



Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) May 2008 Project Update

Since the last Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on 5 March 2008, the Corps team has focused on addressing issues that have long delayed several investigation reports. The Draft AOC 22 Site Investigation report was submitted for regulatory review in late March, the Draft Final Horseshoe Pond Area Remedial Investigation (RI) report followed in early April, and both the Revised Draft TNT Area RI report and Supplemental Site Characterization

Work Plan for the follow-on Feasibility Study are being submitted in May for concurrent review. Norfolk and Baltimore team members met in Baltimore in April to work out the remaining contract priorities for FNOD for this Fiscal Year. This was followed by developing detailed scopes of work to accompany Requests for Proposals to be sent to qualified Contract firms. Suresh Kikkeri will discuss the decision on allocation of the remaining FY08 funds at the June 5th RAB Meeting.

Schedules, workload, contract work, and a needed focus on resolving some long standing technical issues delaying some of the previously mentioned reports all combined to overload the Corps FNOD team somewhat, preventing us from generating your Project Update message in April. For that, we apologize. However, one of the results of this activity was selecting our replacement Public Outreach and Facilitation firm to support FNOD. Attendees to the June RAB meeting will have an opportunity to meet new support team members from the Wardlaw Group. Norfolk District has some previous experience with some of the members of this firm on earlier projects and we look forward to working with this group again. We hope our RAB Members will welcome them and help them as they learn your strengths and learn how best to support your information needs.

The Corps is providing this UPDATE to keep our FNOD RAB members and the public up to date on the Corps' progress at this site. RAB members are encouraged to share any information in this UPDATE with interested members of the public and municipal and civic leaders as they feel is appropriate. The June 5th RAB Meeting will be held at our new RAB meeting site for 2008 in the first floor meeting room of the Marriot Courtyard Hotel located at 8060 Harbour View Boulevard, near the entrance to the TCC Portsmouth campus at the corner of Harbour View and College Drive. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:15 PM.

Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Progress and Upcoming Schedule:

In the past three months, Weston under Baltimore District Munitions Team oversight has cleared out all the excess foliage and large amounts of building debris in the areas of the Nansmond River Beachfront now being worked. While progress has been steady and accelerated in comparison to past teams, the current team feels that munitions operations have been slowed due to the large amounts of building debris that was left in this area. However, large volumes of debris disposal and fill have been characteristic of many FNOD areas due to previous occupants attempting to reshape the land or slow down the effects of erosion. In fact, Norfolk District continues to be pleased with the current Contractor team's progress and ability to identify solutions to problems as they pop up in the field. The combined Corps and Weston team have also worked hard to create an erosion control plan that will be protective of the fragile coastal bluff and beachfront while also supporting the dig teams as they begin intrusive work at the previously identified TNT trenches and adjacent areas that extend to the edge of the shoreline. The team has cleared 11 of the 20 grids designated thus far, finding only a few munitions and explosives of concern. While munitions related discoveries have been limited, this too may be changing. On 15 May 2008, the munitions team conducted its first disposal (explosive demilitarization) shot to render a few recently found items safe.

FNOD Environmental Investigation Progress:

Other investigational field work has slowed somewhat over the last two months as efforts have shifted into preparing the study reports and planning for follow-on investigations. An expert on chemical degradation of explosives and a Professor on the staff at Virginia Tech visited the TNT Area in late April to discuss potential approaches to dealing with remaining contamination in the soil and groundwater here as part of the TNT Area Feasibility Study. This visit also helped Norfolk and Baltimore technical team members ensure the upcoming FS support sampling plan collected the necessary data parameters. The Corps will discuss progress at the TNT Area at the upcoming June RAB.

Weston and SAIC also visited the Nansmond River Beachfront MMRP site with Norfolk's Jeff Zoeckler to discuss near term needs for shoreline stabilization to support the munitions intrusive activities. These discussions culminated in a Weston Technical Memorandum that will also be discussed during the June RAB. Emphasis is being placed on ensuring that interim shoreline stabilization work is both sufficient to protect the bluff and shoreline areas in the short term, but also compatible with proposed long-term solutions.

The Army Corps greatly appreciates the public's interest in this environmental restoration project and we will do our best to meet your informational needs. Many of your questions can probably be answered by visiting the FNOD web page at www.nao.usace.army.mil/fnod. Or, you may contact our Public Affairs representative, Gerald Rogers, at 757-201-7241.