



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 275



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DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
MEMPHIS DEPOT CARETAKER
2163 AIRWAYS BOULEVARD
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38114-5210

File:
C.G. 190,200



IN REPLY
REFER TO

DDSP-FE

DEC 11 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: DDMT-CCC Meeting on December 8, 1997

The meeting was held at Corry Junior High School and commenced at approximately 6:45 p.m. Ms. Doris Bradshaw introduced Ms. Martina Cartwright and Ms. Christy Mills of the Environmental Justice Clinic at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. The clinic educates students on environmental justice legal issues and assists community groups in pursuing legal actions against organizations that may have negatively impacted the community with environmental contamination.

What has she done so far to assist the CCC? Ms. Cartwright filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Department of the Army requesting all documentation concerning how far the studies have gone and what has been found. The Army responded that the fee to copy all the information would cost around \$83,000. Ms. Cartwright requested the fee be waived since the information would be used to protect the community's interest. The Army responded that providing the information would not fulfill the community interest waiver requirements. This was considered to be another example of the Department of Defense/Department of the Army's unwillingness to work with a community they have impacted since 1942.

Ms. Cartwright indicated Ms. Bradshaw had contacted a federal stormwater agent who indicated stormwater could be coming onto the facility from off base, so there was no problem. This also was considered to be another example of one government agency covering up for another.

Ms. Cartwright indicated the Memphis Depot mixed chemical agents for munitions and stored the agent components without any regard for the surrounding community. She then gave the fluorspar and bauxite as an example of the agent components stored at the Depot. She also indicated that phosphorous had been stored at the Depot. Ms. Cartwright then used the Hanford facility as an example of how DoD facilities operate and treat surrounding communities. She told the story of how Hanford released radioactive isotopes into the atmosphere to see how they would react without notifying or evacuating the surrounding community. The community learned of the event when people in "moon suits" showed up taking samples.

According to Ms. Cartwright, DoD has allocated \$365 billion to remediate closing bases. She tied this to the idea that all DoD facilities, including the Depot, had been careless with chemicals and had endangered surrounding communities.

After reviewing the DDMT-CCC case, Ms. Cartwright sees the main problems here as lack of testing information of surface water and the facility. She mentioned that Ms. Mills' husband, a geologist, had reviewed the Record of Decision for the Interim Remedial Action for Groundwater at Dunn Field (1996). The document itself said there was not enough information.

Ms. Cartwright, Ms. Mills, and Ms. Bradshaw had driven around the facility on Dec. 8 and noticed how much stormwater was draining past the facility fence line onto the grassy area between the facility and Perry Road into the surrounding community. Ms. Cartwright believes this is a violation of the Clean Water Act and of the Depot's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit. She believed this was an avenue for levying a legal action against the Depot.

Now that the Depot has closed, private companies were leasing the buildings and driving through the neighborhood. But, the neighbors did not know who they were, what they were doing, or what was really going on. Another example of the Depot doing what they wanted without informing the community. She and the DDMT-CCC believed no one should be allowed to lease any of the Depot properties until all the remediation has been completed.

Mr. Kevin Clay, DDMT Restoration Advisory Board member and DDMT-CCC member, asked if and how they could have a private company test the stormwater running off the Depot. Ms. Cartwright said all they needed was money and that water testing would be relatively expensive. She also suggested that the DDMT-CCC coordinate an effort to collect soil samples from several properties adjacent to the Depot.

Ms. Cartwright suggested the DDMT-CCC contact local universities and the county agricultural extension service regarding low or no cost soil and water analysis. Ms. Bradshaw interjected that Mr. Knox, a scientist associated with the DDMT-CCC, had offered to teach people how to properly pull samples. She would contact him to set up a training session within the next couple of weeks. Ms. Cartwright said once the data had been collected she could take it to the Environmental Protection Office and push to have them force the Depot to clean it up.

Ms. Cartwright urged everyone present to complete the health survey and to encourage their neighbors to do the same. She said the information was necessary for Mr. Grover Hankins, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, to continue developing a lawsuit against the Department of the Army. Ms. Bradshaw interjected that the lawyers had been unable to put together a lawsuit because the health surveys had not been completed.

A community member offered to go door-to-door. Ms. Bradshaw indicated one community member had completed about 100 surveys by going door to door and that was the only way to get the job done.

A community member and former Depot employee recounted an incident where he was detailed from the Subsistence Branch to the Chemical Branch. He said he received no training about what he was unloading and no personal protective equipment (i.e. proper gloves, eye protection, etc.). One day he was unloading empty drums (apparently empty chemical drums that had been washed and brought back for reuse) that the delivery truck driver said had been washed. The driver asked this community member if he really believed all the chemicals had been washed out. The community member did not know, but he continued to handle the drums with cloth gloves and even sat on one. Soon thereafter he developed hard knots, much like warts. After several visits to the doctor, the man underwent a biopsy that came back as nonmalignant. The man then underwent a voluntary vasectomy because he did not want to pass anything on to children. At this point Ms. Bradshaw requested that he discuss his situation directly with Ms. Cartwright.

Ms. Bradshaw said she believed that all the sampling at the Depot was conducted to confirm that the Depot was not polluting, i.e. they were selective in their locations and in what they sampled for. She used the sampling conducted under the powerlines on the western easement - three samples only that were analyzed for polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs) only. "I have been and will continue to be a thorn in the Depot's side until they turn their attention to the community and test in the community," she said. She also believed that all testing at the Depot had been conducted incorrectly. Ms. Bradshaw also said that ATSDR's public health assessment had been prepared using data provided by the Depot and that data can be distorted. She felt that taking their own samples and providing the data to ATSDR was the only way the community was going to be properly assessed for toxic assault.

A community member then asked why, with this being such an important issue, were there so few people in attendance. Ms. Bradshaw suggested weather as one cause. Mr. Clay interjected that everyone present should go back to their neighborhoods and actively encourage their neighbors to attend DDMT-CCC meetings. Mr. Mondale Williams, DDMT RAB community co-chair, introduced himself at this time inviting and encouraging everyone present to attend the next scheduled RAB meeting on January 15, 1998. He reminded everyone that it was Martin Luther King, Jr. day and as such everyone should make a special effort to uphold his memory by standing up for their rights regarding the Depot's environmental cleanup program.

Ms. Cartwright then turned the program over to Ms. Mills who began by highlighting RAB minutes that indicated the Depot would open a community reading room to the public, but they wanted people to make an appointment to speak with someone. The minutes also indicated that the reading room had computers with Internet access, but that Ms. Bradshaw had learned that there was no access yet.

From the RAB minutes, Ms. Mills pointed out Mr. Kaden's comment that when they started drilling wells they would find what was there. She questioned how that could be if the Depot has spent all this time and money conducting tests. Mr. Williams interjected that he agreed that the studies had taken too long and that more should be known about the site. He indicated he had voiced that concern numerous times at RAB meetings.

Ms. Mills then turned the program over to Ms. Bradshaw due to time constraints. Ms. Bradshaw began by informing the group that she would be attending a very important meeting somewhere in Tennessee regarding chemicals in communities, the state, and the Depot as well as chemicals impact on public health.

Last month at an ATSDR meeting, she learned that the health clinic the DDMT-CCC had pushed for was coming. ATSDR was looking for funds, and Senator Harold Ford, Jr. was also working to obtain the funding. She had also attended a Chemical Working Group meeting in Utah and had talked with a Colonel Libby, who knew a lot about the DDMT-CCC and had copies of their newsletters. She also saw a document, Non-Stockpile Chemical Warfare Materials Program Survey and Analysis Report dated 1993, that listed the Depot as having chemical warfare materials. Apparently (I was not clear where she got this information) the document indicated that chemical warfare materials could affect residents. This was different from what the Depot had been telling her and the RAB.

Ms. Bradshaw informed that group that Dr. Warren of the ATSDR had fulfilled his promise to revisit the Depot's Public Health Assessment and to include surface and ground water. She applauded his efforts since he was the first ATSDR administrator to push the issue of impact on minority communities. According to Ms. Bradshaw minority communities had been overlooked in past public health assessments.

Ms. Bradshaw attended the Minority Health Summit in Nashville hosted by the Tennessee Senate Minority Caucus. She heard the white senators say that black people's lifestyle caused their health problems and not impacts from industrial sites. She challenged the Black Caucus to be the watchdog for minority communities against toxic assault from industries.

Apparently the Minority Caucus was to begin hearings in January concerning minority health. She encouraged everyone to gather their sick neighbors, relatives whose loved ones had passed away, and anyone else with information regarding health impacts from industries to attend these hearings and give testimony about their health.

Ms. Bradshaw ended the meeting by informing the group that Mr. Hankins was still working to locate an attorney to represent the DDMT-CCC and the community in a lawsuit concerning negative health impacts from the Depot.

The meeting adjourned and several individuals gathered around Ms. Cartwright to discuss their personal issues.

DENISE K. COOPER
Environmental Protection Assistant

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