

Meeting Minutes
 Travis Air Force Base
 Installation Restoration Program
 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
 25 April 2002

RAB members present:

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Col. Jan Swickard (alternate – Al Brickeen)	Travis Air Force Base, RAB co-chair	√
Whalen, Jim N.	Mayor Fleming's Office in Vacaville/RAB Community co-chair	√
Flores, Lalo	BDC Marine	
Foster, John	City of Fairfield Representative	√
Kanouff, David F.	National Association of Retired Federal Employees	√
Lucey, John	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	√
Marianno, David	Suisun City Resident	
Morad, Cyrus	Fairfield Resident	√
Moseley, Michael	Daily Republic	
Negron, Daniel	Vacaville Resident	
Raker, Sarah	S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	√
Root, Rev. David	Chaplain- Solano County Sheriff's Department	√
Rundlett, John	Suisun City Council	√
Salcedo, Jose	Department of Toxic Substance Control	√
Taylor, William W.	Travis Unified School District	
Tolentino, Ron	Solano Garbage Company	
Urquhart, Kurt	OEA Aerospace	√

Public Members present:
Aimee Storm.

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Glenn Anderson Travis AFB
- Allen Brickeen Travis AFB
- Wilford Day Travis AFB
- Bruce James Travis AFB
- DeAnn Lehigh Travis AFB
- Dale Malsberger Travis AFB
- Tom Sreenivasan Travis AFB
- Steve Stopher Travis AFB
- Roger Johnson AFCEE/ERD
- Wayne Williams CH2M HILL
- Andrew Sabin ITSI
- Elizabeth Allen Techlaw
- Traci Bjers URS
- Joe Saxon URS
- Deena Stanley URS

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Al Brickeen called the meeting to order and welcomed all that were present.

Mr. Brickeen announced that the following RAB members have resigned: Emily Rued, Ann D'Lima, and David Child.

Mr. Brickeen introduced Aimee Storm from UC Berkley.

Approval of Minutes

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

Discussion Topics

Mr. Brickeen reviewed the discussion topics.

RAB Comments

Jim Whalen congratulated those who published the Travis AFB environmental newsletter, *The Guardian*, saying it was well written for a non-technical audience. Mr. Whalen also commented that Sarah Raker provided an excellent overview of her organization in the April 2002 issue.

John Foster commented that *The Guardian* is an important record for the restoration activities. He complimented Traci Bjers on her great job in working with the Community Relations Focus Group.

WABOU Soil ROD

Glenn Anderson explained that the West/Annexes/Basewide/ Operable Unit (WABOU) Soil Record of Decision (ROD) is a legal document that gives Travis AFB the ability to obtain funding and the authority to conduct soil cleanup actions on the western part of the base.

An issue over land use controls (LUC) needs to be resolved in order to complete the ROD. Mr. Anderson explained that LUC are physical or administrative restrictions that prevent unrestricted land use. In the case of the WABOU Soil ROD, LUCs would prohibit the excavation or disturbance of the soil through means such as building fences and developing a land use plan. The Department of Defense (DoD) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) disagree over what level of enforcement authority USEPA should hold after a ROD is signed.

Mr. Anderson explained that the draft final WABOU Soil ROD was issued on December 31, 2001. The first set of change pages was issued January 11, 2002, and the Air Force issued the new LUC policy on January 23, 2002. Local staff were unaware that the LUC issue was about to go into dispute. On March 4, 2002, Travis AFB issued its second set of change pages, incorporating the revised LUC text.

Mr. Anderson explained that the dispute resolution is a set of procedures to formally resolve disputes between agencies when reasonable informal efforts fail. The Dispute Resolution Committee has 21 days to resolve the issue. If it fails, the Senior Executive Committee has 21 days to resolve the issue. If it fails, the USEPA Administrator resolves the dispute.

Mr. Anderson stated that Travis AFB and the agencies will continue to make preparations, such as soil remedial design packages, to support soil cleanup actions if they can occur this summer. This will enable Travis AFB to begin work immediately on the soil cleanup actions as soon as the ROD is signed.

However, there is potential that corrective action management unit (CAMU)-related soil actions will be delayed until 2003.

Mr. Foster asked why the ROD could not be signed with the exception of the LUCs, so Travis could begin on the soil cleanup. Mr. Foster asked why they could not sign the ROD with the exception of the LUCs and worry about the land use controls after they figure out how to divide the land use authority. In response to Mr. Foster's question, Mr. Anderson said that, in general, land use controls are put in place at the end of the cleanup process. Mr. Anderson stated that for some sites in the WABOU Soil ROD, land use controls are the only actions planned.

Mr. Brickeen stated that in addition the ROD establishes the CAMU so that Travis AFB can place soil in the CAMU. If the CAMU has not been established by the signing of the ROD, Travis AFB cannot excavate soil and place the soil in the CAMU.

DeAnn Lehigh stated that the USEPA initiated the dispute.

The Rev. David Root commented that it is a squabble over jurisdiction. Since the USEPA administrator is the final authority, they would want this to go to their direction.

Mr. Whalen asked if Travis AFB could provide the RAB with a list of the Dispute Resolution Committee members, so they could see who is on various committees, what they are doing, and what the schedule is. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Brickeen stated that they would be able to provide names, addresses, and the language that the USEPA wrote.

Ms. Lehigh commented that this dispute has had an effect on all RODs nationwide. Ms. Lehigh has been informed by her sources that this issue should be resolved within three to four weeks.

Mr. Whalen commented that somehow it seems that Travis AFB could be grandfathered in once the issue has been resolved; however, to be held up is ridiculous and it is costing the taxpayers.

Mr. Brickeen stated that Travis AFB will continue on projects not tied to the CAMU, such as the cleanup of the radiological site (RW013).

Mr. Foster expressed his displeasure at the sequence of events with USEPA. He asserted that it is apparent that USEPA is not willing to allow a well-planned remediation project because they are holding hostage the land use controls.

Jose Salcedo stated that Travis AFB cannot proceed because the land use control is part of the ROD, and it is part of the solution. The agencies cannot sign only part of the document.

Kurt Urquhart asked if it is possible for a base to ask for a suspension on the LUC dispute for its ROD, in order to have the ROD signed.

Ms. Lehigh reiterated that there is a moratorium on signing all RODs nationwide.

Elizabeth Allen stated that this is not just an issue with Travis AFB. Mather, March, and Castle AFB have been placed on hold as well because of this policy issue. It is at a higher level than the local agencies can deal with, and the higher agencies are aware of the local frustration.

Cleanup Program Status Report

FY02 Funding and Schedule

Mr. Brickeen gave an update on the fiscal year (FY) 02 funding and schedule. Mr. Brickeen stated that there were funding delays from the Department of Defense (DoD) this year.

DoD issued only 60% of funds because there were some decisions that had to be made on whether some projects were considered military construction projects (MILCON). Therefore, DoD is not currently funding remedial designs and remedial actions (RD/RA).

Mr. Brickeen received word today from Air Mobility Command stating that they will release funds by May 2002 for non-MILCON projects.

The only Travis AFB project that could have been considered a MILCON project is the CAMU and landfill cap. However, it was determined that this was a non-MILCON project, and Travis AFB was able to get this project funded and onto a contract.

Travis AFB received funding for 14 projects and contracts have been awarded on six. Six RD/RA projects and three other projects have been placed on hold until funding is received.

Additional funding is being sought for FT005 for sampling. This will come from prior years' funds.

Regarding the LF007C groundwater interim remedial action, off-base efforts will be delayed because its funding was not received in time to obtain an easement.

WABOU Soil remedial actions that are CAMU-related and CAMU Phase II are on hold until the ROD is signed.

FT005 Off-Base Groundwater Interim Remedial Action

Tom Sreenivasan gave an update on the FT005 Off-Base Groundwater Interim Remedial Action.

FT005 RD/RA consists of three phases. Phases I and II are complete, consisting of on-base remedial actions. Phase III remedial action is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2002. This remedial action will be conducted off base.

In response to Mr. Foster's question, Mr. Brickeen stated that the cost of the off-base easement was \$45,000, and it was a one-time payment for access for 15 years.

Mr. Whalen asked if the three on-base wells are doing their job addressing the plume. Mr. Sreenivasan stated that the three wells are doing their job and are monitored routinely. Mr. Brickeen commented that there was one problem a few months ago when two wells were off-line, but that has been resolved.

Mr. Foster asked how soon after the installation of the new wells will the Air Force know if the wells are successful. Mr. Sreenivasan stated that the contaminant plume moves hydraulically down gradient, it will be captured fully by these new wells and over time, the size and concentration of the on-base plume will be reduced. Mr. Salcedo stated that the Air Force should know when they review the first quarter of water depth sampling. He said the Air Force should know right away if the new extraction wells are working because there will be monitoring wells beyond the point of contamination.

The question was asked from how far away can the extraction well pump the contaminated groundwater. Mr. Brickeen stated that each extraction well pump is sized to supply the necessary pressure to lift the groundwater from the subsurface, convey it to the South Base Boundary Groundwater Treatment Plant, and force the water through the treatment system.

LF007C Remedial Design

Dale Malsberger gave a presentation on remedial design to clean up site LF007C.

LF007C is a small groundwater plume at the former base landfill #2. The primary contaminant in the plume is trichloroethylene. The plume has migrated approximately 200 feet north of the base boundary.

The plan for cleaning up LF007C consists of installing two extraction wells along the base boundary to capture and clean up the plume. The pipeline will pump water to the North Groundwater Treatment Plant, which was designed to be large enough to accommodate the additional water.

Five additional monitoring wells will be installed to verify the effectiveness of the plume containment and determine when the cleanup of this site is complete. These wells will be installed during the summer of 2003.

This site also is a seasonal wetland that consists of a vernal pool. The vernal pool contains fairy shrimp, which is a federally listed threatened species. Some activities that will be conducted to minimize the impact to the vernal pool will be to perform construction when the pool is dry. All wells will be grouted to maintain surface water and groundwater separation. Planking will be used to support the construction equipment. At the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the groundwater will be pumped only when the pool is dry.

The draft remedial design has been reviewed by the regulatory agencies and the RAB. Comments have been incorporated. Currently, this document is being reviewed by USFWS. The Air Force hopes to finalize the design and install the on-base portion this summer.

Mr. Foster asked what the reason for pumping groundwater only when ground is dry was. Mr. Malsberger stated that USFWS had a concern that it would cause the pools to dry up faster than normal.

In response to Mr. Urquhart's question, Mr. Malsberger stated that in the summer the depth to groundwater is approximately 15 feet, and in winter it is approximately 5 feet.

In response to Mr. Urquhart's question, Mr. Malsberger stated that the source of contamination at this site is unknown. It is presumed to be illegal dumping. In the entire landfill, there is only one area that has TCE contamination.

Landfill Cap and CAMU Remedial Design

Mr. Malsberger gave an update on the landfill cap and the CAMU remedial design.

The draft LF007 soil design addressed the maintenance of the existing cover, which can be conducted without having the WABOU Soil ROD signed. The design also addressed the excavation of the contaminated surface soil and the construction of the CAMU.

The construction of the CAMU will be done in four phases.

- Phase 1 – This is the maintenance action, which will be done this year.

- Phase 2 – Excavate soil from the WABOU soil sites, place it in the CAMU, and cap it. This will occur after the signing of the ROD.
- Phase 3 – Consolidate the North/East/West Industrial Operable Unit (NEWIOU) high relative risk soil sites into the CAMU (2005).
- Phase 4 – Consolidate the remaining NEWIOU medium relative risk soil sites into the CAMU (2008).

The regulatory agencies have agreed to the Air Force's proposal of constructing an evapotranspiration cap. This type of cap is easy to construct, is forgiving of settlement and earthquake, and is the most cost-effective for construction and maintenance. The design addressed the construction details and post-construction monitoring. The clean soil from the holding area (60,000 cubic yards of clean soil) will be the source of the cap material.

The RWQCB required a physical control to ensure that there is a 5-foot separation between the groundwater and the CAMU after construction. It was agreed by the Air Force and the agencies to place a trench that will intercept the groundwater and pipe it to an area of lower groundwater south of the CAMU.

The design will be finalized by the summer of 2002. The agencies have approved Phase 1 construction this summer based on the draft design document.

Mr. Whalen asked if there is any other Air Force installation that has the same type of CAMU design in place or if this was a new concept. Mr. Salcedo stated that Edwards AFB and Fort Ord have CAMUs.

Mr. Whalen asked if CAMUs are cost effective. Mr. Malsberger stated yes.

Mr. Foster asked if there will be a vapor barrier at the edge of the trench. Mr. Malsberger stated that a vapor barrier is not necessary since the soil on the CAMU side of the trench will be dry.

CAMU Acceptance Levels

Mr. Malsberger said an agreement was reached with the regulatory agencies on the CAMU soil acceptance levels. The technical memorandum has been finalized. This document explains the process that was used to develop the cleanup levels. These levels are protective of human health and the environment.

There is no direct exposure pathway to the CAMU soil, but there is a potential indirect exposure pathway to the groundwater. Currently, Travis AFB is not using the groundwater under the base for any purpose; however, Travis AFB will ensure that the groundwater beneath the CAMU meets safe drinking water standards for possible future use.

Travis AFB has designed a cap that will limit the amount of percolation to an average of one-inch per year.

The remedial design and remedial action documents address the acceptance level sampling. The excavated soil will be sampled and analyzed. Soil that meets the acceptance levels will go into the CAMU. Soil that does not meet the acceptance levels will go to the appropriate off-base landfills.

The question was asked what level of contaminated soil is safe to place in the CAMU. Mr. Malsberger stated that the acceptance level is compound-specific. The allowable concentration of a contaminant that is water soluble and percolates easily will be less than that allowed for an insoluble contaminant that remains on the surface.

In response to Mr. Urquhart's question, Mr. Malsberger stated that whoever acquires the base should it close would inherit the responsibility to maintain the landfill controls, caps, and monitoring.

Ms. Lehigh stated that if Travis AFB were closed, the deed restrictions would be put in place.

Mr. Urquhart asked if the process started with higher numbers and the lower numbers were negotiated. Mr. Malsberger stated that some of the compounds are so immobile that the Air Force presented a value that could be met and would be a comfortable precedence to set.

Ms. Raker stated that Travis officials conducted many tests on representative contaminated soils at Travis and used the results as benchmarks. The groundwater under CAMU is sporadically contaminated and it has been degraded. She reiterated the conservatism of the acceptance levels for the CAMU and that the water board is confident that this will be a successful landfill.

Mr. Malsberger stated that the contaminants in the soil are not in the groundwater. The landfill contains groundwater monitoring wells, so if the groundwater were contaminated, the monitoring wells could be used to install a pump-and-treat system for containment.

Mr. Urquhart stated that there is a cleanup order from the Water Board for the Potrero Hills Annex stating that the property has high concentrations of metal and will be removed in some future date. It would be great to move this soil to the CAMU rather than send it to a Class II landfill. Mr. Malsberger stated that the Air Force has reviewed these options. It was concluded that regulations prohibit contaminated soil from off-base sites from being transported to and consolidated into the CAMU.

Regulatory Agency Report

Mr. Lucey stated that by the next RAB meeting, the LUC dispute may be resolved. There is a set timeline for this dispute process to happen. He commented that there are philosophical and fundamental differing opinions between DoD and USEPA.

Mr. Brickeen stated that if the WABOU Soil ROD is not signed by June 2002, several of the soil cleanup projects will be delayed until next year.

Focus Group Reports

None.

RAB/Public Questions

Mr. Whalen announced that Ms. Lehigh has volunteered to write the Viewpoint article for the next issue of *The Guardian*. Mr. Whalen asked Mr. Lucey to write a Viewpoint article and provide a presentation on USEPA to the RAB.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Vacaville Senior Center on 25 July 2002.

Topics for the Next Meeting

- WABOU Soil ROD update/status;
- Remedial action updates;
- RWQCB presentation;
- Remedial designs;
- Treatability Study updates (vegetable oil in TCE plume to enhance natural biodegradation and treatability reactive wall);
- Union Creek pro-active response procedures.