

**MEETING SUMMARY  
 FORMER WALKER AIR FORCE BASE (WAFB)  
 ROSWELL INDUSTRIAL AIR CENTER (RIAC)  
 RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)  
 19 APRIL 2001**

<p><b>RAB Members Present:</b>          Richard Cervantes          Ron Courts          David Gregory          Kay Havenor          Ken Hirst          Kerry Hunter          Julie Jacobs          Leroy Lang</p> <p><b>RAB Members Absent:</b>          Kathleen Aisling          Tom Day          Steve Harris          Ethel Logan          Eloy Ortega          Raymond Prescott          Mary Kay Samples          Dick Smith</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b>          Sandra Chaloux</p> <p><b>Guests Present:</b>          Ms. Gay Hirst          Mr. Jeff Firebaugh          Mr. David Henry          Morgan Nelson          Richard Smith          Bob Wilson</p>	<p><b>Affiliation:</b>          ENMU – Roswell          City of Roswell          USACE, Army Co-Chair          Local Geologist, Community Co-Chair          National Guard          Citizen          NM Environmental Department          NM Farm Bureau</p> <p>EPA          Nova Bus          Chaves County          Citizen, Y-O Acres          Chaves County Commissioner          Citizen          Citizen, Latimer Subdivision          Citizen</p> <p>CEC, Inc – RAB support Contractor</p> <p><b>Affiliation:</b>          Citizen          USACE, Albuquerque District          USACE, Albuquerque District          Citizen          USACE, Tulsa District          USACE, Tulsa District</p>
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**Meeting Summary Review**

- Sandra Chaloux informed the group that the meeting summary from last time was submitted to Army Corps headquarters to be incorporated into a report to Congress. The Corps and the community have identified this RAB as a success story.

**USACE Update**

- Jeff Firebaugh announced that he will be the project manager for the Walker project and David Henry will be the technical manager for the project and attending the RAB meetings. He also introduced the technical support team from the Tulsa District, Rick Smith and Bob Wilson. David Gregory is working as a subcontractor to the Corps to provide consistency in the efforts at the site.

- David Gregory showed hydrographs from March 1999, March 2000, and March 2001, which showed no surprises – very consistent hydrographs. The hydrographs show the changes in water surface elevation over time. He showed the TCE concentrations in the same vicinity. The Rowden well has had the highest concentrations off Base. In March 1999, the TCE concentration was at 74 ppb. In March 2000, it was at 60 ppb, and in March 2001, it was over 80 ppb; he did not have an explanation for that anomaly. He concluded that the results have been consistent with what the group has seen with the fluctuations in water surface. Kay Havenor suggested that David use a “best fit” line on the graph to show sampling results over time. This would show the average results. He said they are seeing a slight increase in TCE concentrations on the Rowden well. On the Pardon well, they are seeing a slight decrease. At the SW2 well, they have had a steady decrease in concentration and essentially no change at the SW3 well. David Gregory said he would use the “best fit” line for next time. David said the bottom line is that there is not much happening.
- The Corps has been working on a pilot test to determine if the team could pump at a higher rate. David also reminded the group about the chemical oxidation technology that he has reviewed. With the depth to groundwater that they have here, this technology does not seem to be cost effective. The Corps also looked at an enhanced bioremediation method. The third consideration was a more aggressive pump-and-treat system. The average rate they have been pumping has been 38 gallons per minute. The second pump test was conducted to the east of the base near Y-O acres between October 2000 and January 2001.

Although they are not finalized, the preliminary pump test results are available. The Corps had 5 observation wells and a pumping well. There are two aquifers we are dealing with—the lowest is the artesian—which is source used for drinking water. They are not finding much contamination in the artesian aquifer—very low to non-detect levels. They have been focusing on the lower and upper granular zones of the alluvial aquifer. He thinks a sustained yield of 180 gallons per minute is possible, which is about 4 times the current pumping rate. There must be a great deal of communication between the two granular zones of the alluvial aquifer because we are seeing similar concentrations in both.

- Ron asked if they were able to pump at 300-400 gallons per minute (gpm) at all during the pump test. David said that there was some concern that they may not have had the screen in the most optimal location to sustain that type of rate. The equipment used had upward capability of just over 200 gpm. The water table was at a depth between 145 and 155 feet. TCE would be expected to be higher in the lower granular zone because TCE is heavier than water. Kay (local geologist) said that you would expect the alluvial aquifer to thin and tighten up as you go west.
- A RAB member asked what is done with the contaminated groundwater that is pumped out now. David explained that there is an agreement with the City and it is pumped through the City’s wastewater treatment plant. TCE evaporates pretty

readily when it reaches the surface. The test they have done on the downstream end of the sewage treatment plant shows no TCE remaining.

- Kay Havenor asked if Davis-Monthon was using aeration to treat TCE. Jeff said he would look into it and discuss his findings at the next RAB meeting.
- David asked Ron to look into adjudicated water rights. He asked Ron to find out which ones are transferable and which ones apply here.
- One of the meeting participants pointed out a drain line where TCE was dumped when the Base was operating. TCE was used to wash parts and was stored in the hangars. Base employees used to wash their uniforms in it. Julie Jacobs (NMED) said that the drain areas would be a good area for a soil vapor survey. TCE was used up until 1980. Morgan said that there was little chance the TCE was buried in barrels because they reused the barrels. David asked if Morgan had any other colleagues in the area that could provide the project team with some information. He said Bernard Ginsberg was in charge of engineering and might remember. His family owns Ginsberg Music on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Main Street. Morgan suggested an interview with him. David said the team will conduct a limited soil gas survey to follow-up on the leads provided by Morgan Nelson.

#### **New Business**

- A RAB member asked if the Corps was considering a recovery well near the Rowden property and whether it could be from another source. David said not likely since the highest concentrations are found along the fence line of the former base. A RAB member also asked if the State was going to allow the Corps to discontinue sampling in wells that have been non-detect for a while to use the money in areas where more data is needed. David said that the project team had discussed it and that Julie was going to review the data and make a determination. The project team needs to check drain lines; Morgan has maps.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The next RAB meeting was set for Thursday, July 19, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. at the National Guard Building #732. It is located at 5 Challenger Street north of the Fire Department at the former base. It is located behind the State Highway Department Training School. The nearest crossroads are Earl Cummings Loop & University.

Agenda items include:

- Progress on Pump Test
- Options for removing contaminated water
- Bio Remediation
- Update on drain line research.

#### **Action Items**

- Check out water rights at 250 gallons per minute (Ron Courts).
- Perform a soil gas survey at select areas (David Henry).
- Interview Bernard Ginsberg (David Henry).
- Check drain lines (David Henry).