

**Travis Air Force Base  
Environmental Restoration Program  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

25 October 2007

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

**Mr. Smith** called to order the regular meeting of the **Travis AFB RAB** at **7 pm** on **25 October 2007** in the **Larkspur Room at the Hilton Garden Inn Fairfield**. Mr. Smith introduced Lt. Col Hoover as filling in for Col Tuck as Air Force Co-Chair. Additionally, it was announced that Linda Weese will be retiring as of January 2008.

**Roll Call**

The following RAB members were present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>
Lt. Col Scott Hoover for Col Giovanni K. Tuck	USAF, 60 CES (Air Force Co-Chair)	✓
David Marianno	Suisun City Resident (Community Co-Chair)	✓
John Foster	City of Fairfield Representative	✓
James Chang	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	✓
Cyrus Morad	Fairfield Resident	
Alan Friedman	SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	✓
Mike Reagan	District 5, Solano County Representative	
Jose Salcedo	Dept of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	✓
Philip Velez	Travis Armed Forces Committee	✓
Pastor David Root	Chaplain – Solano County Sheriff	
William Taylor	Travis Unified School District	

Public Members present:

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Mark Smith                      Travis AFB
- Glenn Anderson              Travis AFB
- Lonnie Duke                    Travis AFB
- Gregory Parrott                Travis AFB
- Linda Weese                    60 AMW/Public Affairs
- John Kaiser                     CalEPA/Water Board

**II. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes were approved as written.

**III. Additional Agenda Items and Questions**

During the presentation, a tour of the soil cleanup actions was requested by Mr. Velez. Mr. Foster and Mr. Marianno also both interested to see in person what was accomplished.

**IV. Discussion Topics**

a) Status of Soil Cleanup Actions

Mr. Anderson presented the progress of the soil cleanup actions. After years of talking procedure and protocol, the summer was spent actually working and getting the job done. The cleanup sites include Former Small Arms Range (SD045), three Former Fire Training Areas (FT003, FT004 and FT005), two Sediment Sites (SD001 and SD033), and one Closed Landfill Site (LF007). The Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) is location in the north-east corner of the base.

Contractors involved in this effort include Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure (prime), Aerotek (labor support), Morrow Surveying (land surveyor), Smith-Emery (soil density testing), and Intrinsic Transportation (trucking).

All paperwork including permits, etc., was completed and cleanup officially started on 18 June 2007. SD045, FT003 and FT004 are completed. Excavation at these three sites achieved residential cleanup levels. LF007 is ongoing. Work at SD001 and SD033 needs to begin. Work at FT005 has been deferred.

Before work began, we conducted a site walk with Shaw to make sure everyone understood what needed to be done. Also, we used utility clearance to protect existing infrastructure. All water storage tanks at the groundwater treatment plants were inspected to determine how to obtain treated water for the soil cleanup actions.

Heavy equipment was mobilized onto the base. Mr. Anderson described the different types of equipment, including the articulated hauler, which moves around a central joint. These haulers can move a lot of dirt, up to 35 cubic yards at a time. Started jobs with smaller equipment, but as time went on it was realized the need to get the job done quicker, and the need to use larger equipment to do that. A manlift was used to fix equipment on the spot.

Site set-up included a first aid station, dust monitoring stations, contamination reduction station and signs for the three work zones. Starting the excavation included clearing and grubbing – removing grass and shrubs from the site. X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) was used on the spot to check for lead. It was very windy, so

dust suppression was very important, especially at the CAMU. When feasible, treated water was used for dust suppression to keep contaminants from being blown around. The size of the CAMU is six to seven times what was there before.

At the former small arms range (SD045), XRF was used on the spot, sometimes directing two excavators at the same time. White chalk paint was used to mark areas that were clean. In order to put soil into the CAMU, soil must meet established acceptance criteria. Thus, soil was stockpiled while waiting results. Plastic sheeting was put on the ground and held in place by sand bags. The soil was placed onto the sheeting, and additional sheeting was put over it and held by sand bags. There were many, many stockpiles.

At one fire training area (FT004), several large piles were stockpiled rather than many small ones. When shipping soil to the CAMU, a front-end loader was used to put soil into a dump truck. Extra care was used to minimize dust generation.

The CAMU was prepared to receive soil first by clearing all vegetation. A water truck followed the tractor to control the dust. Once cleared of vegetation, a portion of the existing cap had to be removed. The bentonite/soil layer was moved to one side. Orange snow fencing was used to mark where clean layer of soil ends and contaminated soil begins. This was done for future reference. Once an area was filled, one foot of clean soil is layered over it as an intermediate layer, and then compressed.

At the sites, the excavation voids were backfilled with clean soil. Dump trucks were lined up ready to bring in clean soil. A sheeps-foot compactor was used to compact the soil. The clean soil, about 15,000 yards, had been collected from other base projects over the last ten years, and had been stored in a clean soil holding area.

The burrowing owls near FT004 were successfully evicted. A 250-yard circle was fenced off around the nest. A wildlife biologist was stationed nearby to assure work was not doing any damage to the owls. Once young owls were old enough to leave the nest, evictors were installed in burrow. Basically, an evictor is a piece of corrugated pipe with a clear plastic cover (flap valve) which allowed owls to leave but not return. Once all owls were out, the holes were dug up to discourage them from returning. Mr. Foster mentioned the article from the Guardian; he was impressed with all the effort done for the benefit of the owls, and thought the article was well written and informative. Mr. Smith mentioned that the Guardian was commended by Headquarters to all the restoration chiefs at other bases. Mr. Anderson stated that the articles in the Guardian practically wrote themselves!

Work at FT005 has been deferred, but some work was still accomplished there. The above ground tank was removed. It was considered to be the source of soil contamination. Discussions were held about the fieldwork, safety issues and

hazards to avoid before work began. The tank is considered to be about 50 years old, and it tested negative for asbestos. The tank was strapped to a crane and lifted. It was checked for volatiles on site with a photo ionization detector (PID). The only chemical found was some kerosene in one of the hoses. After leaving the base, the tank was recycled. It was actually inexpensive to get rid of the tank.

There is still work being done out in the field. This is more of a 'mid-term' report on what has gone on this summer. To date, over 17,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil in the CAMU, and about 2,500 cubic yards of clean soil used as CAMU intermediate layer. Over 15,600 manhours have been expended. About 374,000 gallons of treated water from the treatment plants were used for dust suppression.

The cost of this fieldwork is \$3.7 million. Overall, \$4.2 million was budgeted, and \$3.7 was awarded. The entire award will be spent. Lt. Col Hoover pointed out that aggressive money-saving techniques, i.e. using treated water and stockpiling clean soil, made the difference on the budget.

b) One Billion Gallons Later: Overview of the Groundwater Treatment Program and Remedial Process Optimization

Mr. Duke presented the overview of the groundwater treatment program. Sometime in August, Mr. Duke added all the volumes of extracted groundwater from the treatment plants and realized one billion gallons of water had been treated.

The central treatment plant is the largest plant and located centrally. Since starting operation in January 1996, 359 million gallons of water has been treated, 2,212 lbs of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been removed from groundwater and 8,322 lbs of VOCs removed from vapor. It is more efficient to remove VOCs from vapor.

The south base boundary treatment plant has been in operation since July 1998. As of September 2007, 577.8 million gallons of water has been treated and 315 lbs of VOCs removed. The VOCs present at this location are at lower concentrations.

The north treatment plant has treated 76.9 million gallons of groundwater and removed 173 lbs of VOCs. 5,240 lbs of VOC has been removed from vapor. This plant has been in operation since March 2000.

All together, over one billion gallons of groundwater has been treated, with over eight tons of VOC contamination removed!

So what's next? The VOC concentrations are dropping at the North and South treatment plants, which demonstrates that they are working efficiently and as designed. It is time to work more efficiently and we have come up with some proposals in the Remedial Process Optimization (RPO) report. It is recommended to

shut down the Soil Vapor Extraction System in the North plant as the concentrations are so low. It is also recommended to shut down some extraction wells where the concentrations are low for sites tied into the North plant. The same for some extraction wells at FT005 that are tied into the South plant. The wells will continue to be monitored, and after a year a Rebound Study will be done to see if the concentrations are still low. If concentrations are still low it will demonstrate whether monitored natural attenuation (MNA) is working or if the system needs to be turned back on. Mr. Foster asked how low is low? In most cases, below the maximum concentration level (MCL). The cleanup goals have been met.

Mr. Marianno commented that his impression had been it would take years, much longer than this, to accomplish the cleanup goals and get to the point of shutting down the treatment plants. Mr. Smith emphasized that some wells are being shut down, not the treatment plants. The reasoning behind this was all the non-detect results coming back. Definitely, if results start to come back positive, the systems will be turned back on. Lt. Col Hoover asked about any shut downs occurring in the Central plant. That won't happen any time soon, as the results show higher concentrations from these wells. There may be additional wells installed.

#### **V. Cleanup Program Status**

There is nothing new to report. As for the Air Force centralization, the intent is for all contacts to remain the same.

#### **VI. Regulatory Agency Reports**

DTSC: No reports

EPA: Welcome to James Chang.

WB: No reports. Glad to see progress on projects and looking forward to moving on to other things.

#### **VII. Focus Group Reports**

No focus group meetings have been needed.

#### **VIII. RAB/Public Questions**

Q: Lt. Col Hoover asked about the deferment of work at FT005.

A: Mr. Smith stated that a decision had to be made, looking at time and budget, about starting work at FT005. Resources and time left to work had to be considered. The soil removed at the other sites was much more than anticipated. Additionally, work at FT004 was delayed while evicting the owls. Work at the creek sites will most likely be delayed due to weather – once the rains start the work stops. The main driver is that the CAMU needs to be closed before the rainy weather hits. The CAMU cannot be effectively capped in rainy weather. The plan is to close the CAMU by Thanksgiving and won't be reopened. The contaminated soil from the remaining soil sites will have to be sent off base.

Q: Mr. Salcedo asked for a schedule when to anticipate cleanup actions will take place for the creek sites (SD001 and SD033) and FT005.

A: The projects will be submitted in FY08. Depending on the budget, it may be possible to resume work in the summer of 2008. This shouldn't affect any FFA requirements, but will cause a revision in schedule. There is no intent to delay the work.

Q: Mr. Marianno asked about the centralization of the Air Force Environmental program.

A: Mr. Smith responded with a brief outline of the changes that will be occurring. There will be a transition of project management from Air Mobility Command (AMC) to a program management office (PMO) in San Antonio. PMO will be funded directly, and then manage the bases separately. The idea is to eliminate a layer of bureaucracy while maintaining continuity of projects. Lt. Col Hoover added that the Presidential Budget (PB720) requires a drawdown of staff. Before, each MAJCOM was managed separately in how they operate. Intent is to centralize some of the standard operations.

Mr. Foster commented on the stewardship and leadership at Travis. Also, he wanted to acknowledge Linda Weese and all her work.

Lt. Col Hoover praised the Travis environmental team. His time spent at the Pentagon in environmental gave him an attitude against restoration. He is happy to see at Travis an environmental restoration program that works as it should. Mr. Smith also praised his team of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Duke for all their hard work. He also commented that the RAB has been helpful in many areas, including getting the funding needed by writing letters and getting involved.

**IX. Set Time and Place for Next RAB Meeting**

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for **24 April 2008** at the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors in Fairfield.

**X. Adjournment**

**Mr. Smith** adjourned the meeting at **8:40 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Leticia Sangalang, Synectics

Minutes approved by: Restoration Advisory Board