



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 200

DDMT-CCC

DEFENSE DEPOT MEMPHIS TENNESSEE - CONCERNED CITIZENS COMMITTEE

1454 EAST MALLORY — MEMPHIS, TN 38106 (901) 942-0329

FIGHT

December 30, 1986

Col. Mike Kennedy, U.S.M.C.
Base Commander
Defense Depot Memphis Tennessee
2163 Airways Boulevard
Memphis, TN 38116-5210

Dear Col. Kennedy;

In regards to the Restoration Advisory Board Guidelines of the Department of Defense and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Defense Depot Memphis Tennessee is intentionally circumventing both the "letter," the "intent," and the "spirit" of the guidelines with regards to membership diversity and balance; to locations of meetings; and to addressing non-restoration issues. Guidelines clearly states:

RABs bring together people who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, enabling the early and continued flow of information between the affected community, DoD and environmental oversight agencies. DOD is creating RABs to ensure that all stakeholders have a voice and can actively participate in a timely and thorough manner in the review of restoration documents. RAB community members will provide advice as individuals to the decision-makers on restoration issues. It is a forum to be used for the expression and careful considerations of diverse points of view.

In Memphis, at the Defense Depot, nothing could be farther from the truth. RAB meetings are nothing more than a dog-and-pony show for government officials, where the Department of Defense (DoD) has deliberately filled the board with members sympathetic and/or supportive of it goals and objectives. Theoretically and realistically, these members of the RAB flagrantly defies the spirit of the guideline's mandate of bringing together people who reflect the diverse interests within the local community. There is no diversity of interest. In fact, the only interest reflected by the RAB is to expedite an economic redevelopment of the

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OBJECTIVES

- 1) Inform the black residents of Memphis of the toxic waste poisoning them and their very own neighborhoods.
- 2) Get poison signs posted along the perimeter of the Defense Depot.
- 3) Stop facilities producing and emitting toxic poisons from operating in Memphis.
- 4) Obtain health intervention in the form of a "Free Clinic" for people of Memphis.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

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facility, excluding health and environmental concerns completely.

Compromised with pro-government members, RAB structure impedes community participation and encourages public contention to the redevelopment process itself. RAB isn't properly addressing Non-restoration Issues, as stated in the guidelines:

Because RAB provides a direct channel for communication to the Installation, community members may raise some non-restoration issues during RAB discussions. Although these issues may not be appropriate for discussion within the context of the RAB, DOD should be responsive of these concerns by referring them to the appropriate offices at the installation or alternate forums more appropriate for the issues

RAB is acting just as secretively and surreptitiously as the Defense Depot has acted for the last fifty-four years, which is alienating the community. Members of the adversely impacted minority community resent being misled by government officials who don't answer questions, who refer all questions to you Col. Kennedy at public meetings, and who don't have the community's interest at heart.

The composition and locations of RAB are inexcusable. Officials at the Defense Depot stacked RAB with members that are not a part of the adversely impacted communities. To make matters worse, RAB meetings are scheduled for times and places that ensures the lowest participation by members of the impacted community. And even worse, members were selected to RAB to minimize adverse reaction and harsh criticism to guarantee the success of the redevelopment -- not to ensure human health and the environment be maintained.

The RAB meeting should be held in a location agreed upon by the RAB members and in a location that is accessible to the physically impaired. The development of the RAB concept was meant to ensure and enhance community involvement in the process,

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providing the community with the opportunity to
suggest meeting locations should assure this.

Meetings are held at the Defense Depot — a place where no one
wants to go!

Respectfully,


Kenneth Bradshaw

Doris Bradshaw, Founder and President

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