



# THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 78

MEETING MINUTES  
Restoration Advisory Board  
September 15, 1994, 6:00 p.m.  
Defense Distribution Depot Memphis, Commander's Conference Room

The September Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting was held on September 15, 1994, at the Defense Depot Memphis Tennessee (DDMT) in the Commander's Conference Room. The following people were in attendance:

Restoration Advisory Board Members

Ms. Christine Kartman	Defense Depot Memphis (Installation Co-Chair)
Ms. Karen Blanks	Industry Representative
Mr. Jim Morrison for Jordan English	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Mr. James Goines	Citizen Representative
Mr. Carter Gray	Memphis/Shelby County Health Department (MSCHD)
Ms. Johnnie Mae Peters	Citizen Representative
Mr. Larry Smith	Mid-South Peace and Justice Center
Ms. Veronica Smith	Citizen Representative
Ms. Eustace McKissack for Willie Mae Willett	Citizen Representative
Mr. James Webb	Memphis Light, Gas and Water Company
Ms. Barbara Johnson	Citizen Representative
Ms. Pamela Walker for B. Sonnenburg and Janet Hooks	Memphis City Council

Others in Attendance

Ms. Bonnie Bashor	Tennessee Health Department
Mr. Frank Novitzki	Defense Depot Memphis
Mr. George Dunn	Defense Depot Memphis
Ms. Denise Cooper	Defense Depot Memphis
Mr. John Romeo	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Mark Corey	CH2M Hill
Mr. Bob Blanz	CH2M Hill
Mr. Barry Moore	MSCHD-Water Quality
Ms. Sue Estes	Earth Tech

RAB Members not in Attendance

Mr. Ulysses Truitt	Citizen Representative
Dr. Cleo Kirk	Shelby County Board of Commissioners
Ms. Helyn Keith	Shelby County Mayor's Office
Mr. Reginald French	Memphis City Mayor's Office
Ms. Doris Prather	Citizen Representative
Rev. W.A. Suggs	Citizen Representative

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

#### Old Business

##### RAB Charter--

The RAB was asked to sign the charter since no comments were received. The members who were present at the meeting followed Ms. Kartman in placing their signatures on the charter.

##### Attendance Letters--

As discussed at a previous meeting attendance letters will be sent out to members who miss two consecutive meetings with no representation. Doris Prather and W.A. Suggs have not attended any meetings so we will be sending letters out to them. Reginald French called and stated he would be attending the meeting that was held in August. A letter will be sent to the Mayor's office to request a new representative. Pamela Walker offered to call Reginald French and find out if there is someone in the Mayor's Office that would be available to attend the RAB meetings. If Ms. Prather and Mr. Suggs are not interested in participating in the RAB we will choose new representatives from the original applications that were received.

##### Fact Sheets/Executive Summaries--

Larry Smith was introduced as the Community Co-Chair. Mr. Smith requested that members need to get everyone who is involved in the process to go through the summaries and fact sheets that have been provided at previous RAB meetings. The RAB needs to call around and get citizen groups to meet amongst themselves to get feedback and comments to incorporate and to generate questions that may need to be clarified. Decisions that will be made in the future will be based on the advice that comes from the comments provided by this group. Mr. Novitzki also stated that the more comments we receive up front to incorporate into future work plans the more efficient we can be later. Mr. Smith also mentioned the availability of the complete documents that are housed in the information repositories. These documents are also helpful in understanding the past studies, such as the 1990 Law Environmental Study, and the overall process for restoration. The Main Public Library on Peabody has the documents at the reference desk on the main level. Ms. Kartman stated that all the fact sheets and summaries are open for comment at this time. We need feedback from the RAB on the format, contents, and level of knowledge contained in this information before we send it out to the general public.

Mr. Smith also asked the RAB if they had any comments about the minutes from the August meeting minutes. There were no comments.

#### New Business

##### Health Study--

Ms. Kartman introduced Ms. Bonnie Bashor from the State Health Department to give a presentation on cancer studies, what is cancer, and how to get a health study done. Ms. Bashor gave a presentation that addressed the following:

- What is cancer?
- What do we know about it?
- Specifics on breast cancer
- How to get a study done

#### What is cancer--

Cancer is not just one disease it is a whole lot of different diseases. Each type is characterized by some abnormal cells that grow. Each type of cancer is a distinct different disease, they are not all one type and are not cause by one thing. Cancer development is generally divided into three different stages: initiation, promotion, progression. Development can take from 5-40 years from the time of exposure to a cancer-causing agent. Since development may take up to 40 years it is difficult to trace the possible pathways of exposure.

#### What do we know about it?

Cancer is caused by multiple factors which may be both internal and external that work together. Some factors which may be related to cancers include diet, tobacco, occupation, pollution, as well as some yet unknown causes. In order to relate a chemical to specific cancer the chemical must be capable of causing a specific cancer, must be measurable in the environment, there must be exposure in sufficient quantity and length of time, and some internal factors causing the initiated cell to progress to cancer. Human carcinogens include occupational exposures to chemicals, therapeutic agents, and others such as tobacco smoke, sunlight and radiation.

#### Specifics on breast cancer--

Information was included in the handouts regarding incidence rates and risk factors of breast cancer.

#### How to get a study done--

In order to relate a community's cancer rate to chemical exposure there must be a chemical capable of causing the specific cancer, the chemical must be measurable in the environment, an exposure to the chemical of concern, people within the area that have had varying exposure rates, the chemical is persistent in the body of those exposed, the chemical is rare in the body of those unexposed, the population around the site must be stable, and there must be sufficient statistical power.

The community needs to gather the following information for a study:

- Define the boundaries of the area of concern
- How many people live in the defined area
- What is the putative environmental insult? (What is it that people are exposed to?)
- Is there a route of exposure to that insult? (Could people drink, eat, get it on their skin?)
- Are there enough people to have the statistical power necessary to show an excess of the particular type of cancer of cancer?

The state can provide the average rate of incidence for the entire state. It can be adjusted by a criteria such as age if needed. The community itself would need to be responsible for the first stage in data collection. There are two ways to achieve this information. Dr. Thibodeaux at Louisiana State University who has federal money to help communities with problems they are having around sites. His telephone number is 504-388-6770. The other option is to provide the community with a

questionnaire to accumulate information about each member of each household within the study area. Once this information has been collected the number of incidence of cancer since a particular time in the study area ~~have been diagnosed~~ <sup>diagnosed</sup> can be calculated. This number should then be compared to the state averages for the same age, race and sex distribution.

Do to the lack of personnel within the state health department to do the study, the community is being asked to collect the initial data. There are two graduate study groups at Vanderbilt University, STEP and the Student Health Coalition, these groups may be able to help with studies. Ms. Bashor will provide the RAB with some contact names and phone numbers. A statistician should be able to help locate and keep track of the incoming information. Mr. Gray agreed to try to bring a statistician to the next meeting. The study may be able to be accomplished in smaller samples to make it ~~study~~ more manageable. In order to limit the study area the possible pathways should be considered first. The community must first show that there is a significant cancer cluster in the area and a potential causal relationship before the state and ATSDR will become involved. ATSDR will be doing a health assessment and Gary Campbell from ATSDR is expected to attend the next RAB meeting. Mr. Smith suggested breaking down the study by possible pathways of contamination. A representative sample may be used rather than the entire population of the surrounding area. Aerial photographs may be helpful in identifying changes in the area at a given time as well as possible pathways. Ms. Bashor can be reached at 615-741-5683.

#### Groundwater Removal Action Status--

The Draft Proposed Plan for the Interim Groundwater Action that was distributed to the RAB is the same as what was submitted to TDEC and the EPA. TDEC has reviewed and sent their comments. EPA is still reviewing the proposed plan. Until the EPA comments are received nothing can be incorporated into the plan. If RAB members have any comments on this proposed plan please contact Frank Novitzki. The public comments received can then be added and addressed at the same time as the regulatory comments.

Mr. Novitzki was asked to give some clarification on the hydraulic barrier alternative. Although the process will begin with one well, eventually a series of wells will be placed in a line to collect contaminated groundwater which will then be pumped out and treated. This will eliminate the migration of contaminated groundwater which may be occurring. This is not an ultimate cure, but an action that can be taken soon to stop the contamination from moving any further. Studies will continue during this action toward elimination of the source(s) of the groundwater contamination. The type of contaminants, and many other factors, will determine how quickly the ~~groundwater~~ <sup>contaminants</sup> migrates. The feasibility studies will help to determine what other possible technology is available versus the pump and treat method. The EPA has a program called SITE which solicits from companies that are coming up with new technologies. There has been contact with them to see if the Depot can become involved in these new methods as they become available. The Depot has been put on the list for treatment through this group. The first well will probably be placed on the Depot property.

#### Final Issues

The RAB agreed to try and make a statistician available at the next meeting to find out what kind of information they would be able to contribute to a future study.

The RAB needs to provide input on the plans, fact sheets and summaries before we send them out to the public.

The next RAB meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20, 1994, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commander's Conference Room at the Depot.

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

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