RAB Member: Can Navy please provide me with a copy of the slides, I cannot see them on Webex?

Navy: Yes.

Weymouth Conservation Commission: What will be injected this coming Monday at the SRA?

Resolution: Drilling will begin on Monday; however injections will not begin until late July or August. A solution of emulsified vegetable oil (EVO) and sodium lactate will be injected. Small droplet EVO will be used for the overburden and large droplet EVO for the weathered bedrock. Solutions range from 2% to 8%. The wells will be installed via sonic drilling. Once the wells are installed, injections will be conducted. The subcontractor will place fittings on top of the wells and distribute the injections under low pressure. If injections occur under too much pressure, they can damage the well and cause the injected material to surface.

Rockland RAB Member: I notice there is a problem with the methane gas outside of the RDA.

Navy: Navy has observed some exceedances of methane concentrations in the subsurface and will continue monitoring, especially in the areas where there may be an exposure concern or impact. The monitoring focuses on utilities, conduits, and openings in the street and other areas where it may accumulate and become an issue.

4. ACTION ITEMS AND UPDATE

Navy reviewed the property that is being transferred to the Southfield Redevelopment Authority. Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) documents have been completed for the Building 81/82 Holdback parcel, Sewage Treatment Plant, and West Gate Landfill. Deed language is being drafted and a closing date will be scheduled within the next month or two. Navy would like to try to tie the Fire Fighter Training Area (FFTA) training site into the property transfer if some of the administrative aspects of the site can be resolved.

For next year and beyond, Navy is looking at trying to transfer the remaining parcels, Building 81, RDA and the IOA. Pending the results of the work beginning next week at the SRA, transfer will not likely occur until FY22 or beyond.

Navy showed a figure of the sites that are ready for transfer. The Old Hangar 2 site, RIA 111, will be ready for transfer once a FOST is prepared.

Work at the base is decreasing as sites are closed and transferred. There is upcoming work at the SRA and Navy is developing a Basewide PFAS remedial investigation program. Those are the topics we will discuss at the next meeting, which is planned for December 9, 2021. Going forward, RAB meetings will be conducted on a semiannual basis.

Weymouth Conservation Commission: Can you comment on the status of the area to the north of the site. Appears to be a federal-to-federal transfer, is that correct?

Navy: Correct, the dark green on that slide is the historic Navy housing that was transferred as a federal-to-federal transfer to the Coast Guard, now Homeland Security. They have identified the property as excess to their needs and are trying to divest themselves of that parcel. There is a disposal action currently being handled by the property steward which is the Coast Guard or Department of Homeland Security, and they will need to work through the General Services Administration to transfer ownership of the property.

Closing:

As there were no further questions, John Goodrich closed out the meeting and noted he will be retiring prior to the next RAB meeting. Dave Barney thanked John for his many years of service and noted he will be taking on the meeting facilitator role going forward.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS FOR MEETING RECORD

John Goodrich	MA Office of Public Collaboration
David Barney	US Navy
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