

**FORMER WALKER AIR FORCE BASE  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
ENMU – ROSWELL, CAMPUS UNION BUILDING  
19 February, 2004**

**RAB Members Present:**

*Citizen Representatives*

Anita Logan	Citizen
Bill Corn	Citizen
Dick Smith	Citizen
Darryl Ward	Citizen
Ethel Logan	Citizen
Eva Gomez	Citizen
Kay C. Havenor	Co-Chair
LeRoy Lang	Citizen

*Government/Regulatory Representatives*

Ron Courts	City of Roswell
David Henry	USACE, Project Geologist, Co-Chair
Julie Jacobs	NM Environment Department
Rich Mayer	EPA

**RAB Members Absent:**

None

**Guests Present:**

Eileen McBride	Sacramento District, USACE
Renee Romero	NMED PST Bureau

**Facilitator:**

Jim Morris	Tecumseh Professional Associates
Clara Doyle	Note Taker

## **MEETING SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 19, 2004**

The RAB meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 pm, with welcoming comments and introductions of all persons present.

It was declared that a quorum was present.

The minutes of the meetings of October 16, 2003, were approved as corrected and will be posted on the website.

### **Co-Chair Announcements**

There were no co-chair announcements.

### **Open Discussion/Open Forum**

There were no topics brought to the RAB by members of the public.

### **Corps of Engineers Update**

#### *General*

David Henry passed out a hard copy of the powerpoint presentation, WAFB Update, prepared for the RAB.

Since the last report, both the site investigation of the hospital debris landfill and the base-wide groundwater sampling were completed, with reports to follow. The groundwater sampling report is in draft form and has not been reviewed by the State.

#### *TCE Plume*

David Henry presented slides of the TCE concentrations in wells at Y-O Acres. The Rowden sample result is suspect because it is significantly lower than the last four quarters.

Monitoring Well MW-1B, adjacent to Hanger 58 had the highest concentrations of TCE. Results presented were from the Atkins Report, rather than the groundwater sampling event. It is assumed that DCE is a breakdown product of the TCE.

#### *Hospital Debris Landfill*

At the Hospital Debris Landfill, two soil boring were advanced to 110 feet (to groundwater), wells were installed and soil samples collected. The sample results were non-detect for the compounds checked. This information is preliminary and must be reviewed by the State.

The groundwater sample checked for gross alpha (radioactivity) indicated a presence which may exceed MCL. However, the duplicate sample was below MCL. It may be naturally occurring background level. No other constituents were detected above acceptable levels.

### *Base-Wide Sampling*

In base-wide sampling, most monitoring wells on and off base that could be sampled were sampled for volatile organic and semi volatile organic compounds, metals, PCB's, pesticides and herbicides. Various metals and trace metals were detected in numerous groundwater samples. Several samples exceeded evaluation criteria. The data will be reviewed by NMED.

Bill Corn spoke about the demolition of junk airplanes and the long-term effect that debris from those operations could have on levels of trace metals.

In response to a question, David Henry indicated that 62 wells were sampled. Groundwater level is approximately 110 feet below the surface, with seasonal variations of up to 20 feet.

Several factors went into selection of evaluation criteria: EPA Region Six Soil Screening Levels, NMED Soil Screening Levels, MCL, NM Water Quality Control Commission Standards, and background levels from a previous study done for metals only.

Kay Havenor commented that background levels in this area can be high for barium, aluminum and manganese. Current health risk threshold for arsenic is so low, that it is easily exceeded by background levels in New Mexico. A geochemical analysis of soils is being considered to determine naturally occurring background levels.

Volatile and semi-volatile compounds were also detected. TCE and DCE were the most common compounds found.

The City of Roswell has shut down the old pump and treat system. It was not effective, and had reached the end of the original operation contract. Other alternatives are being considered.

### *Data Gaps Analysis*

The analysis is behind schedule due to inclusion of the most recently generated data from the hospital debris landfill investigation and the base-wide sampling which was not received until the end of January.

Gaps in information have been confirmed. The information gathered during this analysis will help NMED and USACE determine,

- which projects have sufficient data for closeout, and
- which projects need additional work.

### *Future Work*

Data from the groundwater sampling event will be compiled, evaluated, put into a draft report and sent to the State for review. Results will be presented to the RAB.

Based upon information from the data gaps analysis, a new groundwater investigation will be conducted for the TCE plume. This should begin this summer or fall.

A site investigation will be conducted this year for the tetraethyl lead pit. This site was chosen because it is a high risk area due to the organic type of lead involved.

Between the Albuquerque and Sacramento Offices of the Corps, approximately two million dollars are budgeted this year for the former Walker AFB projects.

### *Other*

In response to questions, David Henry indicated that remediation of the TCE plume takes years. However, there should be a system in place to contain and treat it. That system can not be designed until after the Remedial Investigation. The boundaries of the plume are not well defined at this time.

David Henry and Eileen McBride also presented:

- Graphs indicating TCE/DCE concentrations over time for the various monitoring wells.
- Rose Diagrams indicating groundwater flow directions for Pump House #7, Private Wells, in Y-O Acres and an area designated Y-O. This included depiction on a Site Model for Walker Air Force Base.
- Figures indicating DCE concentrations in the Upper Granular Zone, and TCE concentrations in both the Upper Granular and Intermediate Zones.

Eileen McBride explained that a consultant had taken the five years of groundwater data and studied direction of flow and TCE concentrations. They used that data to create the Rose Diagrams, which indicate groundwater flow direction and gradient. Rose diagrams were presented for Pump House #7, private wells at Y-O Acres and an area south of Y-O Acres. The direction of groundwater flow changes during the year, but has a resultant direction. These diagrams were created to better understand the movement of the TCE plume.

David Henry presented draft drawings relative to DCE and to TCE. The information is general and was created with data collected in the base-wide sampling, with some obvious data gaps. The information will be refined with further information to be gathered this summer.

David Henry presented an aerial photo (Conceptual Site Model) of the Walker site, with a plume information overlay. Bill Corn pointed out the location of the B-17 airfield and other features, such as Tumbleweed Draw for clarification. The GIS database will allow layers of information to be overlaid on the aerial photo.

Eileen McBride advised the RAB that they have not formulated the work plan for the next phase of work, but that she hopes to have a lab on-site and several drill rigs to define the edges of the plume.

There was a discussion of the Air Force operation and maintenance functions and how common practice was for drainage in the hangers to be discharged into dry wells within the hangers.

David Henry advised the RAB that the City of Roswell's contract for quarterly sampling expired, but the Corps will continue that sampling.

Eileen said that UST and AST information has been compiled for the base. David indicated that the data gaps analysis would include UST and AST information. The Corps will then have a better idea of outstanding liabilities and work to be done.

Bill Corn mentioned that the fuel storage and piping system was maintained in excellent condition by the Air Force, but that the system had suffered when the cathodic protection system was shut down after the Air Force left the base. The fuel pipeline from Navajo Refinery to the tank farm is still in use.

### **State of New Mexico Update**

Julie Jacobs reported that she has been waiting for reports from the Hospital Debris Landfill Investigation and Base-Wide Sampling Event. She has not seen the data yet, since it has just been completed. She has reviewed the quarterly reports, and noted that the contamination at Hanger #58 has increased.

### **New Business**

At the last meeting there was a discussion of making meeting schedules more flexible and more on an as-needed basis. Jim Morris was asked to draft a revision to the operating rules indicating a minimum number of meetings per year, with the date for future meetings to be set in response to the project schedule. Copies of that draft had been sent to each RAB member. He reminded the RAB members that the citizen members are the ones who are allowed to vote, and would therefore be able to set meeting as they deemed it necessary.

The draft amendment was revised and passed as follows:

**Meetings are open to the public. The RAB will hold a minimum of two meetings per year. At each RAB meeting, the schedule for subsequent meeting(s) will be determined on an as-needed basis. Between scheduled meetings, the Co-Chairs of the RAB can call a special meeting to address previously unforeseen needs.**

Rich Mayer attended this meeting, representing EPA. He indicated that the EPA had funded four trips per year, and that either he or Greg Lyssy would be attending the RAB meetings.

Kay Havenor stated that he feels it is important for the EPA to be involved in decisions relative to remediation.

## **Action Items**

### *Action Items from Previous Meeting*

The following was reported relative to action items from the last meeting:

- Julie Jacobs got in contact with Kathleen Aisling to determine who will be her replacement on the RAB.
- Addition of links for City of Roswell and DENIX to the RAB website has been completed
- Draft charter (Operation Rules) amendment was prepared and distributed to RAB members.
- Mailing of the Newsletter was completed.

### *Action Items from This Meeting*

- David suggested adding another link to the website. This would allow the group members who obtain a password to read documents relative to this project.
- Rich Mayer will get David Henry contact information for the EPA staff working on the other superfund site in this area.

## **Next Meeting Date and Time**

David Henry indicated that it will be approximately three months before the data gaps analysis will be ready for review by the RAB. The final groundwater sampling and hospital debris landfill investigation reports will be on about the same schedule.

The RAB elected to have the next scheduled meeting at 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 16, 2004, at the same location.