



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 130

MEETING MINUTES
Restoration Advisory Board
September 21, 1995
Defense Distribution Depot Memphis, Commander's Conference Room

The September Restoration Advisory Board Meeting was held on September 21, 1995, at the Defense Depot Memphis, Tennessee (DDMT) in the Commander's Conference Room. The attendance list is attached.

Ms. Christine Kartman opened the meeting by welcoming the RAB members and members of the community and giving them an overview of the agenda for the meeting.

Ms. Kartman introduced Col. Kennedy who gave a brief BRAC overview discussing the work to be completed over the next two years as part of the closure and reuse process.

Old Business

Attendance Policy--

Attendance letters need to be sent to Barbara Johnson, Cleo Kirk, and Barbara Sonnenburg. These individuals have missed at least three consecutive meetings. Ms. Sonnenburg will be retiring at the end of her office term. After the election we could select another City Council member to replace Ms. Sonnenburg. Cindy Buchanan is going to be the new Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) Director. She could help bridge the gap between the RAB and the LRA since she plans on attending most of the RAB meetings. The RAB agreed the current attendance policy is adequate. We should continue sending letters as needed.

State Health Department Health Study--

Larry Smith called Bonnie Bashor after the August RAB meeting and sent her another copy of the letter from the RAB. Ms. Bashor stated she had not received this letter. She did send a reply letter. She is looking at the census blocks around the area of the Depot and will be comparing the available cancer information to the city and county data. She stated that some of the death certificates do not state cancer as a cause of death. Mr. Gray felt going about the study in this manner is less than satisfactory because of the large size of the census tracts and the numerous other assumptions that must be made. The evaluation should also be made against other similar census tracts and not the city of Memphis as a whole. Mr. English feels this approach is backward in that there must be an established pathway identified first.

New Business

ATSDR Public Health Assessment--

Mr. Jeff Kellam from ATSDR presented information on the ATSDR Public Health Assessment. All RAB members should have received a copy of the assessment and had time to review the information it contained. ATSDR was created as part of Superfund legislation specifically to address public health assessments at NPL sites. This means evaluating the possibility of the public exposure to a chemical that may have been released at the site. ATSDR looks for completed pathways whether they be surface soil, air, surface or ground water. Is there a enough of a given chemical to cause a problem?

The Dunn Field drainage ditches are an area of concern for ATSDR. The information we have so far tells us most items were buried ten to fifteen feet below ground surface. Dunn ditches contain rainwater runoff which had not been in contact with the contaminants. Therefore, we do not feel the rainwater runoff is being contaminated. However, there have not been any samples taken of these ditches, but this will be covered in the sampling done in October.

The information provided by MLGW stated that the Rozelle Street was hooked up to city water around 1953. The Depot did not dispose of much other than the mustard agent until 1955. The people in the area would not have been exposed to ground water contamination while they were drinking the ground water in this area. The Centers for Disease Control and the Army Chemical Materials Agency have both been contacted regarding the mustard agents. When the agent is neutralized it is buried in a lime slurry of bleach. The byproducts are things like bleach and sulfuric acid. These things are not in the water at a level that would be a problem. Mustard agent itself doesn't dissolve in water do to its chemical composition. If any of it remained it would probably remain buried under the Dunn Field area. We don't see any contamination that could have caused any health problems from Dunn Field.

Soil contamination on the facility is a worker issue. People who have worked for the Depot may have been exposed to it however, after talking with the Depot about occupational health records there does not seem to be any definite patterns or problems.

Air contamination concerns are primarily from the mustard agents in the past. The Army and CDC provided information on the mustard gas test kits. These two agencies will be involved in this cleanup effort to assure safety.

This ATSDR document is currently in draft form and will not be made final until the additional environmental sampling data is in and can be incorporated into a final document.

Re-evaluation of future information will be done as needed.

Questions--

There is a list and a map of disposal sites on the facility. The concern is was everything that was buried was recorded properly. The study will tell us if we have all the proper information on contaminants. If something is found even after the BRAC process is complete that is connected to the Depot the DLA will remain responsible for its cleanup.

Mr. Truitt was responsible for the initiation of the first environmental study done at the Depot. He maintained the lists and maps of these areas in his capacity as the Director of Installation Services and Environmental Protection for the Depot from the 1950's to 1992. The Depot did not store chemical agents only test kits for the Army Chemical Corps. These kits contained atropine in very small vials.

Mr. Truax stated MLGW constantly monitors drinking water wells throughout the year. To date there have been no contaminants found in quantities that would be harmful.

Mr. Goines asked if there was any amount of concentration to be leaked through the soil what will dissipate that? Could some of this stuff be washed away?

Ms. Kartman: Some contaminants will dissipate, dilute, or migrate in the soil, ground water and surface water pathways, but you must consider individual contaminants, and the levels you have to try to figure out what may have occurred in any given situation.

In earlier years the concentration of contamination could have been higher than it is now, however this does not necessarily mean it would have been more harmful. The borings that have been done so far do not indicate significant or serious problems.

Mr. Goines said there is a water test site at the Allen Well Field about a mile from the Depot. How does the water tested at this site compare to the other nine test sites?

Mr. Truax: There are no significant differences from one test site to another. The differences that do occur are due to the nature of the water at a given location.

Mr. Goines: Are there any additives that are added at Allen Well Field that are not added at other wells?

Mr. Truax: Chlorine, fluoride and phosphate are added at all wells.

Ms. Kartman: We will try and get a copy of the last annual report of MLGW so we can compare the test done at the different wells.

If there are any comments or questions please contact ATSDR. Comments on this draft document are due in by October 6th.

Soil samples and sediment samples will start on October 10th. CH2M Hill is the contractor and they will probably be using a subcontractor. They will be using portable augers to take the samples. We will have letters sent to property owners, flyers given out in the community, and display ads in the newspapers. We are notifying schools, parks etc. and getting rights of entry. We are taking samples off site for comparison to find what is "normal" for this area.

Public Comment Period--

Topics for the next meeting might include a presentation by Tiki Whitfield on the demographic study done by EPA. We are trying to make arrangements to get Ms. Whitfield here to do this presentation.

The next RAB meeting will be held on October 19, 1995 at 6:00pm in the Commander's Conference Room at the Depot..

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Restoration Advisory Board Members

Ms. Christine Kartman
Mr. Jordan English

Ms. Janet Hooks
Mr. Carter Gray

Mr. Charles Truax for Mr. James Webb
Ms. Veronica Smith
Mr. John Garrison
Mr. Mondell Williams
Ms. Johnnie Mae Peters
Mr. Ulysses Truitt
Ms. Willie Mae Willett
Mr. Eugene Brayon
Mr. James Goines
Ms. Karen Blanks McGlown

Defense Depot Memphis
Tennessee Department of Environment and
Conservation (TDEC)
Memphis City Council
Memphis/Shelby County Health Department
(MSCHD)
Memphis Light Gas and Water
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative
Citizen Representative

Others in Attendance

Col. M. J. Kennedy
Lt. Col. Mike Aven
Mr. George Dunn
Mr. Jeff Kellam
Ms. Libby Botta
Mr. Willie E. Wilson
Mr. Russell Anderson
Ms. Sue Estes

Defense Depot Memphis
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Defense Depot Memphis
ATSDR
Center for Neighborhoods
Citizen-Bethel Grove Community Organization
Citizen
ME3, L.L.C.

Absent

Mr. Larry Smith

Ms. Cheryl Sessions
Ms. Martha Berry
Ms. Barbara Johnson
Mr. Cleo Kirk
Ms. Barbara Sonnenburg

Mid-South Peace and Justice Center
(Community Co-Chair)
Memphis City Mayor's Office
Environmental Protection Agency
Citizen Representative
Shelby County Commissioner
Memphis City Council

FINAL PAGE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

FINAL PAGE

FINAL PAGE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

FINAL PAGE