Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS)
Project XL Community Kickoff Meeting
June 15, 2000
Howard Johnson's
Bremerton, Washington

Draft Meeting Summary

Presenters
Sherri Walker, US EPA Headquarters -- Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation
Jerry Sherryl, PSNS ENVVEST/Project XL Manager
Capt. Greg Bryant, PSNS Base Commander
Bob Cipra, PSNS Director of Environment

Facilitator
Catherine Allen, Marasco Newton Group

Introductory Remarks

Catherine Allen, Marasco Newton Group, welcomed participants and thanked them for attending the community kickoff meeting of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard's (PSNS) Project ENVVEST/Project XL. She reviewed the agenda for the evening and then introduced the PSNS Base Commander, Capt. Greg Bryant.

Capt. Bryant thanked participants again for attending the meeting and was excited to see so many people that shared his value for their local environment. He explained that the PSNS Project ENVVEST/Project XL represents the next step to protect Sinclair Inlet in a long line of award-winning environmental projects initiated by the Navy.

Introduction to US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Project XL

Sherri Walker, US EPA, presented an overview of EPA's Project XL program and emphasized that public involvement has been the key to successful XL projects. Project XL began as part of President Clinton's government reinvention efforts in 1995. XL stands for eXcellence and Leadership and is designed to test innovative ways to accomplish environmental goals. It gives project sponsors (usually industrial or federal facilities) the opportunity to think outside the current regulatory framework and find solutions that are better for the environment. These solutions can then be integrated into future Agency activities.

Ms. Walker went on to explain the relationship between Project XL and Project ENVVEST.

ENVVEST is a Department of Defense (DoD) program that stands for Environmental Reinvestment. DoD and EPA entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in 1995 to work together on these reinvention pilots under the guidelines of Project XL.

These projects are important because they encourage public input, allow industrial and federal facilities to form more collaborative relationships with their surrounding communities, build industry's capacity to experiment and collaborate, and help to promote innovative change through regulatory flexibility with boundaries. Ms. Walker then reviewed the eight criteria for a project to qualify for the Project XL program. These criteria include:

1. Superior environmental results
2. Cost savings, paperwork reduction, and operational flexibility
3. Stakeholder involvement and support
4. Innovation and multimedia pollution prevention
5. Transferability to other facilities, sectors, or communities
6. Feasibility (technically and administratively)
7. Monitoring, reporting, accountability and evaluation
8. No shifting of risk burden

Project sponsors must also have a solid record of compliance.

The Project XL process involves five basic steps after the concept for a project has been developed. These steps include:

- submitting a project proposal to EPA
- reviewing of the project proposal by EPA and the State regulatory agency
- developing a Final Project Agreement (FPA) between the regulated industry/agency and EPA
- submitting the draft FPA for public comment
- signing the final FPA and implementing the project

Ms. Walker mentioned that the draft FPA for the PSNS project is expected to be available for review sometime in July.

Ms. Walker then reviewed the three categories of stakeholders as they related to the XL process. These include: direct participants, commentors, and general public. Direct Participants are those most actively involved in the project (e.g., state agencies, the regulated facility, EPA). Commentors are those who are interested in the project but are unable to meet regular on-going meeting or document review commitments. Commentors typically provide their input during the official public comment period (e.g., local community groups, environmental organizations, national advocacy groups). The general public can remain informed about the project by attending public meetings or reviewing publicly available data.

As of June 2000, 25 projects have been implemented, 19 are in the FPA stage, 10 are under review by EPA, and two are in the pre-proposal phase. These projects involve a mix of private firms, federal facilities and community projects.

Ms. Walker then mentioned some of the specific benefits that EPA and the Navy envision from the PSNS project, which include:

- improved environmental protection
- better relations with the surrounding community
- enhanced education about Sinclair Inlet, and
- increased access to environmental information as it relates to the Sinclair Inlet watershed.

Ms. Walker encouraged participants to review the stakeholder involvement plan included in the FPA that will be published in July, and encouraged them to participate through public meetings and reviewing any information posted to the EPA Project XL web site at www.epa.gov/projectxl.

Overview of Project ENVVEST

Jerry Sherryl, Director of the PSNS Project ENVVEST, explained the proposed project in more detail. He explained that the focus of the project is on regulations related to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) that is part of EPA's Clean Water Act regulations. The NPDES program is designed to reduce pollution from industrial point sources (generally, piped wastewater and/or process water discharge). Recently, PSNS has found that it and other members of the regulated community have been spending increasing amounts of money for minimal, if not negligible, environmental returns. Although the NPDES program was a key factor in cleaning up America's waterways in the 1970s and 1980s, increases in water quality through regulation of point sources is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve. The new threat to the quality of rivers and streams are non-point sources. These sources include runoff from agricultural operations, paved surfaces like roads and parking lots, and urban sprawl. Currently, these sources are not regulated under NPDES and there have not been any tools developed to deal with pollution from these sources. PSNS has found that, although they spend millions to remove even molecules of pollutants from its discharge, these same pollutants are entering Sinclair Inlet from these other non-regulated sources, which makes improving water quality impossible.

Mr. Sherryl explained that PSNS formed a technical team to begin to gather data and ideas for how it could address this situation. These technical team members included representatives of regulatory agencies, local governments, scientists, and others. From these meetings emerged the project that PSNS is proposing today.

The PSNS Project ENVVEST/Project XL program includes two phases. In Phase I, PSNS will work with other data collectors to develop and populate a comprehensive environmental data bank that

includes a variety of information about the Sinclair Inlet watershed. This data bank will be based on information that is being collected currently or on data that has been collected in the past.

After reviewing these data, PSNS staff and others will identify any gaps and work to fill those gaps. This will create a comprehensive picture of the environmental conditions in the inlet. These data will then be used to produce a model that will help PSNS and regulatory agencies understand the impact of pollutants in the inlet. PSNS will work with a community advisory group to help identify other needs or uses for the data collected.

Phase II of the project will involve identifying approaches to addressing these impacts. As part of this second phase, PSNS will work with a community advisory committee to help identify these approaches.

Mr. Sherryl indicated that he anticipated that interested community members would likely spend between 8 and 10 hours per year on the project in Phase I, which is anticipated to last about two years, and between 8 and 10 hours per month during Phase II, which is anticipated to last approximately six months. He encouraged attendees to sign up for whatever level of involvement they would like to have in the project – becoming a member of the advisory board, receiving a copy of the FPA for review, or just keeping updated on project activities. He also encouraged interested stakeholders to review the information that will be posted to the EPA web site over the life of the project and direct any questions they had to Dianne Manning in the PSNS Public Affairs Office.

Questions and Comments

Ms. Allen then facilitated a question and comment period and invited all attendees with questions to please raise them. The questions and responses given are summarized below.

Field Ryan, neighbor and member of the Jackson Park Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) – Is the community advisory board for the ENVVEST/XL project going to replace of the RABs currently being conducted by the Navy?

- Bob Cipra indicated that the community advisory committee for Puget Sound XL project will supplement the existing RABs, it will not replace them. PSNS hopes that RAB members will want to bring their experience with them to this new committee and some of the information from the RABs will be included in the database.

Mike Shepherd, Bremerton City Council – How will the project define where contaminants are coming from and how they got there?

- Jerry Sherryl indicated that the goal of the project is not to find the "bad guys." Based on the information collected, PSNS and its partners will be able to see how dispersed sources are

thereby distinguishing point sources and non-point sources.

Neighbor – What skills do you need to be on the community advisory committee?

- Bob Cipra stated that enthusiasm and a willingness to participate are the only criteria for involvement.

Mark Morgan, Kitsap Public Utility District – What stage is this project in? What is the role of Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC)? Mr. Morgan also expressed frustration about what he perceived as non responsiveness of PSNS staff in supplying him with requested data.

- Mr. Sherryl explained that PSNS staff are currently working with EPA to finalize the draft Final Project Agreement. The project proposal is available on the EPA web site. The project evolved from about a half dozen other Navy projects and will eventually incorporate data collected from these other projects. The database will be made available when it is complete. Mr. Sherryl went on to explain that the services of Concurrent Technologies Corporation are made available to PSNS through DoD's National Defense Center for Environmental Excellence. PSNS does not have a specific contract with CTC.

Mr. Morgan also asked if there was a particular scope of work that CTC was working from for the ENVVEST project or any of its other projects?

- Capt. Bryant asked Mr. Morgan to submit all of his requests for information to Ms. Dianne Manning. This would ensure that PSNS could better understand these requests and respond to them. Ms. Walker encouraged Mr. Morgan to look at the EPA web site for additional information related to this project and report any problems in accessing the website or reading information contained on the site, or the lack of information contained to her directly.

Sue Gazarek, Port Orchard resident and member of the Shipyard RAB – Please clarify the goals of this project.

- Bob Cipra clarified that the goal of Phase I of the project is to collect existing data that is available for the entire watershed and put it into a model that will allow us to identify any data gaps. We will then fill these gaps to produce a model that will be capable of displaying the impacts of various pollutants in the watershed. Ultimately, it is hoped that the data collected will promote better regulations on a watershed basis, which is part of Phase II.

Ms. Gazarek added that she is wary of the goal of saving money on pollution controls. The community wants to see things happen.

- Mark Bauer of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicated that he hopes that the model will help DNR understand if the fixes they promote will have the desired effects. He appreciated that the Navy was doing the modeling that DNR could not afford to do.

- John Glynn, Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE), added that WDOE is very excited about this project. He said that the Sinclair Inlet is a complex ecosystem and it will take a lot of data and advanced models to adequately characterize it and the Navy has volunteered to provide these things. He said these tools were critical for understanding pollution sources and developing adequate controls. He assured meeting participants that any regulatory action would be taken by WDOE, not the Navy.

Phyllis Myers, Suquamish Tribe – She indicated that the tribe shared the Navy's goals and is interested in being involved. She asked if the community advisory boards would be the greatest level of involvement they could have.

- Mr. Cipra encouraged the tribe to share their knowledge, experience and data to enhance the technical aspects of the program.

Ms. Myers also asked if the project would include Dyes Inlet and Port Washington Narrows.

- Mr. Sherryl indicated that the model would extend through Port Orchard Passage and Rich Passage because all of these water bodies impact Sinclair Inlet, so the model would be incomplete without them.

Richard Dunlap, citizen – Will the information collected through the project be used to set Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits? Will there be a separate TMDL study? Will there be one TMDL to address all of the pollutants identified?

- Mr. Glynn (WDOE) indicated that the information from the project will contribute to TMDL limits, but it will not be used exclusively. Any additional studies will build on the information collected by the Navy.

- Carol Erickson, WDOE, stated that, although TMDLs typically only address one or two parameters, she could envision a TMDL that addresses several parameters could emerge from the data collected.

Carol Erickson, WDOE – When is the Technical Advisory Committee going to be formed?

- Mr. Sherryl stated that the technical advisors to the project essentially formed themselves into a committee as a result of the momentum of the early stages of the project. This committee would continue to meet, although new members like WDOE and DNR could participate.

There were no plans to start a new committee.

Mindy Cohn, City of Riverton – How does this project relate to the fact that the Sinclair Inlet is on the Clean Water Act's 303(d) list of contaminated streams?

- Mr. Sherryl indicated that the model that will be developed can be used to look at why certain contaminants are present or why water quality is not adequate. For example, the model may show why dissolved oxygen levels are lower than they should be.

Ms. Cohn also indicated that the Sinclair Inlet is on the 303(d) list because of historical contaminants and wondered why it was important to identify new contaminants.

- Representatives of WDOE stated that the model will provide the information needed to help plan for the future. It will enhance the state's ability to look at the impacts of increased growth, non-point discharges and other factors. The regulatory actions that are taken can address both the historical contaminants but also what is anticipated in the future.

Jeff Smith, Kitsap County – Are there any examples of similar projects available?

- Information on all Project XL projects that have been formally submitted are available on the EPA Web site. The only projects that are not posted are those in the preliminary (pre) proposal phase.

Pat Lance, State Representative – Stated that, based on the participants comments and the presentation, it sounded like all aspects of the project had been covered. She indicated her interest in hearing how it progresses.

Capt. Bryant closed the meeting by stating how encouraged he was as he looked forward to this project getting started.