

**MEETING SUMMARY  
FORMER WALKER AIR FORCE BASE (WAFB)  
ROSWELL INDUSTRIAL AIR CENTER (RIAC)  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)  
19 OCTOBER 2000**

<p><b>RAB Members Present:</b> Kathleen Aisling Ron Courts David Gregory Steve Harris Kay Havenor Ken Hirst Kerry Hunter Leroy Lang Dick Smith</p> <p><b>RAB Members Absent:</b> Richard Cervantes Tom Day Eva Gomez Tim Hutcheson Julie Jacobs Ethel Logan Eloy Ortega Raymond Prescott Mary Kay Samples</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Sandra Chaloux</p> <p><b>Guests Present:</b> Gay Hirst Morgan Nelson Tom Tarter Debbie Underwood</p>	<p><b>Affiliation:</b> EPA City of Roswell USACE Chaves County Local Geologist National Guard Citizen New Mexico Farm Bureau Citizen</p> <p>ENMU - Roswell Nova Bus Citizen, Y-O Acres LePrino Foods NMED Citizen Chaves County Commissioner Citizen Citizen</p> <p>CEC, Inc – RAB support contractor</p> <p><b>Affiliation:</b> East Grand Plains Citizen Citizen Roswell Daily Record</p>
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**Meeting Summary Review**

- The only change to the last meeting minutes was that Kerry Hunter and Raymond Prescott should have been included in the RAB list of attendees.

**USACE Update**

- David Gregory passed around a copy of the quarterly sampling data report and hydrographs to the RAB. The report showed tables that presented the analytical results.

The hydrographs show changes in ground water levels and fluctuate seasonally according to use (primarily irrigation) and are independent of TCE concentrations. Quarterly sampling data shows a trend of TCE levels fluctuating with water levels in the shallow alluvial aquifer. The levels of TCE observed in the monitoring wells have been higher as the groundwater levels rise. An exception to this trend occurred during the June/July 2000 sampling event when TCE levels in the Rowden and Perten wells increased as the water levels decreased. In July, David mentioned to the RAB that the Corps was going to determine if they could start pumping at a more aggressive rate. A contract was awarded to conduct a pumping test near the Alert Area.

- On October 17, the Corps began the construction phase of the pumping test. Six observation wells and a six-inch pumping well must be constructed before the actual pumping test can be conducted. David offered to arrange a tour for any RAB member or guest who was interested in visiting the site. The location of the pumping test will be to the east of the Alert Area in the vicinity of wells SW2 and SW2B. Six monitoring/observation wells and one pump well will be installed. They will be pumped continuously for 48 hours. Prior to the continuous pumping, the Corps will use a step draw down method to try to determine the rate of pumping for the test. The wells will be 50 yards west of the eastern boundary/fence line.

A RAB member inquired if the Corps had talked with any of the local pump companies about the logs they have kept over the past 20 to 30 years. David responded that they have not; he was not aware of any wells logged in this area.

Another group member asked where the pumped water was going. Water that is being pumped as a part of a five-year pilot test is discharged into the City's sewage treatment system. Water generated during the upcoming pumping test will be discharged in a similar fashion. Ron Courts from the City mentioned that a storm water retention pond is being planned for the North East corner of the former Base and that it could possibly be used for this project.

The Daily Record reporter asked how many wells are being tested and sampled. David responded that there are between 35 and 50.

- A comment was made concerning how the water levels in the basin have dropped significantly lately. A RAB member responded that this year has been the third driest year in the past 400 years for New Mexico. There has been some recent recovery, though. The State Engineer's office measures the water levels.

### **New Business**

- Someone asked why the Corps decided to drill the wells for a pump test. David responded that the Corps needs to determine if the aquifer would support more aggressive pumping (more than 40 gallons a minute). The wells are being installed to do the pump test. It is good that they can be used for multi-purpose in the future for checking conditions along the fence.

- A RAB member asked if the plume of contamination that moves downhill from the wells has moved beyond the boundaries of the Base, and if so, what the Corps will do about it. David responded that the Corps is not authorized to address contamination when the source is outside the Base. However, if the contamination began on the Base and moved outwards, the Corps will 'chase' it as needed. Under the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program, the Corps is only authorized to address environmental problems associated with formerly used defense sites.
- Someone asked how deep the Corps tests the water in the wells. David noted that the Corps takes precautions during testing to determine which aquifer the affected groundwater is coming from. The wells will be constructed so that water-bearing zones are isolated and can be tested independently. Upon completion, they will isolate the separate zones so they can be tested independently. Most of the wells are in the shallow alluvial aquifer such as SW2B. SW2 is in the deeper alluvial aquifer. In well SW2B, the Corps is finding approximately 25 ppb of TCE. In well SW2, the Corps has found 61 ppb of TCE. The RAB discussed why there would be higher levels of TCE in the deeper alluvial (TCE is heavier than water).
- A guest asked if the Corps had located the source of the contamination on the Base. Other members noted that the source is still somewhat unknown, as new pipes and manholes are found every day that were previously unknown. One RAB member said he suspected that TCE was dumped at the end of the original runway. Another guest suggested that the TCE was dumped into manholes. He asked if the Corps had any schematics or site maps showing where manholes and the old drainage system were located? A guest who had worked on the Base many years ago knew about the dumping, but not exactly where it occurred.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next RAB Meeting was set for Thursday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the National Guard Building #524. Agenda items identified for the next RAB meeting include:
  - Corps Update
  - Preliminary Results on Pump Test
  - Analytical Results.

### **Action Items**

- David Gregory to bring Geology Map to every meeting.