

Meeting Minutes  
 Travis Air Force Base  
 Environmental Restoration Program  
 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting  
 July 24, 2003

RAB members present:

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Col. Michael L. Sevier	Travis Air Force Base (AFB), RAB co-chair	✓
Whalen, Jim N.	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 F.	National Association of Retired Federal Employees	
Lucey, John	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)	✓
Marianno, David	Suisun City Resident	✓
Moriaty, Eamon	Goodrich Corporation	✓
Morad, Cyrus	Fairfield Resident/North Bay Engineering Club	
Raker, Sarah	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board)	✓
Salcedo, Jose	California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	✓
Taylor, William W.	Travis Unified School District	✓
Tolentino, Ron	Solano Garbage Company	
Valez, Philip	Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee	✓

Travis AFB staff present:

- Glenn Anderson
- Wilford Day
- Captain Gloria Downey
- Dale Malsberger
- Troy Martinson
- Mark Smith
- Lt. Col. Patrick Smith
- Tom Sreenivasan
- Steve Stopher
- Linda Weese

Agencies and Contractors present:

- |                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| • Roger Johnson    | HQAFCEE/ERD |
| • Dave Rose        | HQAFCEE/JA  |
| • Michelle Trotter | DTSC        |
| • Mike Wray        | CH2MHILL    |
| • Monique Meyer    | Earthtech   |
| • Elizabeth Allen  | TechLaw     |
| • Traci Bjers      | URS         |

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

Mr. Mark Smith welcomed the attendees.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The April 24, 2003, RAB meeting minutes were approved as final with no changes.

## **Additional Agenda Items, Comments, and Questions**

Mr. Jim Whalen commented that the restoration work being accomplished at Travis AFB to protect human health and the environment is to be commended. Representatives of various regulatory agencies are working together for one common cause.

## **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **Risk at Travis AFB Sites**

Ms. Elizabeth Allen, consultant for the U.S. EPA, gave a presentation on risk at the Travis AFB sites. Ms. Allen explained that risk is the likelihood of adverse health effects. Risk assessment is the procedure to determine the risk by going through the steps of data collection and data evaluation, toxicity assessment, exposure assessment, and then risk characterization. This information determines a numeric probability of the likelihood of someone getting cancer or the likelihood of having a non-carcinogenic effect.

*Col. Sevier asked who establishes the risk or hazard index.* Ms. Allen stated that it is the end result of a risk assessment.

*Col. Sevier asked who establishes the value for the likelihood of health effects.* Ms. Allen stated that the U.S. EPA and DTSC establish this value.

*Col. Sevier asked how often the value is changed.* Ms. Allen stated that the value is regularly updated. There is a database, which is the primary source for this information, within U.S. EPA that is updated monthly.

Ms. Allen described that risk assessment considers:

- Intake rate (how much air, water, and soil we ingest);
- Exposure frequency;
- Exposure duration;
- Body weight;
- Averaging time (the length of time that the chemical can cause harm); and
- Toxicity factor (how much is necessary to affect health).

Risk characterization combines information on toxicity and exposure, determines probability of cancer for carcinogens, and calculates ratio of daily intake to an acceptable daily intake value for non-carcinogens. Risk characterization is performed for each contaminant.

*Mr. Richard Curtis asked if consideration is given to the interaction of multiple risk exposure.* Ms. Allen stated that this is not done.

Ms. Allen stated that there is a clear distinction between risk assessment and risk management.

Risk assessment is a scientific process, by which an estimate is made of an individual's risk. There is no judgment as to whether that risk is real and/or acceptable.

Risk management is making a decision to deal with calculated risk by determining if cleanup is required and how much contamination can be safely left in place.

Travis AFB obtains its drinking water from the City of Vallejo and a few deep wells from the Cypress Lakes Golf Course. Both sources are safe.

Ms. Allen explained that there are no compliance levels for soil, which is why risk assessment is used to calculate cleanup levels.

She said the regulatory agency representatives are always available to address questions and/or concerns. Additional sources of information can be obtained from:

- Informational Repository (Vacaville and Fairfield Public Libraries)
- West/Annexes/Basewide Operable Unit Groundwater Proposed Plan and West/Annexes/Basewide Operable Unit Soil Proposed Plan
- Website (<https://www.travis.af.mil/pages/enviro>)

Mr. John Lucey commented that the new U.S. EPA cleanup value for trichloroethene (TCE) in groundwater could affect the cleanup actions at Travis AFB.

Ms. Allen said that in 2000, the National Center for Environmental Assessment stated that a revised risk assessment for TCE indicated that it is in fact very likely a carcinogen. A sufficient exposure of TCE can cause an increase in a variety of cancers (kidney, reproductive system, liver). It was also discovered that the risk value for TCE is 70 times greater than originally thought.

*Col. Sevier asked, once the potential risk is calculated for a particular site or project, how do you determine and prioritize the action required to address that risk?* Ms. Allen stated that that is the risk management process. The numerical value from the risk assessment, and likelihood of exposure are determined, and a priority is assigned.

Ms. Sarah Raker commented that sometimes public perception could in fact play a large part in prioritizing the risk. In addition, risk assessment does not take into account whether a person is a smoker or has certain genetic dispositions.

Ms. Allen reiterated that there is no immediate risk at Travis AFB, and there is no exposure to the population.

Mr. William Taylor commented that the Air Force and the Department of Defense have done an outstanding job in keeping Travis AFB safe.

## **CLEANUP PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS**

### **Reactive Wall Study**

Mr. Glenn Anderson presented an update on the reactive wall study.

This technology involved the placement of iron filings into a zone of contaminated groundwater, which breaks the contaminant down into safe compounds, allowing the cleaned water to flow out of the zone.

The field work was completed, and the report on the performance of the reactive wall was submitted in June 2002. The results of the study were mixed:

- The iron files broke down the TCE and generated harmless byproducts.
- The wall also acted like a barrier, meaning the water does not readily flow through the wall.

The solvent concentrations downgradient of the wall continue to drop, and water flow across the wall is improving. Travis will continue to observe the wall's performance through water level measurements and groundwater analysis as long as it does not interfere with cleanup activities.

*Col. Sevier asked about staff suspicions that in the drilling and planting of the iron filings, layers were broken apart.* Mr. Anderson stated that no one is certain this occurred, but it is highly likely.

*Mr. David Marianno asked where the Air Force obtained the iron filings.* Mr. Anderson stated that the material was obtained from Canada. Mr. Marianno asked if this is Canadian waste material that the Air Force is placing in the soil. Mr. Anderson stated no.

### **NEWIOU Soil, Sediment, and Surface Water Record of Decision Update**

Mr. Dale Malsberger gave an update on the North East West Industrial Operable Unit (NEWIOU) Soil, Sediment, and Surface Water Record of Decision.

- Groundwater Protection Technical Memorandum – determines if residual soil contamination is a threat to groundwater. A draft Groundwater Protection Technical Memorandum was issued to the agencies on April 17, 2003. It concluded that no soil action was necessary regarding the groundwater (i.e., there is no threat to groundwater). The revised draft was issued on June 26, 2003, with input from the Water Board.
- Ecological Protection Technical Memorandum – determines the risk to ecological receptors from soil, sediment, and surface water. A site visit with the agencies occurred in February 2003 to reach agreement on sites that have habitat. The Air Force met with the agencies in March 2003 and reached agreement on the approach and what the receptors will be (hawk, otter, and salmon in addition to those in the West/Annexes/ Basewide Operable Unit Soil Record of Decision). The draft Ecological Protection Technical Memorandum is scheduled to be issued on August 15, 2003.
- Draft Record of Decision – will incorporate all preliminary comments and agreements. This will include regulations, historical summary, site descriptions with recommended action for human health, Groundwater Protection Technical Memorandum, and Ecological Protection Technical Memorandum. The draft Record of Decision is scheduled to be issued on December 3, 2003.

*Mr. Eamon Moriarty asked why the salmon are considered receptors.* Mr. Malsberger stated that salmon have been observed on the base in Union Creek.

## **REGULATORY AGENCY REPORT**

Ms. Raker stated that through the underground storage tank program, a number of tanks have been removed, and Travis AFB is now attempting to close these sites.

## **FOCUS GROUP REPORTS**

Mr. Smith stated that there is a need to renew and recharge the focus groups. He would like to get members to support the Community Relations and Budget Focus groups. The Technical Review group has been receiving and reviewing reports.

## **RAB/PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

### **Former Skeet Range**

Mr. Anderson stated that the Air Force has a new area of concern, known as the former skeet range, which is located southeast of the current skeet range. The Department of Defense has set up a program to address all unexploded ordnance sites and all former ranges of any type.

Recently, the *Vacaville Reporter* ran an article entitled “Unexploded Munitions Pose Threat” with misinformation about the former skeet range and retracted the article in the July 9, 2003, edition.

The Air Force has conducted a preliminary investigation and site investigation. This site was recommended to be low priority and will be programmed in fiscal year 2011.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next RAB meeting will be held at the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors Office, Fairfield, California, on October 23, 2003.