



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

The previous meeting minutes were approved as written.

## **III. Additional Agenda Items and Questions**

Mr. Smith asked if there were any questions about the agenda or if anyone had any additional items not already on the agenda. He stated that there will also be an opportunity at the end of the meeting to add agenda items or ask questions. Mr. Foster mentioned that he learned a lot on the base tour, and it was exciting to see the real thing. He recommended the team consider offering the tour yearly. Mr. Smith answered that an annual tour has been discussed before, and that spring is a good time of year for it. Mr. Marianno also took the tour and expressed great satisfaction in seeing the cleanup work that has been accomplished around the base.

## **IV. Discussion Topics**

### **a) Wrap up of Summer Soil Cleanup Actions**

Mr. Anderson presented the wrap up of the summer soil cleanup actions. At the last RAB meeting, the remedial actions were still in progress. At this meeting, he wanted to show how the work had ended, explain a bit about the CERCLA process – and emphasize that the study of these sites started back in 1995. Travis ERP has come a long way, as now the program is in the remedial action stage of the process. Currently the groundwater side of the program is undergoing the second Five Year review process and Performance Monitoring.

A recap of information: There were seven total cleanup sites in this action. 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). Work at SD001, SD033 and FT005 has been deferred to FY09 due to both financing and weather.

Soil remedies included building the Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) to handle the contaminated soil. The CAMU was built over a municipal landfill, which was land not being used for anything else. This is a good location to place and cap the contaminated soil.

Summary of field work. Field work started on 18 June of 2007 and ended on 14 December 2007. Lots of heavy equipment was mobilized onto the base. Mr. Anderson reviewed the different types of equipment used on the job. The first thing to get done was grubbing the sites, then staging sandbags and plastic sheeting for the stockpiles. A portable XRF (X-Ray Fluorescence) instrument was utilized to measure the amount of lead in soil and save time and money versus sending samples to a fixed lab for lead analysis. Water trucks, using water from both the base potable water system and the groundwater treatment plants, were used for dust suppression. Once analytical results were back from the lab, soil was shipped

to the CAMU – this was a large operation that went on for weeks. The sites were backfilled with clean soil that came from a holding area. The clean soil had been collected from various projects around the base over the last 10 or more years and stored in a holding area at LF007.

Mr. Velez asked how deep the clean soil backfill was at these sites. Mr. Anderson answered that it depended on how deep the crew had to dig in each area, but in general it was three feet with one location at FT003 going down five feet. Surveys on the drainage were performed prior to any digging so the original grade could be restored. Depressions were left where wetlands were so they could recover on their own.

There was some work accomplished at FT005. The above ground tank was removed and a trench was cut across the central portion of the site. When it was determined that time and funding were not available to complete FT005, the trench was filled back in. The tank was put to good use as after leaving the base, it was sent to a facility to be recycled.

Mr. Anderson presented some photos of the eastern edge of the closed landfill (LF007). PCB-contaminated soil was found at the former Defense Property Disposal Office. Cleanup in this location had to be done very quickly due to the fast approaching wet season. There were complications such as the landfill being right next to the contaminated soil and debris material that couldn't go into the CAMU. This situation was not addressed in the decision document, therefore the team came up with a strategy to deal with the debris and let the regulatory representatives know; meanwhile the field team waited for a decision. Communication and coordination with agencies worked well and it was decided to mark the waste excavation boundaries and use a bio-barrier of concrete over edge of landfill with a four-foot soil cover over it. This protects the wetland (much of the debris was deemed habitat) and wildlife, and allowed continuation of the work. Contamination had been found on the other side of fence along Meridian Road which is beyond the base boundary. Negotiations with the City and County governments allow this off-base soil to be scraped along road and taken to the CAMU.

CAMU construction was very involved process. Stakes were used to mark height of soil as it was mixed with the bentonite. Top layer of soil was removed and a soil processor was used to sift fines from rocks. The soil was mixed with bentonite (9:1) to form cap.

Mr. Marianno asked what the purpose of the bentonite was. Mr. Anderson answered that bentonite is a water-loving clay. It absorbs water and protects the cap from erosion, also allowing for vegetation to grow. The bentonite came in every day; equipment was used to get off the trucks and it was covered to protect the bags of bentonite from rain.

After compacting, hydroseeding was done. The hydroseed mix (native seed, mulch, nutrients, water) was sprayed. An erosion skirt was put around the bottom.

Wetland protection concerns were addressed by putting wattles around areas that were partially removed. If wetlands acreage was removed, it will be replaced at a 1:1 ratio.

The regulatory agencies were taken on a tour of the sites to see the work that has been done.

Final cleanup statistics were shown. Over 22,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil was placed in CAMU. Waste that was sent off-base (1,416 cubic yards) was not suitable for the CAMU based on analytical results. The CAMU worked very well for dealing with contaminated soil. Between the prime contractors and the subs, 20,255 man-hours were expended. The gallons of fuel used (18,032 gallons) references heavy equipment only.

Soil cleanup work was very successful. A lot was accomplished. Just three more soil cleanup actions to go!

b) Groundwater Program Update

Mr. Duke presented the overview of the groundwater treatment program.

The Central Treatment Plant has treated 17 million gallons of water in the last six months and used 223,314 kwh of electricity. 150 pounds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were removed.

The South Treatment Plant has treated 21 million gallons of water in the last six months and used 104,346 kwh of electricity. Fourteen pounds of VOCs were removed.

The North Treatment Plant has treated 1.9 million gallons of water, in the last six months and used 66,626 kwh of electricity. Less than half a pound of VOCs were removed. The slide shows the success of this plant. During the first few years of operation the plant removed 5,000 pounds of VOCs. The levels have dropped considerably. Mr. Hoover asked if it was time to turn the plant off. Mr. Duke replied that Remedial Process Optimization is upcoming for this plant and will look at how to optimize the site cleanup and do things smarter, looking to find areas to save money and make these funds available for the war fighter. The RPO team will be on base in May to look at all cleanup activities.

The Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Report that was finalized last month is available to the RAB. Also, the Annual Groundwater Treatment Plant report is available.

Mr. Foster asked about the wells that have been turned off as part of the optimization process. Mr. Duke stated that fifteen wells have been turned off as part of the Optimization process. Sampling will be done in May and December to evaluate what is happening at these wells.

Additionally, two solar powered wells at remote locations were previously installed. They will have a glass-mat battery installed so they can run at night also, which doubles the output from these wells. One is up currently, and the other is being cleaned. They will run for six months, during the dry season and feed into the North plant.

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

AFCEE Program Management Office (PMO) status: The transition from headquarters AMC management of the Restoration program to a centralized function at the Program Management Office (PMO) at AFCEE in San Antonio is ongoing. The PMO will be assuming management of the program while AMC will maintain some of the administrative functions such as payroll and funding for supplies and travel. The PMO is providing a centralized core of subject matter experts for each of the bases for each of the commands. The RPO team that Mr. Duke mentioned also works with the PMO office. As for the Travis ERP staff, although smaller than a few years back, the same faces will be available to the RAB, the agencies and the local community.

A performance based contract (PBC) will be awarded soon to achieve the objectives of remedy in place at our remaining groundwater sites and to address the remaining soil sites. The goal behind PBC, is to make use of the contractor's subject matter experts to achieve the restoration objectives. It is likely we will see an increase in the number of documents as well as the rate at which those documents are generated to achieve RIP.

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

DTSC: Not present.

EPA: Five Year Review. The EPA will evaluate if remedies are protective of human health and environment. Mr. Smith added that this is the second Five Year Review, and appreciates the input from Mr. Chang to get the document approved and signed.

WB: Stated that it is encouraging to work with the Travis team and to see completed Remedial Actions from the NEWIOU ROD. It is good to see a Superfund program working and cleanup being accomplished. Mr. Kaiser added that he will be meeting with the Air Force folks from San Antonio in May, the new contacts Mr. Smith mentioned at the PMO.

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

The technical focus group has reviewed three documents: 2006-2007 Annual Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Draft Report, 2008 Second Five Year Review Draft Report, and 2008 Vapor Intrusion Draft Work Plan. The EPA has a rigorous vapor intrusion focus. Vapor intrusion will be addressed in the GW ROD and the input from the Focus Group is appreciated.

**VIII. RAB/Public Questions**

None.

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

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for **23 October 2008** at the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors in Fairfield. A base tour will be planned before then.

**X. Adjournment**

**Mr. Smith** adjourned the meeting at **8:50 pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Leticia Sangalang, Synectics

Minutes approved by: RAB