Final

Meeting Minutes
Travis Air Force Base
Environmental Restoration Program
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
26 October 2006

RAB members present:

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Col Thomas Sharpy	Travis Air Force Base (AFB), RAB co-chair	✓
Foster, John	City of Fairfield Representative, appointed by the Mayor	✓
Lucey, John	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)	✓
Marianno, David	Suisun City Resident	✓
Morad, Cyrus	Fairfield Resident	
Alan Friedman	SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board)	✓
Mike Reagan	Vice Chair, Solano County Board of Supervisors	✓
Root, Rev. David	Crosswinds Church	
Salcedo, Jose	Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	✓
Taylor, William W.	Travis Unified School District	
Velez, Phil	Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee	✓

Public Members present:

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Mark Smith — Travis AFB
- Glenn Anderson — Travis AFB
- Wilford Day — Travis AFB
- Linda Weese — Travis AFB
- Raymond Mak — Travis AFB
- Lonnie Duke — Travis AFB
- Gregory Parrott — Travis AFB
- Col Stephen Shea — Travis AFB
- John Kaiser — Water Board
- Mike Wray — CH2M Hill
- Brian Sytsma — CH2M Hill

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Mark Smith welcomed the attendees and introduced Mr. Lonnie Duke, Environmental Protection Specialist and Field Manager who has replaced Mr. Steve Stopher.

Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Dave Marianno, the RAB Community Co-Chair and Colonel Thomas Sharpy, the Air Force Co-chair and Travis AFB new Vice Wing Commander. Col Sharpy served as the Senior Military Aide to the Vice President of the United States, Commander of the 9th Airlift Squadron, and Deputy Operations Commander at Dover. Mr. Smith also introduced Col Shea, Travis' new Mission Support Group Commander.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 2006 RAB meeting minutes were approved and became final.

Additional Agenda Items, Comments, and Questions

None

DISCUSSION TOPICS

NEWIOU Soil ROD

Mr. Anderson presented the status on the North, East, West Industrial Operable Unit (NEWIOU) Soil Record of Decision (ROD). This ROD was signed shortly after the last RAB meeting and is Travis AFB's second and final Soil ROD. Travis AFB is now preparing for the soil cleanup actions that will take place next year.

Mr. Anderson stated that the NEWIOU Soil ROD addresses 18 sites and for every contaminated soil site, one or more of the following remedies were selected.

- Excavation/Placement of Contaminated Soil in CAMU or Disposal in Landfill (6 sites). — The excavation will be complete when the cleanup levels are reached. There are two sets of cleanup levels: residential and industrial. Travis AFB must reach the industrial cleanup levels to allow industrial activities to take place at the site. Travis AFB has to reach residential cleanup levels to free up the site for unrestricted access and avoid LUCs.

  Mr. Reagan asked if it is Travis AFB's plan in industrial areas to clean up to residential levels. *Mr. Anderson stated that Travis AFB must reach industrial levels; however, decisions can be and may be made to reach residential levels, if it is economically feasible.*

  Mr. Reagan stated that it would make sense to have industrial cleanup levels for areas along the flight line.

  Mr. Smith commented that Travis AFB awarded the contracts as cost-plus fixed fee, which allows Travis AFB to spend the extra time and money to reach residential levels.

- Land Use Controls (LUC) (4 sites) — There are two types of LUCs: physical and administrative.

Physical — The NEWIOU Soil ROD states what physical controls are needed at a LUC site. Examples of physical LUCs are fences and warning signs.

Administrative — The NEWIOU Soil ROD states how the base will keep track of its controlled areas. The Base General Plan gives base personnel access to LUC data for project planning.

Mr. Salcedo stated that administrative LUC records must be tracked and that soil with LUCs must be monitored, which results in additional cost. The advantage of no LUCs (i.e., residential cleanup level) is that it provides unrestricted land use which is more beneficial.

- No Action (8 sites) — This remedy is appropriate at sites where the contaminants are present at such low concentrations that they pose no unacceptable risk. No Action decisions are supported by human health and ecological risk assessments.

Mr. Anderson gave an overview of what the next phase will be for the NEWIOU Soil ROD.

- Excavation — From now until 1 June 2007, Travis AFB will prepare for the soil cleanup actions that are scheduled for next year. Most of the soil will be placed in the corrective action management unit (CAMU). Each cleanup action will have a remedial design that describes every task and offers the best approach for carrying out the soil cleanup.

- Land Use Control — Currently, all physical LUCs are in place, and the Base General Plan has been revised to reflect the sites where LUCs are the selected remedy.

- No Action — No action is required.

Mr. Anderson stated that Travis AFB will be focused on completing all remedial designs by early next year. The following is a tentative remedial schedule:

- Completion of remedial designs (March 2007);

- Completion of coordination with outside agencies (March 2007);

- Completion of Remedial Action Work Plans (May 2007);

- Completion of pre-mobilization tasks (June 2007); and

- Start digging! (June 2007).

Mr. Anderson stated that in the first Soil ROD, the CAMU was constructed, which is a repository of contaminated soil that capped and protected. It is located north of the Small Arms Range. The CAMU will expand significantly from the soil actions that will take place next year.

DP039 Groundwater Optimization

Mr. Anderson gave a presentation on the DP039 Groundwater Optimization.

DP039 is the base battery and electric shop, where a former battery acid neutralization sump had been used to dispose of solvents as well as battery acid. There is evidence of a pipe that ran from the building to an acid neutralization sump, which is the source of high concentrations of chlorinated solvents. In 2000, a portable dual-phase extraction system was tested at this site.

Mr. Anderson explained that dual-phase extraction is a groundwater cleanup approach that combines groundwater extraction with soil vapor extraction. The concept is that the vacuum helps to lower the local water table, exposing solvents to the air. Solvents readily evaporate in the soil gas which is drawn out of the well and treated.

Travis AFB's strategy to clean up this site has been to go after the pure solvents first. Once the main source of groundwater contamination is removed, then the focus will be on the dissolved solvents.

The test was extremely successful, removing approximately 500 pounds of product within six months. As a result of this successful test, a permanent single-well dual-phase extraction system was installed in 2001. Although the permanent system has been effective, it became obvious that the rate of mass removal was decreasing. As a result, Travis AFB decided to optimize the existing system.

The optimization consisted of the installation of a new dual-phase extraction well, just south of the existing well. Travis AFB also expanded the network of monitoring wells around the dissolved solvent plume. The monitoring wells were installed for future data collection and decision making.

Mr. Smith interjected that there is a LUC sign at this site in order to protect the base employees. During the dig permit meetings, a map of all the LUC sites is provided.

Mr. Anderson stated that the field work is not complete. Future efforts will include connecting the new dual-phase extraction well to the existing piping system along with pump installation and underground electrical connections; construction of the vault; conduct well surveys; and material inspection/system test.

Performance Based Contract Award

Mr. Smith gave a briefing on a recent contract that Travis AFB awarded. This is the first Performance Based Contract (PBC) for the Restoration Branch and was awarded as part of the Air Force goal of awarding firm fixed price PBCs.

PBC is a contracting approach whereby contracted work is performed with minimal focus on government process and maximum focus on results. It is used to complete environmental cleanups in less time and for less money. The PBC contractor is required to meet objectives in the most technologically advanced and efficient manner available. The experts determine the best cleanup approach, thus reducing government management and oversight. **This does not remove the Government's responsibility, however, as we are still accountable for the results.**

Mr. Smith explained that in April 2002 (as part of the AF Acquisition Reform effort) the Pentagon provided a policy that required the services to use Performance Based Contracting where appropriate. It is believed that PBC could shorten cleanup times and reduce costs, so the April 2002 policy specifically applied to the Environmental Restoration Program.

Although this was mandated in 2002, Travis AFB already had its contracts for soil actions that were performed in 2003 written in 2002 and Travis AFB spent the last four years negotiating the NEWIOU ROD with the regulatory agencies.

Travis AFB awarded its first PBC award in September 2006. The project is to clean up three petroleum spills and is to be completed in 2009.

Mr. Reagan asked if the quality control will be conducted by the contractors or by an exterior inspector. *Mr. Smith stated that it is Travis AFB's responsibility to oversee the contractor and the quality of work being performed. The program manager over this contract is Mr. Day who will monitor the contractor to ensure that milestones are met, deliverables are submitted and reviewed, and results are achieved.*

Col Shea asked if the contractors were required to submit certified results. *Mr. Smith replied yes and stated that the deliverables are simple. The contractors must provide reports that show that the correct wells were installed, appropriate samples were collected, and that the sites are demonstrating natural attenuation. Mr. Salcedo commented that the contractor also must provide quality control assurance plans to the Air Force that must be followed.*

Ms. Weese asked if the contractors are paid by the completion of a milestone or by the completion of the project. *Mr. Smith stated that the contractors are paid by each demonstrated milestone. (The Water Board will be an overseer of these sites.)*

Mr. Reagan asked if oil-eating microbes will be used*. Mr. Smith stated that he does not know what the contractor will be using. Once the contract is awarded, a scoping meeting will be held in order for the contractor to inform the Air Force of the specific details and approach.*

Water Board Visit

Mr. Smith stated that he was asked by Mr. John Kaiser, Department of Defense (DoD) Section Leader under the Groundwater Protection and Waste Containment Division of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, if they could come to Travis for a one day site visit in order to tour the base and take a look at the Environmental Restoration Program. (Twice a year, Regional and State level Program Managers from the State Water Resources Control Board meet for a two day "Round Table". Their intent is to visit each other's installations and share information and DoD ideas.)

Mr. Kaiser stated that the participants of the tour included the Regional Board DoD Program Managers for San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside, and the Central Valley. The Regional Boards were complimentary of the cooperation between Travis AFB and the regulatory agencies. Mr. Kaiser was appreciative of the orientation that was given.

Mr. Kaiser stated that the first stop was at Mr. Smith's office where they learn that the very first cleanup effort at Travis AFB began in 1983. Travis is about 6,200 acres in size and probably has approximately 6,200 people working on the base. The tour started at the Central Groundwater Treatment Plant (CGWTP), which was pretty impressive. It was particularly meaningful to Mr. Kaiser because it is located right next to his disembarkation point when he returned from Vietnam in 1969.

The group visited the thermal oxidation unit and had a great lunch at the mess hall. Next they visit the South Base Boundary Groundwater Treatment Plant (SBBGWTP), which has 29 wells and is very productive. Mr. Kaiser commented that another impressive point was that Travis AFB has over 340 vernal pools, which is significant. Mr. Kaiser said that it was a really good overview from Travis AFB and he thanked Mr. Smith for the tour.

Mr. Smith gave a slide presentation of the tour route. The sites that were visited included the CGWTP, the thermal oxidation unit, DP039, the Phytostabilization area, the SBBGWTP, the CAMU, and Potrero Hills.

REGULATORY AGENCY REPORTS

None.

FOCUS GROUP REPORTS

Mr. Smith stated that the Focus Groups did not meet last quarter. Mr. Smith encouraged the Focus Group chairpersons to call him, if they would like to have a meeting to discuss any issue.

RAB/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

Set Time and Place for next RAB Meeting

The next RAB meeting will be held at the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors Office, Fairfield, California on 19 April 2007.