

Community News

DSCR Public Affairs

September 2002

The Community News is published quarterly. Correspondence should be addressed to Defense Supply Center Richmond, DSCR-SP, 8000 Jefferson Davis Highway, Richmond, VA 23297-5427 or call 804-279-3139. Our fax is 804-279-6052. We can also be reached by e-mail at RAB@dscr.dla.mil

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Residents give their opinion on distribution of settlement monies

Public Affairs

Rayon Park residents and others were at the Bensley Community Center July 15 to say what they felt should be done with the fine levied on Horne Engineering, the company indicted by a Chesterfield County grand jury for failing to timely report leaking contaminated water into No Name Creek last summer.

In a settlement made with the court in May, Horne president, Darryl K. Horne, agreed to give the money, \$50,000 now and another \$100,000 by July 2004, to the community for environmental enhancement.

The court, in turn, placed a check for \$50,000 in the hands of Dr. William Nelson, Chesterfield County health district director, to administer through the community members of Defense Supply Center Richmond's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

After a briefing by Dr. Nelson at the board's regularly scheduled meeting in June, community members voted to arrange a meeting to solicit residents' suggestions on what to do with the money.

That meeting was scheduled for July 15 and was held at the Bensley Community Center with nine of the 12 RAB community members on hand to listen to residents' proposals.

They included:

- Divide the money equally among all the households
- Put the money toward installation of sewers in Rayon Park
- Do core drilling, soil and tree sampling
- Install street lights or sidewalks
- Hire someone to advise Rayon Park on items of a technical nature
- Residents should band together to form a board or association to look out for the Rayon Park community and then use the monies to hire a lawyer or advisor
- Use some of the money to put information down on paper and use it to survey the community

After all the suggestions were discussed, the consensus by residents was to create a Rayon Park neighborhood association that would then determine the appropriate projects to fund with the money.

* * *

At the board's regularly scheduled meeting Aug. 12, community members of the board approved a motion to earmark \$5,000 for Rayon Park residents to create a community association for the neighborhood. Plans are to release the remainder of the monies to the association when it is established.

DSCR's Environmental Management System

Jimmy Parrish

Effective and proactive environmental management has always been a priority within DSCR. Employees at the center strive daily to ensure their work routine and output does not negatively impact upon the environment.

To further strengthen this effort, DSCR is developing and implementing a formal documented Environmental Management System (EMS). An EMS is a means of integrating environmental consideration and environmental management into all of our business practices, and doing this in a way that enhances mission performance.

It's a way of ensuring that thinking about the environment will become a part of everyone's job, that future environmental challenges and roadblocks will be nearly nonexistent. This will allow our employees to be proactive instead of reactive.

The first formal step toward the implementation of this program occurred July 22, 2002, when Brig. Gen. James P. Totsch, commander of DSCR, signed our Environmental Policy statement. This statement formally spells out our commitment to complying with all applicable environmental laws; to preventing pollution where possible; to setting goals and objectives to minimize any environmental impacts; and to actively pursue continual improvements in our environmental management system.

We anticipate that it will take approximately 18 – 24 months to implement EMS center wide. Additional information regarding this program will be forthcoming.

New members are appointed to the Restoration Advisory Board

Andrew Gootee

The community members of Defense Supply Center Richmond's RAB voted to accept three new voting members. The first new member is Emmet Alexander. He represents communities west of DSCR and can be reached at 271-1967. The Bensley Community Civic Association has appointed Clarence Brooks as its representative on the board. He can be reached at 275-1766. Finally, Brian Collings, representing the Bensley community overall, has joined the RAB. He can be reached at 743-1036.

Terry Berrean, a past community representative, left the group to pursue a new job outside of Richmond. Twelve community members now serve on the board. They are: Emmet Alexander, George Beadles, Clarence Brooks, Sarah Clarke, Brian Collings, Joyce Jackson, Richard McCollim, Lonnie McCoy, Janet Mauro Moe, Richard Richezza (community co-chair), Robert Williams, and Susan Young.

The RAB acts as a forum for the discussion and exchange of restoration program information between agencies and the community. The restoration program is concerned with cleaning up sites from past contamination at DSCR.

The RAB also includes one non-voting representative each from DSCR, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Chesterfield County.

Community members have undertaken the responsibility of communicating with the local community and interested groups in their area concerning specific cleanup issues and bring local concerns to the attention of the RAB.

If you would like to know which community member is in your area, call the DSCR Public Affairs Office at 279-3139.



Emmet Alexander
West of DSCR
271-1967



Clarence Brooks
Bensley Civic Assn.
275-1766



Brian Collings
Bensley community
743-1036

RAB meeting schedule

Andrew Gootee

DSCR's Restoration Advisory Board will meet four more times in 2002. The dates are Sept. 9, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 9. The topics to be discussed and meeting location will be advertised in the Richmond Times Dispatch before each meeting.

Cancer cluster study results are in

Public Affairs

Rayon Park residents are no more likely to develop cancer than other county residents, says Dr. William Nelson, director of the Virginia Department of Health's Chesterfield Health District.

His office conducted the study in response to area residents' concern that living near a Superfund site caused health problems. Dr. Nelson announced the study results on June 20.

Nelson told residents they had interviewed 275 residents who had lived in the community between 1985 and 2000 and had confirmed 26 cases of cancer. He told residents the data showed that 39 percent of Rayon Park residents were over 50 years of age, as compared to 19 percent overall for Chesterfield, so that fact was included in the equation when their analysis was performed.

Nelson went on to say the study showed that while the incidence of cancer of the colon, rectum or lungs was higher in Rayon Park than the county average, other types of cancer, such as breast or prostate were lower.

The report also concluded that, "other cancers possibly associated with volatile organic compound exposure (leukemia, hepatic carcinoma) did not occur in Rayon Park residents during the study period. No association was found between cancers of the colon and rectum among Rayon Park residents and years of well-water use."

Further, the report said there had been no exposures identified which would create a health risk to the entire Rayon Park community.

During the question and answer period, a resident asked if it was safe to use well water for pools and to water plants. Nelson said his office had performed well testing in 2001 at several residents' request, and there had been no evidence of chemicals in those wells. He said, "According to data, your well water should be safe to water plants and use in pools."

Nelson closed by saying the study originally was intended to be a last and final report, but that it probably wouldn't be. He encouraged residents to report information. His office would continue to gather data and have a regular dialogue with residents of Rayon Park.

Results from a top down review soon to be released

Staff

As part of its oversight function, the environmental office at the Defense Logistics Agency headquarters at Fort Belvoir, VA., implemented a review program of all the environmental cleanup programs at centers under its purview. Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR) is the last of the centers to undergo this review.

This review is referred to as a Remedial Process Optimization (RPO).

The RPO will ensure that the latest developments in the fields of science and engineering are applied to DSCR's program to achieve positive benefits. The agency believes these additions will actually result in faster site cleanup, ensure the protection of human health and the environment, provide better data for decision-making, and streamline program operating costs.

Results from the RPO will be presented at future Restoration Advisory Board meetings and in future issues of the Community News.

Health consultation reports no hazard in Kingsland, No Name Creeks

Andrew Gootee

The agency tasked by Congress to provide health consultations at Superfund sites has concluded there is no current health hazard from contamination indicated from exposure to water in creeks bordering Defense Supply Center Richmond.

The April 2002 report, by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), is in addition to its 1993 Public Health Assessment of DSCR, which concluded there was no apparent health hazard from the center. That study reported no adverse health conditions were occurring or had occurred from past exposures to DSCR contamination.

Because considerable attention has been generated about DSCR's restoration program to cleanup past contamination on center, as well as community concern over children playing in Kingsland and No Name Creeks, ATSDR evaluated the exposure through incidental ingestion and dermal contact to adults and children playing in the creek. Its conclusion was there is no public health hazard to children or to adults from contamination.

Kingsland Creek runs along the southern border of the center, and No Name Creek originates on its eastern border. ATSDR used sample results from the creeks that were provided by DSCR and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. It determined through its analysis of the data that there were no substances in the creeks at levels that might present a health risk.

Congress created the ATSDR in 1980 to implement health related sections of laws that protect the public from hazardous wastes and environmental spills of hazardous substances. It is responsible for assessing the presence and nature of health hazards at Superfund sites, and is required to perform a public health assessment for every Superfund site in the United States. DSCR became a Superfund site in 1987. Information on the assessment can be found at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/defense/def_p1.html.

RAB training tour held

Andrew Gootee

Members of DSCR's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) took a tour of the facility May 18, as part of their ongoing training on the center's environmental restoration program.

For most of the community members, it was the first time they had viewed the areas where past contamination had occurred. A representative from DSCR's contractor, Law Engineering, led the three-hour tour.

Community RAB members have been receiving updates on the center's restoration program and training on basic scientific concepts in chemistry and environmental science. DSCR will continue to work with community members to provide any additional training that they feel is necessary.

DSCR's cleanup program web site is a hit

Jimmy Parrish

DSCR's web site featuring information about the center and its environmental cleanup program has been visited more than 1,200 times since it was created in March of this year.

A cooperative effort by the center and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District, the site contains press releases; reports, such as the Virginia Health Department's cancer cluster study concerning Rayon Park; minutes of the Restoration Advisory Board meetings; frequently asked questions and more.

As a means of allowing for more open and easy exchange of ideas and information, the website is continually updated and changed to keep it current and informative. Some recent changes include adding "Bellwood" to the title of the site to more accurately reflect the community being served. Related informational briefings, technical reports and memoranda presented to DSCR offices and the RAB members are included on the site as soon as possible, and photos of the various operable units, as well as those reflecting happenings of the RAB and DSCR are also routinely posted.

This web site exists to serve the community and can be found at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/DSCR/DSCR.html>. We welcome your recommendations or suggestions to improve the site.