

**Meeting Minutes
Travis Air Force Base
Installation Restoration Program
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
Fairfield Senior Citizen Center
Fairfield, California
19 October 2000**

RAB members present:

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Brickeen, Allen	Travis Air Force Base/RAB co-chair	√
Whalen, Jim N.	Mayor Fleming's Office in Vacaville/RAB Community co-chair	√
Child, David	Fairfield Resident	
Corona, Joel	Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce	
D'Lima, Anne	Travis AFB Resident	√
Flores, Lalo	BDC Marine	
Foster, John	Northern Solano County Association of Realtors	√
Guido, Timothy	David Grant Medical Center	√
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	√
Peconom, John	University of California, Davis, Student	
Raker, Sarah	SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	√
Root, David	Crosswinds Church	√
Rued, Emily	Vacaville Unified School District	√
Rundlett, John	Suisun City Council	√
Salcedo, Jose	Department of Toxic Substance Control	√
Sawyer-Shishido, Kathy	Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District	
Taylor, William W.	Travis Unified School District	√
Tolentino, Ron	Solano Garbage Company	√
Urquhart, Kurt	OEA Aerospace, Inc.	√
Villacorta, Claudia	SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Col. Jan M. Swickard Travis AFB
- Bruce James Travis AFB
- Glenn Anderson Travis AFB
- Mark Sandy Travis AFB
- Dale Malsberger Travis AFB
- Kevin Neurer Travis AFB
- Christopher Hobbins Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence
- Maj. Timothy Anderson Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence
- Daryl Greenway CH2M HILL
- Chuck Elliott CH2M HILL
- Deena Stanley URS
- George Joyce URS
- Traci Bjers URS
- Patricia Ryan Department of Toxic Substances Control

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Allen Brickeen called the meeting to order and welcomed all that were present. Dan Negrón was introduced as a new RAB member.

Mr. Brickeen introduced Col. Swickard, Travis AFB Vice Wing Commander, who will replace Mr. Brickeen as the Air Force's RAB co-chair beginning January 2001; and Major Anderson from Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE), who is the Program Coordinator for Air Mobility Command bases.

Mr. Brickeen announced that Mr. Carl Freitas passed away in August 2000. Mr. Freitas was 87 years old.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kevin Jackson commented that a new set of minutes was submitted during tonight's meeting (there were several typos). The July 2000 RAB minutes were approved and finalized.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Timothy Guido asked if a tour of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites was set up. Mr. Brickeen stated that Travis AFB will schedule a tour in the Spring; however, he would be willing to take individuals on an informal tour, if requested.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Mr. Brickeen stated that a RAB member submitted a question concerning the Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP), which is an annual

environmental assessment by the base. Every third year Air Mobility Command (AMC) performs the assessment. AMC performed this year's assessment.

Mr. Brickeen stated that there were eight findings. The main finding concerned the Information Repository. Originally, the Vacaville Library contained the Information Repository. However, because of a misunderstanding between the base and the librarian, some documents were inadvertently disposed of. Travis AFB has placed the administrative record on CD-ROM and is trying to obtain a computer that the Vacaville Library can use for public access.

Another finding was not meeting the Department of Defense (DOD) cleanup goals. The DOD has a goal to have remedial actions in place at high relative-risk sites by 2007. Travis AFB will not be able to reach this goal due to budget restraints.

Another finding was that the Environmental Protection Committee chairman should be the RAB's Air Force co-chair. Col. Swickard will become the co-chair in January 2001.

There were three positive findings: the environmental legal web site which was set up by Kevin Neurer, the use of innovative technologies, and Kevin Jackson was recognized for the newsletter, *Guardian*.

AFCEE Innovative Technologies

Mr. Anderson gave a presentation on AFCEE innovative technologies. Mr. Anderson explained that AFCEE funds the studies; therefore, the studies have no impact on the Travis Air Force Base restoration budget.

- **Risk management demonstration at former small arms ranges:** This particular technology is an approach to determining cleanup levels and was conducted at SD045. The demonstration involved the collection of site-specific data needed to make soil cleanup decisions at small arms ranges commonly found on military installation. This study resulted in the recommendation of cleanup approach and soil cleanup levels.
- **Dual Phase Extraction:** This technology attempts to remove pure solvents from the subsurface. It lowers the water table to expose the solvents to air, and then vacuums the volatile solvents out of the subsurface. In the first eight days of use at Building 755, 22 gallons (264 pounds) of solvents were removed. More than 40 gallons (480 pounds) of solvents have been removed since January 2000, which is excellent. Currently the contaminant removal rate is approximately one gallon per month, which is faster than that of standard pump and treat systems.
- **Permeable Reactive Wall:** This technology, installed at Site DP039 in June 1999, placed iron filings into the subsurface. The iron serves as a reactive zone, chemically breaking down the solvent contaminants as they pass through the wall. The results are inconclusive, possibly due to groundwater flow problems related to the jet grout injection process. The technology will be reevaluated in one year.

Mr. Tim Guido asked if the iron caused any problems? Mr. Anderson stated that Travis AFB is keeping track of the amount of iron on the downgradient side of the wall. The iron concentration may increase, however, most of the iron will stay in place because of the heavy soils (clay).

Mr. Kurt Urquhart asked what the benefit of the jet grouting process was over trenching. Mr. Anderson stated the benefit of the jet grouting process was that the excavation depth is unlimited and utility lines are easily avoided.

- **Phytostabilization:** This study is also being conducted at DP039. It involves the planting of 380 water-loving, red bark eucalyptus trees above the contaminated groundwater plume. The trees act as a groundwater treatment system, drawing the solvents out of the contaminated groundwater to the surface or chemically break down the solvents. Phytostabilization is being tested at seven other locations across the country.

Mr. Tim Guido asked if the trees will affect the natural habitat. Mr. Anderson stated that the trees will not impact the natural environment.

- **Vegetable Oil Injection:** Mr. Sandy described the newest innovative technology being evaluated on Travis AFB. The technology injects common household vegetable oil into the groundwater at site SS015. Thirty-eight (38) injection points were installed. The vegetable oil acts as a food source for bacteria that degrade the chlorinated solvents in the groundwater.

Mr. Kanouff asked what would happen to the injected oil. Mr. Sandy stated that the oil will decompose.

Potrero Hills Annex

Mr. Anderson gave a brief historic overview on the Potrero Hills Annex. The Annex was part of the former NIKE missile battery from 1956 to 1964. It was decommissioned in 1964 and Travis AFB used the Annex for small arms/medical storage. In 1967, the Annex was leased to Explosive Technology, now known as OEA Aerospace Inc. (OEAA), which specializes in the design, development and manufacture of explosive components, such as military aircraft escape systems and airbag initiators.

Four product test areas on and off the Annex produce metal particles and the drainage pattern near the test areas lead to ponds and possibly to Suisun Marsh.

The controversy results from what regulation applies to the cleanup: the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). It is the Air Force's opinion that RCRA applies to Potrero Hills Annex because it is an ongoing industrial activity.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Cleanup Requirement Order to the Air Force and OEAA that addresses all test sites. The regulatory agencies also agreed to defer CERCLA until the tasks presented in the Water Board order are completed. All parties will then determine whether any additional actions are justified.

Mr. Michael Moseley asked if it was possible for the Air Force to revert to CERCLA if further cleanup is necessary. Mr. Anderson stated that it is a possibility.

Mr. John Foster asked whether OEAA's current practices follow the normal rules and regulations. Mr. Anderson stated that the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) oversees the activities of OEAA. Travis AFB just enforces the lease.

Mr. Dave Root asked if the operations of OEAA are closed down, what laws would become active. Mr. Anderson stated that if OEAA close down, corrective actions for the 25 acres would be covered by RCRA.

CLEANUP PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

Petroleum Sites Closeout

Mr. Brickeen announced that Travis AFB has three sites in the process of being closed out; two sites located at Potrero Hills and one site on Travis AFB. Underground fuel tanks have been removed, sites have been cleaned and closed out on the Air Force records. The Water Board will submit a letter next week, officially recognizing the sites closed out for the Air Force.

Off-Base Groundwater Sites

Mr. Sandy gave an update on the off-base groundwater sites.

- SS030 (Monitoring Well 269) — Installation is complete and the system is operational. It has achieved full capture of the plume, which is a big milestone.
- FT005 (Fire Training Area #4) — three base wells were installed, currently waiting for funding to complete the real estate agreement that will provide access off base.
- LF007 (Landfill #2) — TCE was detected in this former landfill. This project will be funded in FY03.

Mr. Taylor asked if there is still discussion on purchasing this land. Mr. Sandy stated that Mr. Freitas decided not to sell this portion of his property. It is now the Air Force's intent to install a groundwater extraction well to bring the contaminated groundwater plume back onto the base.

West/Annexes/Basewide Operable Unit Soil Record of Decision

Mr. Anderson gave an update on the WABOU Soil ROD:

- **Cleanup Levels** — The changes requested by U.S. EPA have been made. A technical memorandum addressing what concentrations are protective of groundwater beneficial-use objectives was submitted to the agencies for review. Comments were received from the Water Board. The Air Force is now waiting to receive comments from U.S. EPA and DTSC. Cleanup tables will be complete after this memorandum is finalized.

- **Ecological Issues** — U.S. EPA rejected the PhD response to the EPA's comments and requested significant additional studies. The Air Force disagreed with the request. The Air Force and U.S. EPA will attempt to work out the issues together.

Mr. Dan Negron asked if the U.S. EPA has the last word. Mr. Anderson stated yes.

Mr. Dan Negron asked what the impact is of not getting the ROD signed. Mr. Anderson stated that the Air Force will not be able to start the cleanup actions until the ROD is signed.

Mr. Tim Guido asked if it is possible to get a grant to conduct this study. Mr. Anderson stated that that it was never suggested and there is no guarantee that the U.S. EPA would accept the results of the study.

Mr. Jim Whalen asked what is the major obstacle. Mr. Anderson stated that the problem is how much information is required to know that a cleanup level is protective of the environment. It is the Air Force's position that the cleanup levels will protect species that are on special status or endangered species lists. The Air Force's position is based on the U.S. EPA's guidance document that states that other species do not necessarily have to be protected on an individual basis; the population can be protected.

Mr. Dan Negron asked whether the significant additional studies required additional man-hours or money. Mr. Anderson stated that both were required.

Mr. Dan Negron asked if this is one of the reasons why Travis AFB cannot obtain funding, because U.S. EPA is holding this up. Mr. Brickeen stated that one of the reasons that Travis AFB lost a significant amount of funding was that its cleanup actions were delayed.

Mr. John Foster asked where we would go from here. Mr. Anderson stated that the Air Force must provide sufficient justification for its cleanup decisions.

Mr. Anderson made an offer to send the U.S. EPA comments to those RAB members that are interested in them via mail and/or email. Mr. Brickeen stated that, in his opinion, the U.S. EPA is asking Travis AFB to do more than it is requiring of other sites.

Mr. Negron asked if DTSC and Water Board were satisfied with the Air Force's position. Mr. Salcedo stated that his agency's toxicologist had some concern with how the data is presented and precedents it would set. In other words, the way the data is presented certain assumptions were made, where it appears that there might be a problem (the hazard quotient [non-cancer effect] is greater than one). Ms. Raker stated that the Water Board is deferring to DTSC and U.S. EPA on this issue.

- **Acceptance Levels** — The Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) acceptance levels are in the WABOU ROD and will be accepted with the final CAMU technical memorandum.

The goal is to submit the third Revision to the Draft WABOU Soil ROD on 17 November 2000. The submission will include regulatory input on the groundwater protection technical memorandum, ecological discussion, and minor revisions.

Cypress Lakes Golf Course Removal Action

Mr. Anderson gave an update on the Cypress Lakes Golf Course removal action. The removal action was requested by the RAB.

Pre-excavation samples were collected in order to determine where to start excavating and the depth of the contaminated soil. Excavation is scheduled to begin at the end of the October 2000 and to be completed by 30 November 2000.

Community Interviews

Mr. Jackson stated that Mr. Whalen requested that Travis AFB give a brief status report on the community interviews. The community interviews are conducted to provide the basis to update the Community Relations Plan (CRP). It has been approximately six years since community interviews have been conducted.

The community interviews were conducted 26, 28, 31 July and 7, 10, 11 August 2000. Nineteen people were interviewed and were a cross-section of the community. Travis AFB will conduct five additional interviews.

The set of questions was provided by Ms. Pat Ryan, DTSC. The questions addressed the responder's knowledge of restoration history, environmental concerns, community involvement, media, and communication.

Ms. Ryan offered the RAB members a copy of the survey questions. Ms. Ryan stated that everyone is asked the same questions and individuals are assured that the answers are confidential. Ms. Ryan commented that people have a higher confidence level in the Air Force at open bases compared to closed or closing bases. The purpose of the questions is to assist in determining how to make the public more aware of the environmental issues. She commented that the surveys ensure compliance with CERCLA.

Mr. Michael Moseley, who is employed by the *Daily Republic* and is a military liaison to the *Tailwind*, stated that he wrote an article on the water inspection at Travis AFB and found that there was not a lot of interest in groundwater contamination. He is also the *Solano County Streetmail* correspondent. He offered this venue for the surveys as another way to get input from the ordinary citizen, and said he would feature the Travis AFB RAB on *Streetmail*.

Mr. John Foster said he was a member of the Armed Forces Committee. He said he could ask if there were any questions from the committee, but did not recommend making a presentation to them.

Regulatory Agency Reports

Mr. John Lucey was not present; therefore there was no U.S. EPA report.

Ms. Raker encouraged the RAB members to contact her or Ms. Claudia Villacorta through e-mail with questions and/or concerns. Ms. Raker stated that she would also bring the RAB's concerns to Mr. Lucey's attention. Mr. Salcedo suggested that the RAB may have a toxicologist discuss the points being contended.

Mr. Salcedo had no report.

Focus Group Reports

Mr. Brickeen reported that the Budget Focus Group has selected a new chairperson, Ms. Ann D'Lima.

Ms. D'Lima reported that the Budget Focus Group met on 2 October 2000. Ms. D'Lima stated that each year Air Mobility Command receives approximately \$30 million from Air Staff, which is divided among 12 bases. Travis AFB has historically received approximately 25% of the budget. Travis AFB will not have funds available for cleanup activities during FY02 and FY04. Air Mobility Command and Air Staff will meet in December 2000 to discuss the budget. A decision should be made in time for the January 2001 RAB meeting.

Mr. Whalen asked what the penalties were if the deadlines were not met. Mr. Brickeen stated that the deadlines will be established once the Record of Decision is finalized. The Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA), which establishes the cleanup schedule is signed by the Air Force and the agencies. At this time, binding schedules for cleanup actions do not exist.

RAB/Public Questions

There were no public or RAB questions.

Set Time and Place for next RAB meeting

The next RAB meeting will be 11 January 2001 at Travis AFB in the Wing Commander's Conference Room.

Next meeting topics/suggestion

- Progress of ROD
- CAMU presentation — soil cleanup program
- Risk assessor/toxicologist presentation on why is an eco-risk assessment done, how it defines remediation goals, etc.