

Meeting Minutes  
 Travis Air Force Base  
 Installation Restoration Program  
 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting  
 23 January 2003

RAB members present:

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Col. McCarthy	Travis Air Force Base (AFB), RAB Co-chair	✓
Whalen, Jim	Mayor Fleming's Office in Vacaville/RAB Community Co-chair	✓
Curtis, Richard	Northern Solano County Association of Realtors	✓
Foster, John	City of Fairfield Representative	✓
Kanouff, David	National Association of Retired Federal Employees	✓
Lucey, John	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	✓
Marianno, David	Suisun City Resident	
Moriarty, Eamon	Goodrich Corporation	✓
Morad, Cyrus	Fairfield Resident	
Raker, Sarah	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board)	✓
Root, Rev. David	Chaplain - Solano County Sheriff's Department	✓
Salcedo, Jose	California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)	✓
Taylor, William	Travis Unified School District	✓
Tolentino, Ron	Solano Garbage Company	

Public Members present:

Chris Krettelos

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Glenn Anderson                      Travis AFB
- Allen Brickeen                        Travis AFB
- Wilford Day                            Travis AFB
- Dale Malsberger                      Travis AFB
- Troy Martinson                        Travis AFB
- Mark Smith                             Travis AFB
- Tom Sreenivasan                      Travis AFB
- Steve Stopher                         Travis AFB

- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| • Linda Weese     | Travis AFB |
| • Viola Cooper    | USEPA      |
| • Patricia Ryan   | DTSC       |
| • Elizabeth Allen | TechLaw    |
| • Sarah Madams    | CH2M Hill  |
| • Mike Wray       | CH2M Hill  |
| • Monique Meyer   | Earthtech  |
| • Kim Krajewski   | ITSI       |
| • Ross Overby     | URS        |
| • Traci Bjers     | URS        |
| • Joe Saxon       | URS        |

## **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Allen Brickeen introduced Mr. Troy Martinson, who has replaced Mr. Bruce James as Travis AFB's new Environmental Flight Chief.

Mr. Brickeen announced the following:

- Rev. David Root has been recalled for the war, and he will be absent for the next year.
- Mr. Mike Wray has replaced Mr. Wayne Williams as the Remedial Program Manager (RPM) for CH2M HILL.
- Mr. Ross Overby has replaced Ms. Deena Stanley as the RPM for URS.

Mr. Glenn Anderson introduced Mr. Mark Smith who will be replacing Mr. Brickeen as the Environmental Restoration Chief.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The October 24, 2002, RAB meeting minutes were approved as final.

## **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Mr. Brickeen reviewed the discussion topics.

### **FY02 and FY03 Program**

#### Technology Evaluations

Mr. Anderson reported Travis AFB has been active in the following three treatability studies:

- Reactive Wall Study – This study was to determine if iron filings injected into the subsurface would chemically degrade solvents in the groundwater. The study is complete and indicates that although the reactive wall seems to remove solvents from groundwater effectively it acts more like a wall than a treatment zone.
- Vegetable Oil Injection Treatability Study – This study was to determine if injecting vegetable oil into the subsurface could increase the natural processes (microbes) to assist in the degradation of solvents in the groundwater. The study ended early in order to support the construction of an aircraft maintenance facility. The vegetable oil injection study was completed and had promising initial results.
- Phytostabilization Treatability Study – This study was to determine if planting trees could effectively and naturally remediate the contaminated groundwater plume (as a natural pump-and-treat system). Core samples were taken from the trees to evaluate

the technology, and solvent was detected within the trees. This study is ongoing, and data collection continues.

#### Soil Cleanup Actions

Mr. Anderson reported that two of Travis AFB's soil cleanup actions have begun.

- Radioactive Burial Site #2 – Soil containing uranium isotopes was excavated and achieved residential cleanup levels. This site will be restored this year for unrestricted land use.
- Landfill X – Travis AFB installed land use controls around the construction debris and heavy equipment areas of the landfill. Travis AFB also built a berm around the landfill to prevent the movement of contaminated sediment into the nearby vernal pools during heavy rains.

Air Force officials anticipate completing the remaining cleanup actions this year.

#### CAMU

Mr. Anderson reported that Travis AFB has completed the first phase of the Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU), which was to regrade the area to achieve good drainage and to build the foundation for the CAMU. Phase 2 entails the CAMU receiving the contaminated soil during the cleanup of the West/Annexes Basewide Operable Unit (WABOU) soil sites this year.

#### Treatment Plant Operation

Mr. Sreenivasan reported on Travis AFB's three groundwater treatment plants: South Base Boundary Groundwater Treatment Plant (SBBGWTP), Central Groundwater Treatment Plant (CGWTP), and North Groundwater Treatment Plant (NGWTP).

#### **Treatment Plant Operation – Activities Planned and Completed in 2002**

- The NGWTP and SBBGWTP have an airstripper unit that removes the contaminants from the groundwater. During the process, scales are formed in the unit, which affects the efficiency of the operation. To eliminate this problem, Air Force officials have obtained approval from the Water Board to use a chemical additive, which stops the formation of scales.
- In April 2002, Travis AFB consolidated the NGWTP and CGWTP under one contractor.
- The off-base plume migration control project started in the summer with the installation and development of extraction wells and monitoring wells beyond the south base boundary. The connection of these wells to the SBBGWTP could not proceed due to the late arrival of project funds and the start of the rainy season.

#### **Off-Base Groundwater Treatment – Activities Planned in 2003**

Mr. Sreenivasan reported that the off-base plume migration control project will be completed with the installation of piping, instrumentation, and control systems to transport the extracted groundwater effectively from the new wells. The fully integrated south plant will go through the start-up process and will be optimized for efficiency.

*Mr. John Foster asked if it will be a problem in the future for Travis AFB to obtain a permit to use the chemical additive to prevent scaling on the air strippers. Ms. Raker stated that the Water Board believes that there are enough provisions in the operations and maintenance*

manual that requires Travis AFB to notify the Water Board if there are problems with the scaling additives. Travis AFB has also been required to submit material safety data sheets for any other chemicals that may be added.

*Mr. Richard Curtis asked if the plume was still spreading south of the base.* Mr. Sreenivasan stated that the plume is not spreading, and Air Force officials believe the plume has been contained. Mr. Brickeen stated that Travis AFB is pumping on base but not off base.

## **WATER BOARD ORIENTATION**

Ms. Raker gave a presentation on Water Board.

- Cal-EPA includes the Air Resources Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Department of Toxic Substance Control, Integrated Waste Management Board, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the State Water Resources Control Board, which Ms. Raker represents.
- State Water Resources Control Board has five board members at the state level and nine regional boards across the state, which are divided based on the watersheds. Ms. Raker works within the Division of Clean Water Programs in the San Francisco Regional Board.
- The Regional Board oversees several programs including the aboveground tanks, underground storage tanks, stormwater, basin plan, water quality certification, Department of Defense/Department of Energy and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is the “bread and butter” of the Regional Board.
- The funding process is through the Department of Defense through a process referred to as Defense and State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA). Ms. Raker commented that DTSC is the state’s lead regulatory agency at Travis AFB.
- The following are laws and regulations that are enforced by the Water Board at Travis AFB:
  - Federal Clean Water Act – NPDES permits;
  - Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act – Basin Plan including beneficial uses and water quality objectives;
  - California Safe Drinking Water Act;
  - Underground Tank Regulations – Ms. Raker stated that in the near future, Travis AFB will close approximately 55 underground storage tanks; and
  - Waste Discharge to Land.

Mr. Foster commented that the City of Vacaville does not like a certain Water Board requirement and is suing Region 5. The issue is about a water treatment plant and the required standards. Ms. Raker stated that Travis AFB waste goes to the Fairfield/Suisun water treatment facility.

Mr. Whalen asked if pesticides used in the surrounding agricultural area are migrating to Travis AFB. Ms. Raker stated that she is not sure, but would check into it.

Mr. Foster commented that Ms. Raker did a great presentation and has been a strong supporter of streamlining the entire cleanup process at Travis AFB.

## **WABOU RECORD OF DECISION STATUS**

Mr. Anderson announced that the WABOU Soil Record of Decision has been signed.

## **Cleanup Program Status Reports**

### Performance-Based Contracting Update

Mr. Tom Sreenivasan reported that the current budget issues have delayed the award of the Performance-Based Contracting for this year; however, Air Force officials are moving ahead with plans to make it happen this year. The RAB will be kept up-to-date on this issue.

### 5-Year Review of Groundwater Actions

Mr. Dale Malsberger gave an overview of the 5-year review of the groundwater actions.

Mr. Malsberger began with a review of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. In accordance with the requirements of CERCLA, Travis AFB will prepare a 5-Year Review of Groundwater actions. The focus of the review is the effectiveness of the technology applied and an evaluation of protectiveness of the ongoing action. This review will be completed in June 2003.

The 5-year review will be a basewide review and will address remedies selected in the WABOU and NEWIOU. The primary action selected at these sites was pump and treat with a few sites being evaluated for monitored natural attenuation. The goals of the selected remedies are to control migration of groundwater contamination, reduce sources (areas with free product or high levels of contamination), and cleanup groundwater contamination that extends off base.

The review will be based on the data found in the Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Program, Reactive Wall Treatability Study, Vegetable Oil Treatability Study, monthly treatment plant operations reports, and the hydraulic model of groundwater flow and capture zones.

The expected results from the 5-year review will recommend any changes to the extraction or treatment systems necessary to optimize the remedial actions. The 5-year review will also address whether Travis AFB has enough data to proceed to a final Basewide Groundwater Record of Decision or if additional data are required.

Mr. Foster asked what type of criteria or data are necessary for protectiveness in the remedial actions. Mr. Malsberger stated that during the remedial investigation, Travis AFB looked at various risk assessments in terms of contamination. For human health, groundwater has been easier because the groundwater at Travis AFB is not being used as a drinking source and is not currently a protectiveness issue; however, Air Force officials want the groundwater to be safe for future use. For the environment, Travis AFB would ensure that the discharge to Union Creek meets the Water Board's requirements.

### NEWIOU Soil Record of Decision Plan and Progress

Mr. Malsberger gave an overview on the NEWIOU Soil Record of Decision.

The NEWIOU will address the following 18 sites:

- Union Creek – 2 sites;
- Former fire training areas – 4 sites;
- Former sewage treatment plant – 2 sites;
- Former Landfill #2 (LF007); and
- Various spills and leaks – 9 sites.

The NEWIOU will address contamination in the sediment and surface water in addition to surface and subsurface soil. In addition, the NEWIOU will address new contaminants such as PCBs, dioxins, and petroleum.

Based on lessons learned from the WABOU Record of Decision, the approach for the NEWIOU Record of Decision is to reach preliminary agreement with the regulatory agencies prior to sending the Draft NEWIOU Record of Decision for formal agency review on December 3, 2003. Over the last year, Travis AFB has made presentations to the agencies on site descriptions and recommended cleanup action. This has resulted in productive discussion and agreement on a number of issues. This year Travis AFB will develop a Groundwater Protection Technical Memorandum to address the relationship between soil contamination and groundwater contamination and an Ecological Protection Technical Memorandum to address cleanup levels necessary to protect ecological receptors at the NEWIOU sites. This should reduce delays and the additional cost of multiple revisions of the document.

### **REGULATORY AGENCY REPORT**

None.

### **FOCUS GROUP REPORTS**

None.

### **RAB/PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be at the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors Office, Fairfield, California on April 24, 2003.

### **October RAB meeting**

Mr. Brickeen informed the RAB that AFCEE has volunteered to host the Travis AFB's October RAB meeting. Mr. Brickeen asked if the RAB was interested in attending such a meeting. All RAB members were interested.

### **Presentation**

Mr. Whalen presented Mr. Brickeen with a gift for his diligence and support of the Travis AFB RAB.

Mr. John Lucey presented Mr. Brickeen with a card and gift certificate on behalf of the regulators. Comments were made by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Steve Stopher. Mr. Brickeen will be sorely missed.

### **Topics for the Next Meeting**

- NEWIOU Record of Decision;
- Treatability Studies and Innovative Technologies;
- U.S. EPA presentation;
- October RAB; and
- Land Use Controls – how Travis AFB assures protection.