

Meeting Minutes
 Travis Air Force Base
 Installation Restoration Program
 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
 24 October 2002

RAB members present:

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Col. Sevier	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	√
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	
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	

Public Members present:

None.

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Glenn Anderson Travis AFB
- Allen Brickeen Travis AFB
- Wilford Day Travis AFB
- DeAnn Lehigh Travis AFB
- Dale Malsberger Travis AFB
- Troy Martinson Travis AFB
- Tom Sreenivasan Travis AFB
- Steve Stopher Travis AFB
- Linda Weese Travis AFB
- Roger Johnson AFCEE/ERD
- Winifred Williams AFCEE/ERD
- Viola Cooper USEPA
- Patricia Ryan DTSC
- Sarah Madams CH2M Hill
- Wayne Williams CH2M Hill
- Traci Bjers URS
- Ross Overby URS

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Allen Brickeen introduced Troy Martinson, who has replaced Bruce James as Travis Air Force Base's (AFB) new Environmental Flight Chief.

Mr. Brickeen also introduced Winifred Williams, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) contracting officer, and Viola Cooper, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Public Participation Specialist.

Mr. Brickeen reported that Mr. Kurt Urquhart and Mr. Dan Negron had resigned as Restoration Advisory Board members. Mr Urquhart has moved to Colorado, and Mr. Negron is unable to dedicate time to the RAB because of other commitments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 25, 2002, RAB meeting minutes were approved as final.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Mr. Brickeen reviewed the discussion topics.

Budget Update

Mr. Brickeen reported that there was a delay in obtaining congressional approval of the defense budget in 2002. Although Travis AFB did receive some funding on time, the remaining funds were delayed because the Department of Defense (DOD) was evaluating whether restoration projects should be deemed as military construction (MILCON) projects.

Mr. Brickeen reviewed a graph that compared how contracts were awarded in fiscal years (FY) 2001 and 2002. It clearly showed the delays in funding 2002 remediation projects.

Mr. Brickeen explained that the FY03 budget will fund the following:

- Administration, which will fund items such as the *Guardian*, RAB meetings, and labor.
- Operation and Maintenance, which will fund items such as operating the groundwater treatment plants and sampling.
- Remedial Action Work, which will fund remaining planned soil remedial actions and the FT005 Off Base work remaining to complete connecting the newly installed wells to the South Base Boundary Groundwater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Brickeen stated that it appears that Travis AFB will receive the requested funding to support its projects. Travis AFB is also requesting additional funds to support performance-based contracts. Remedial action work planned and funded in 2002 that was delayed by the Record of Decision (ROD) dispute will be executed in 2003.

The question was asked regarding how much is in the budget. Mr. Brickeen answered that the budget for FY03 is approximately \$3.4 million.

Future Contracting Strategy

Roger Johnson, AFCEE, gave a presentation on future contracting strategies.

Mr. Johnson explained that a couple of years ago the military started looking at a program called Performance-Based Contracting for environmental work. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) started this new contract approach, which has resulted in goals being quickly met at a lower cost.

Performance-based contracting is an approach whereby contracted work is performed with minimal focus on government process and maximum focus on results. It is used to complete environmental cleanup projects in less time.

This program benefits the public, regulators, and the government because the environment is cleaned up, regulatory goals are met, and costs are reduced.

Although this program relies on the contractor's knowledge and experience, it does not remove the government's responsibility.

Implementation is as follows:

- The statement of objectives will indicate what the final product will be.
- The contracts will be fixed price (the contractor will establish the scope of work, what will be done, the schedule, and the procedure).
- Government's micro-managing will be reduced.

- The contractor is required to meet objectives and accelerate regulatory compliance in the most technologically advanced and efficient manner available.
- The government will agree to the contractor's scope of work; however, the contractor will establish how the objectives will be accomplished according to the agreed upon schedule. (The contract limit is five years with the potential of an extension, if necessary).

Mr. Johnson emphasized that the bottom line is that more sites are closed, and it is a win-win approach.

Jim Whalen asked who has responsibility for quality control. Mr. Johnson stated that the contractor has responsibility for quality control; however, the contractor must have regulatory approval.

The question was asked if there will be a review process. Mr. Johnson stated that there will be a review process based on the contractor's set schedule. The regulatory agencies must accept the contractor's program; the program will not be complete without a letter of acceptance from the regulatory agencies. There is still governmental oversight. The contractor must abide by the rules, regulations, and instructions in order for the Air Force to sign the final document. The contractor will be paid for work completed.

Ms. Cooper asked if the contractors will allow flexibility in the review time for public comments. Mr. Johnson stated that it will allow contractor flexibility within the limitations of the regulations.

Mr. Johnson stated that the best place to review past performance-based contracts is on the Web sites for DOE and AFCEE.

The question was asked if the contractors receive a performance rating. Mr. Johnson stated that all AFCEE contractors are rated quarterly.

Jose Salcedo commented that at the Rio Vista Army Reserve Center, the Army conducted a turnkey contract with a fixed price to remediate the entire site. It was successful, and remediation was completed in a timely manner.

Mr. Martinson asked if these contracts are intended to be competed. Mr. Johnson stated that all of these contracts are competed among the current AFCEE cleanup contractors. Mr. Johnson stated that a request for incremental funding is currently before Congress. This may allow AFCEE to award a contract without having the total funds at the time the contract is awarded.

John Foster commented that this appears to be a good concept to drive innovation; however, the taxpayers will be concerned about providing a windfall for the contractor.

WABOU Soil ROD Status

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

Mr. Anderson reported that the land use controls issue has been resolved. The dispute between the U.S. EPA and the Air Force has been concluded.

The WABOU Soil ROD will have the following performance measures for land use controls:

- Description of use restrictions;
- Requirements for site inspections by the Air Force; and
- Requirements to submit an annual report to the regulatory agencies of inspection results.

The land use control plan was removed from the ROD.

Mr. Anderson stated that Travis AFB will publish the third revision to the draft final WABOU Soil ROD. The Air Force and regulatory agencies will review and sign the ROD. The next round of cleanup actions will start in the May-June 2003 timeframe.

Mr. Whalen asked about the timeframe for signing the ROD. Mr. Anderson stated that the third revision will be submitted to the regulatory agencies and the Air Force by Monday. They will have 30 days to review and sign.

Mr. Anderson explained that the changes have been incorporated into the document in “redline/strikeout” so that the changes are evident for review.

The final document will be placed in the Information Repository.

Patricia Ryan, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), suggested that any changes in the ROD also be placed in the Information Repository.

DTSC ORIENTATION

Mr. Salcedo gave a presentation on DTSC’s role in the Travis AFB cleanup process.

Mr. Salcedo explained that DTSC’s mission is to protect public health and the environment from harmful exposure to hazardous substances without unnecessarily impacting sustainable growth and development. All DTSC’s programs and all permitting, site cleanup, pollution prevention, environmental technology certification, public participation, and education activities are driven by this mandate.

Mr. Salcedo stated that DTSC is responsible for regulating hazardous waste facilities and overseeing cleanup of hazardous waste sites in California. The inspection, compliance, and corrective action programs ensure that state and federal requirements for managing hazardous wastes are implemented.

DTSC responds to over 1,000 citizen complaints per year regarding hazardous waste handling. Currently, work is under way at hundreds of contaminated properties throughout the state. DTSC has lead responsibility for cleanup of illegal drug labs, and this arm of the Department is rapidly expanding.

Mr. Salcedo stated that DTSC’s Environmental Technology Certification Program was the recipient of the 1996 Innovations in Government Award.

The RAB was briefed on the organizational structure of the Department.

Ms. Ryan commented that the public can obtain forms and manuals on the DTSC Web site (www.dtsc.ca.gov). It is a good source for information about the Department.

Mr. Anderson asked if California’s budget affects DTSC. Mr. Salcedo stated that it only affects personnel. The department is self-funded; most funding comes from contracts with DOD, permitted facilities fees, or cost reimbursement at private sites.

CLEANUP PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

RW013 Radioactive Burial Site

Mr. Anderson gave a slide presentation on RW013 radioactive burial site, procedures for collecting soil samples, and instruments used.

RW013 is a trench in which radioactive waste was buried and is the only radioactive site on Travis AFB. Travis AFB has excavated the site. The depth of the excavation area is eight feet, and no groundwater was affected. Trucks will be used for transportation of the contaminated soil and waste to an off-base, low-level waste repository, but the soil will not be moved until the confirmation sampling results have been received. It will take approximately three weeks to get the results of the confirmation sampling. The excavation is scheduled to be completed on October 25, 2002.

The question was asked what other site was investigated for radioactive waste. Mr. Anderson stated that a 5,000-gallon underground storage tank had been inspected during the WABOU Remedial Investigation. This tank was found to be clean in 1995, and, coincidentally, this tank will be removed within a couple of weeks.

REGULATORY AGENCY REPORT

Mr. Salcedo reported that the wells have been installed at FT005; however, there are not enough funds to install the piping until the spring of 2003.

FOCUS GROUP REPORTS

None

RAB/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at the McBride Senior Center, Vacaville, California, on January 23, 2003.

TOPICS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- WABOU Soil ROD update/status
- LF044 Soil Remedial Action
- Overview of previous year and what is planned for the present year
- RWQCB orientation
- Update on NEWIOU Soil ROD
- Five-year review on groundwater systems evaluation