Alameda Point RAB Meeting on June 2, 2011
Highlights and Analysis

RAB members present: Dale Smith (Community Co-Chair), Richard Bangert, Carol Gottstein, M.D, Daniel Hoy, George Humphreys, Joan Konrad, James Leach, Jean Sweeney, Jim Sweeney, and Michael John Torrey.

Navy BEC Derek Robinson announced that there would be no July RAB meeting. However, there will be a tour on Saturday, July 16, which is planned to include four stops: (1) OU-2B six-phase heating, (2) IR Site 1 drive through (with a chance to stop outside the site boundary, but not within it), (3) IR Site 17 Seaplane Lagoon where dredging has stopped, but other activities are ongoing, and (4) Building 5.

Remediation and other field work in progress:

- A Navy/EPA/University of Florida field research study is ongoing at Plume 4-1, immediately north of Building 360 near Alameda Point's east entrance. The research focuses on better characterizing the solvent contamination in groundwater prior to remedy selection and design. This research should improve not only the Navy's cleanup of OU-2B groundwater, but similar contamination elsewhere.
- At IR Site 35 (EDC-5 (1) recreational area near Main Street north entrance and (2) location of former elevated water tanks) is undergoing pre-excavation sampling, site excavation, confirmation sampling, site restoration, and associated field activities.
- Performance groundwater monitoring is ongoing to assess the effectiveness of remediation at IR Site 6 (Building 41, Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Facility) and IR Site 16 (Shipping Container Storage Area), in the southeast corner of Alameda Point.
- Radiological status surveys of selected buildings to rule out potential radiological residues are ongoing.
- A radiological characterization survey is being conducted for surface and near-surface soil at IR Site 32 (Northwestern Ordinance Storage Area), which is immediately east of the IR Site 1 landfill, along Oakland Inner Harbor.
- The air sparge/vapor extraction system to treat groundwater contaminated with benzene and naphthalene at Alameda Point OU-5 and FISCA IR Site 2 is operating.
- Pre-design sediment sampling is underway at IR Site 24 (Pier 1 and Pier 2 Sediments).
- Construction of six-phase heating dual cell array for pilot testing at IR Site 21 (Ship Fitting and Engine Repair, Building 162) is in progress, including installation of power lines, assembly of equipment, and driving of sheet piles. (This work is included on the July 16, 2001, RAB tour.)
- Drying and off-hauling of the sediments already dredged from Seaplane Lagoon is continuing through this summer. Dredging of the northwest corner of Seaplane Lagoon is postponed until after the California least terns depart later in the year. (This site is included on the July 16, 2001, RAB tour.)

IR Site 1 Landfill; Groundwater Remedial Action

The Navy explained that it is currently preparing a ROD amendment for IR Site 1, which deals with soil remediation issues. Because the amendment does not affect the groundwater remedy, the Navy has elected to proceed with the groundwater remedial action, without waiting for the ROD to be amended. The draft IR Site 1 remedial design/remedial action work plan will be released in July for review and comment by the environmental regulatory agencies. The ARRA will be copied on this draft.

The Navy explained its progress with pre-design investigation at the groundwater cleanup site. The RAB members had several questions about the Navy's plans to clean up the solvents (volatile organic compounds or VOCs) in groundwater by using in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO), in which chemicals are injected into the plume of contamination to break down the VOCs into innocuous substances. Several rounds of ISCO injections may be needed to reduce VOC concentrations sufficiently for monitored natural attenuation (MNA) to begin. MNA involves periodic monitoring of groundwater contaminant levels to verify that natural processes continue to reduce concentrations until clean-up goals are reached. In this case, clean-up goals include protection of San Francisco Bay ecology. ISCO treatment of groundwater at IR Site 1 is expected to begin in November 2011 and will take a year or more, depending on how many injection events are needed.

IR Site 1 is include in the July 16, 2011, RAB tour.