

**Meeting Minutes
Travis Air Force Base
Installation Restoration Program
Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
25 July 2002**

RAB members present:

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Col. Jan Swickard	Travis Air Force Base, RAB co-chair	✓
Whalen, Jim N.	Mayor Fleming's Office in Vacaville/RAB Community co-chair	✓
Curtis, Richard	Northern Solano County Association of Realtors	✓
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	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	✓
Root, Rev. David	Chaplain- Solano County Sheriff's Department	✓
Salcedo, Jose	Department of Toxic Substances Control	✓
Taylor, William W.	Travis Unified School District	✓
Tolentino, Ron	Solano Garbage Company	
Urquhart, Kurt	OEA Aerospace	✓

Public Members present:
Terrie O'Connell

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Glenn Anderson Travis AFB
- Allen Brickeen Travis AFB
- Wilford Day Travis AFB
- Bruce James Travis AFB
- Bruce Oshita Travis AFB
- Dale Malsberger Travis AFB
- Tom Sreenivasan Travis AFB
- Steve Stopher Travis AFB
- Linda Weese Travis AFB
- John Kaiser RWQCB
- Roger Johnson AFCEE/ERD
- Wayne Williams CH2M Hill
- Elizabeth Allen Techlaw
- Traci Bjers URS
- Joe Saxon URS
- Christopher Johnson URS

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Col. Swickard called the meeting to order and welcomed all that were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 25, 2002, Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting minutes were approved as final.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Al Brickeen reviewed the discussion topics.

WABOU Soil ROD Status

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

Mr. Anderson reported that the unresolved national-level land use control issue is delaying the signing of the ROD. Mr. Anderson explained that the Department of Defense and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) have disagreed over land use control authority held by USEPA. The new Air Force policy does not allow regulatory involvement.

Mr. Anderson gave a recap on the ROD dispute:

- The draft final ROD was issued on December 31, 2001.
- USEPA initiated a dispute resolution on the WABOU ROD on April 3, 2002.

- The Dispute Resolution Committee had 21 days to resolve the issue. Unfortunately, no agreement was reached. (This committee consists of Air Force Air Mobility Command, USEPA, and Pentagon personnel.)
- If unresolved, The Senior Executive Committee has another 21 days to resolve the issues. If it fails, the USEPA Administrator will resolve the dispute.

This nationwide dispute has impacted Travis AFB in the following manner:

- All corrective action management unit (CAMU)-related soil actions have been pushed into the year 2003, resulting in a one-year delay.
- Travis AFB and regulatory agencies are continuing the preparations (designs, work plans) to support the upcoming soil cleanup actions.
- Travis AFB will also be able to clean up the radiological burial site, since the soil will be sent to an off base disposal landfill.
- The dispute will continue following the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Travis AFB's Federal Facilities Agreement. The Senior Executive Committee teleconference scheduled for August 8, 2002, will provide the next attempt for resolution.

Mr. Anderson commented that the regulatory agencies have been supportive in reviewing and commenting on the design packages and work plans.

The question was asked, has Air Force staff heard of any progress, and have minor agreements been reached? Mr. Anderson stated that all he has heard are rumors that progress is being made.

The question was asked, has the command level come to Travis AFB staff for opinions? Mr. Anderson stated that no one has asked for Travis AFB's opinion; it is a national issue.

John Lucey stated that USEPA's Senior Executive Committee representative is his regional administrator, who was briefed today by local staff. Initially, there were mixed signals from headquarters concerning their positions on various issues. This has been resolved, and there is now more of a uniform statement coming from USEPA.

Mr. Lucey stated that the Air Force is concerned about two main issues. One is the Air Force's opinion that the USEPA should not be involved after the ROD is finalized. USEPA does not agree. The latest that Mr. Lucey heard is that this issue is pretty well resolved, and that the Air Force is backing off that stance, agreeing to regulatory oversight after the ROD is signed. There will be a letter from the USEPA to the Air Force on this issue, and a response is expected in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Lucey went on to state that these land use control issues should be a minor problem at Travis AFB. It will be a matter of changing the Base Master Plan to include language to provide regulation checks on the land use controls. Reporting and monitoring should be a minor cost at Travis AFB. Mr. Lucey stated that he is very optimistic that by the next Travis Remedial Program Manager meeting, these issues should be resolved and ready to go.

Jose Salcedo stated that at Travis AFB's level, there was agreement, so resolution should not be a big deal once the issues are settled on a national level.

Mr. Lucey stated part of the delay has been waiting for Langley AFB's issues to be resolved. However, Langley has its own individual set of issues: it is an open base, and it does not have a Federal Facilities Agreement.

Mr. Anderson stated that Travis AFB will incorporate the necessary changes to the ROD and submit the revised draft final ROD to the agencies for comment and review.

Jim Whalen stated that he is concerned that Langley AFB is held as a priority above Travis AFB since Travis AFB is already ahead of the game. He expressed concern that the politics involved is not functional.

Mr. Brickeen stated that the Travis AFB Federal Facilities Agreement is a signed legal agreement that gives a timeframe for agency compliance to resolve issues. Since Langley AFB does not have a Federal Facilities Agreement, they can go forever; however, Travis AFB is still on a timetable.

The Rev. David Root commented that Travis AFB is having to use up its funding because of the delay. Mr. Anderson stated that there will be a cost involved in moving the projects from 2002 to 2003. Rev. Root asked how much will it cost. Roger Johnson stated that the delay has cost about \$5,000 per month.

CLEANUP PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

WABOU Soil Remedial Design

Mr. Anderson gave a presentation on the WABOU soil site remedial design.

Mr. Anderson explained that a remedial design is a road map for the successful completion of a remedial action. It is a technical document that describes each task and presents diagrams of the work area. This document includes a list of specifications and all contractual requirements that the contractor needs to meet.

The design includes:

- Initial preparations – what does the remedial action contractor have to do before the field work (permits, establishing work areas).
- Does the soil go to a CAMU or an off-base landfill.
- Confirmation sampling – when can excavation stop.
- Acceptance level sampling – does the soil meet the criteria for placement in the CAMU.
- Restoration activities – involves the fieldwork to implement cleanup.
- Documentation – reports that document that the site was cleaned properly and is ready for closure.

The following sites are most likely to have soil consolidated into the CAMU:

- SD041 Building 905 (Pesticide Shop) – pesticides were detected in the surface soil within the fence line. Travis AFB will excavate the soil and place the soil in the CAMU. Confirmation sampling will take place, and the excavation will be filled with clean soil.
- SD042 Buildings 929/931/940 (Ditch) – metals and semi-volatile organic compounds were detected in the ditch. Travis AFB will excavate the soil, place the soil in the CAMU, and clean out the drainage sump near Building 940.
- SD045 Former Small Arms Range – metals were detected in the soil. Travis AFB will verify that the soil meets CAMU criteria. Travis AFB will excavate the soil and place the soil in the CAMU. Confirmation sampling will take place, and the excavation will be filled with clean soil.

The soil and debris from the following sites are most likely to be transported to an appropriate off-base repository:

- LF008 Pesticide Trenches – pesticides containers were buried in the subsurface. Travis AFB will excavate the containers and soil and transport them the soil to an off-base landfill. The excavation will be filled with clean soil.
- RW013 Radioactive Burial Site #2 – radioactive waste was buried in the trench. Travis AFB will excavate the waste and transport it to a selected radioactive waste repository. The excavation will be filled with clean soil.

Mr. Anderson reported that there will be physical land use controls (fences and berm) at LF044 Landfill X, which consists of concrete and construction debris. The purpose of the berm is to prevent contaminated sediment from flushing into the vernal pool areas. This will be completed this summer.

Administrative land use controls (such as signs) will be implemented at DP039 Building 755, SD043 Building 916, and SS046 Railhead Munitions Staging Area.

Kurt Urquhart asked for the status on existing designs. Mr. Anderson stated that Building 905 and SS041 are pending. The designs for the drainage ditch are completed. Landfill X and the Small Arms Range will be wrapped up by July 31, 2002, and the Air Force is still working on the pesticide landfill.

Union Creek Protection

Steve Stopher gave a presentation on the Union Creek protection plan. This plan anticipates the worst-case scenario. The purpose of this program is to minimize the spread of petroleum stop hazardous material from leaving the base, and to protect the ecological habitat associated with Union Creek and its tributaries.

Mr. Stopher said past procedures to handle spills were inadequate. Spills usually occur in the industrial areas. In the past, spill cleanup equipment was stored all over the base. Mr. Stopher's goal was to expedite spill response.

Mr. Stopher set up seven equipped outfall buildings, which are located by tributaries that lead into Union Creek. The primary piece of equipment the program uses is a “boom.” The boom is a long cylindrical sock made of absorbent materials designed to eradicate oils and fuels in the surface water. The boom is attached to a hook and hung from a horizontal cable that is lowered into the water. It can absorb up to four gallons of hazardous waste. Mr. Stopher stated that the greatest advantage is that one person can deploy the boom deployment/retrieval system.

The response team consists of the fire department, which responds first to any spill; the logistics group, which responds if the spill is near the flightline; and the civil engineers, who respond to spills throughout the base.

Sarah Raker asked how long the socks will be effective. Mr. Stopher stated that it depends upon the velocity and how much petroleum is being absorbed. The socks are effective until saturated.

Rev. Root asked where the booms are located. Mr. Stopher stated that the outfall buildings are located at the south end of the runway, the east side of the runway, across from the Navy facilities, by the fuels storage area near Hanger Avenue, at a fire training section, and at the *aerial port access road*.

Mr. Stopher reported that at Outfall 2, salmon, otters, and turtles were observed, indicating that the creek is becoming healthy.

Mr. Brickeen stated that over \$100,000 was saved by Mr. Stopher’s efforts. Only \$210 was spent to purchase contract information signs for the outfall buildings.

Mr. Urquhart asked, what does the Air Force do for preventive measures in the areas that have the highest potential for release? Mr. Stopher stated every flightline truck has small spill equipment, and that there are safety trucks; every industrial shop has an industrial spill kit. Mr. Stopher has developed a Response Awareness Training. These classes are given to the base personnel.

Mr. Brickeen stated that preventive measures have also been implemented at the bulk fuel area.

Col. Swickard stated that a \$26 million project, including new tanks with secondary containment, should be completed in the next couple of years.

Mr. Lucey asked if the logistics group and civil engineers participate in training to ensure readiness. Mr. Stopher answered yes; however, he would like to see more training.

Ms. Raker asked if Mr. Stopher includes inspections as part of the overall maintenance of these outfall facilities. Mr. Stopher stated that he spends a large amount time at the systems to upgrade equipment and maintain the systems.

Vegetable Oil Study Results

Tom Sreenivasan gave a presentation on the vegetable oil study results. (This technological study is sponsored by the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, who also monitors this project.)

Mr. Sreenivasan explained the vegetable oil process is an innovative, cost-effective method of carbon addition that provides the conditions necessary to promote breakdown of solvents in groundwater. The vegetable oil is injected directly into the affected aquifer. Because vegetable oil dissolves slowly in groundwater, it serves as a slow-release carbon source. A single injection can provide sufficient carbon to drive contaminant breakdown for many years without harming the environment.

This study is being conducted in two phases.

- Phase I (April – December 2000): A pilot study was conducted to determine if any chemical breakdown occurred.
- Phase II (December 2000 – April 2002): An expanded study was conducted by adding more monitoring points and more oil to determine if this technology could effectively reduce solvent concentrations.

The monitoring period from April 2002 to April 2004 will be used to evaluate the long-term effects of vegetable oil injection on contaminated groundwater plumes. Initial results are that the chlorinated solvent concentrations are dropping (up to 98% decrease in some locations), and breakdowns in product concentrations are increasing (another indication that vegetable oil works).

A significant reduction of chlorinated chemical concentrations has occurred. Travis AFB will continue to monitor progress of the study. After monitoring is completed, Travis AFB will decide whether to use vegetable oil as a final treatment process at SS015 and other Travis AFB Installation Restoration Program sites. Mr. Sreenivasan stated that the vegetable oil injection technology is promising; however, an expanded study is needed to ensure that the results are substantive.

In response to Bill Taylor's question, Mr. Sreenivasan stated that Parson Engineering collects groundwater samples to monitor this program and reports to Air Force.

Ms. Raker asked how the vegetable oil gets into the formation. Mr. Sreenivasan stated that it reaches the formation by the natural path of dispersion; no additional pressure other than the injection is used.

Presentation to Col. Swickard

Mr. Whalen presented a clock to Col. Swickard in appreciation of his support of the Travis AFB RAB. Mr. Brickeen commented that Col. Swickard has been a tremendous help to Environmental Management in getting programs executed and that it has been a pleasure working with him.

Col. Swickard stated that it will be easy for his replacement, Col. Sevier, to step in because of Environmental Management's and the RAB's commitment to the cleanup process. He also stated that he has learned quite a bit during his participation at the RAB meetings.

Willis Jepson Middle School Report

Mr. Brickeen gave a presentation of activities at Willis Jepson Middle School in April.

Mr. Brickeen stated that presentations and demonstrations were given to approximately 500 students by Travis AFB and URS personnel. Topics included environmental cleanup, equipment used for groundwater cleanup and sampling analysis, soil vapor extraction systems, and vernal pools.

Regulatory Agency Report

Ms. Raker introduced her new supervisor, John Kaiser.

Focus Group Reports

None

RAB/Public Questions

Mr. Whalen commented that the Department of Defense and USEPA viewpoints on the dispute as represented in the newsletter was very worthwhile. It is his opinion that this type of reporting is very valuable, and he would like to see more articles such as this in the *Guardian*.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors Office, Fairfield, California, on October 24, 2002.

Topics for the Next Meeting

- WABOU Soil ROD update/status
- Update on remedial actions
- Institutional controls
- Budget update
- Future contract strategy
- Ms. Raker's presentation on the RWQCB