

**MEETING MINUTES  
FORMER WALKER AIR FORCE BASE  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
16 JANUARY 2003**

**RAB Members Present:**

Kathleen Aisling  
Ron Courts  
Kay C. Havenor  
David Henry  
Kerry Hunter  
Julie Jacobs  
LeRoy Lang  
Ethel Logan  
Dick Smith  
Darryl Ward

**Affiliations:**

EPA  
City of Roswell  
Geologist, Co-Chair  
USACE, Project Geologist, Co-Chair  
Citizen  
NM Environment Department  
NM Farm Bureau  
Citizen  
Citizen  
ENMU-Roswell

**RAB Members Absent:**

Eva Gomez  
Steve Harris  
Ken Hirst  
Raymond Prescott

Citizen  
Chaves County  
NM National Guard  
Citizen

**Guests Present:**

Eileen McBride  
Jerry Vincent  
Monique Osterman  
Jacquee Eckard  
Vonya Tyllaska

Sacramento District, USACE  
Sacramento District, USACE  
Albuquerque District USACE  
Area Resident  
Area Resident

**Facilitator:**

Jim Morris  
Lauretta Dozier

Tecumseh Professional Associates, Inc.  
Note Taker

**MEETING SUMMARY – JANUARY 16, 2003**

The RAB meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10pm, with welcoming comments and introductions of all persons present.

There was a quorum of voting RAB members present. The minutes of the January 17, 2002, April 18, 2002, July 23, 2002, and October 15, 2002, meetings were approved as corrected and as distributed to the RAB members. Those minutes were posted on the website in draft form and the posting will be changed to reflect the approval.

## **NEW RAB MEMBER**

Darryl Ward was formally accepted as a new member of the RAB to replace Richard Cervantes as the ENMU – Roswell representative.

## **UPDATES**

### **U. S. Army Corps of Engineers**

David Henry distributed an eight-page Update Report for discussion.

#### *TCE Plume*

The latest data reflects sampling completed in December 2002.

In Y-O Acres, there were no significant changes in concentrations of TCE.

In other monitoring wells, the highest concentrations of TCE appear in the upper granular zone around Hanger 58. Monitor Well MW1B is the new well installed about 6 months ago. It indicates elevated concentrations of both TCE and DCE. DCE is a breakdown product of TCE. All wells reported on the chart are in the upper granular zone. The other new well, MW1A is in the lower granular zone and indicates almost no TCE.

In some wells, it appears that when groundwater levels decrease, TCE levels decrease, and when groundwater levels rise, the TCE levels also rise. There are graphs in the Update Report that plot TCE levels and groundwater level versus time. This observation does not hold for all wells.

#### *Pump House #7*

Monitoring wells near Pump House #7 remain consistent. During the summer quarter, during irrigation season, non-aqueous phased petroleum (NAPL) moves in to three of the monitor wells. After irrigation season ends, the NAPL is not detected in the wells.

One idea for future monitoring is to actually monitor the wells around the pump house with increased frequency during the summer to determine when the NAPL moves into and out of the wells.

### *Waste Oil Disposal Area*

Work in this area was completed several months ago. The first draft of the report has been reviewed by the Corps of Engineers. The report is being sent to NMED and David Henry will report on findings to the RAB after receiving NMED comments.

### *New Work*

The Corps has a contractor on board to sample every (61) monitoring well on the Walker sites to establish a baseline of contaminants and concentrations in groundwater. The Corps is working with regulators to determine constituents for which tests will be conducted. This work could be completed before summer.

The Corps contractor (IT Shaw) will also conduct a site investigation of the Medical Waste Landfill, which was investigated earlier. Because testing practices of the lab conducting the earlier study were deemed unacceptable, the results will be verified this summer. Funds are coming from a Department of Justice settlement and not from the Corps Formerly Used Defense Sites budget. The site cannot be closed out until new data is collected.

### *Data Gap Analysis*

David turned the meeting over to Jerry Vincent to discuss the Data Gap Analysis.

The Corps has a contractor (Tech Law) that will gather all available data from the former Walker Air Force Base, and look at the site as a whole. Data gathered will include PRP (potential responsible party) and non-PRP data. All areas of concern will be studied to determine further data needed to pursue closure of the sites. It will take about six months to gather available data and another three months for analysis and identification of necessary additional data. Hopefully by the end of September there will be a draft report for review by the RAB. Each quarter, the Corps will give the RAB an update of progress.

Work includes developing a GIS database for the site and all well locations. A re-naming of the wells, to avoid current duplication of names, is also being proposed.

### **State of New Mexico**

Relative to the data gaps analysis; Julie Jacobs has compiled a map of the site and all monitoring wells. She wants to ensure that the Corps is sampling for all the right constituents at each well. The Corps plans are to test for a wide base of contaminants. Two documents relative to the site are available online. One is called the Inventory Project Report and the other is the Archives Search Report. As a result of her data search, Julie will ask for additional tests, such as for perchlorate, at some sites.

In response to a question Julie explained that perchlorate can come from propellants, rocket fuels, explosives, and some fertilizers.

Julie reviewed the quarterly report on approximately 20 monitoring wells relative to the TCE plume.

Julie has reviewed the draft Building 1670 report and commented that some additional work may be necessary prior to site closure.

There have been discussions between New Mexico Environment Department and the USEPA relative to the process for closing sites at Walker. There are a number of questions concerning topics such as:

- which parties have to sign off on the closure?
- if one agency closes a site, can another agency re-open the site?

The goal of the discussions is to develop a process to ensure all parties are satisfied with site closure.

Julie also mentioned that prior to each RAB meeting, the regulatory agencies, the City and the Corps have a meeting to discuss the latest issues and directions for efforts.

A question relative to perchlorate led to a discussion of whether burning of explosives or propellants could contribute to contamination. Two accidents at Walker Air Force Base, one on the west end of the base and another at a hanger were discussed. One aircraft crash in 1953 on the west runway had high explosives that burned.

There was a discussion of what type ordinance was stored at Walker. It was not felt that the Bomb Buildup and Maintenance Buildings were a potential source for contamination, since the bombs were not fabricated here. Some RAB members felt that it might be worth checking.

Julie asked about the Missile Shop near Earl Cummings Loop. It was stated that the missile fuel was hydrogen.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

It has been more than a year since a newsletter was published for the former Walker Air Force Base site. The newsletter goes out to everyone on the mailing list, approximately 120 to 140 names.

The next newsletter will include an update of ongoing activities, as well as new efforts such as the data gap analysis. The Corps would welcome input from RAB members relative to content of the publication. Plans for future activities will be included.

Kay Havenor offered to work up a statement from the RAB, and asked for an outline of what would be included.

The newsletter is posted on the website.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION/OPEN FORUM**

There was a brief discussion regarding explosions at Longhorn Fireworks on the site.

Rumors of dumping of ammunition on the west side of the base were discussed.

Ethel Logan brought up the topic of lack of community understanding, interest and participation in the RAB. She felt that a lack of understanding of the meeting might be why two of the guests (Jacquee Eckard and Vonya Tyllaska) left early. Ethel felt there was nothing here for them.

RAB members felt the public doesn't participate because:

- People are comfortable with what is happening with the RAB
- There is no perceived imminent threat from the former Walker Air Force Base
- People that attend are hit with new things with which the RAB is familiar but with which the guests do not have the background

Suggestions for maintaining public and guest interest included:

- An information sheet that introduces guests to the RAB
- Attempt to find out what guests interests are when they come into meeting
- Move public comment time up so guests don't have to sit through entire meeting prior to having opportunity to make comments or ask questions
- Put out a survey for guests to determine whether the RAB met their needs
- Phone call to follow up with guests

Kay Havenor asked whether data gathering for the data gaps study would be done in a coordinated way so that it could be assembled in GIS format for queries.

Jerry Vincent indicated that data would be presented in hard copy volumes. Jerry agreed that an advanced GIS database would be a helpful tool. It is expensive to implement, and he will discuss the possibility with David Henry.

Kay felt it would be a great tool for visually understanding the site, and determining where there are gaps in data. He feels paper copies are cumbersome to work with.

Jerry Vincent indicated that information could be extracted from their database to develop an overlay on a GIS platform that visually presents the data. The Corps has been conducting a GPS survey of locations for each monitor well so that a map will be available accurately depicting the entire site.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### *Update From Last Meeting*

At the last meeting the action item was to get the draft minutes of the past four meetings on the website. That was accomplished during this quarter's update of the website. The website will be updated to indicate that those minutes have been approved.

### *Current Action Items*

Prior to next meeting, the action items are:

- Draft of Newsletter
- Waste Oil Disposal Area report reviewed by NMED
- New processes for working with guests at RAB meetings

### *Date and Agenda for Next Meeting*

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, April 17, 2003, 7:00 p.m.**

### *Others*

Jerry Vincent offered to prepare large display boards depicting the layout of the Walker project area, and indicating sites that have been identified. It was felt that it would be a good tool for presentations and for orienting guests during meetings.

There was interest in inviting the public to a specific meeting for orientation and a progress report on the efforts at the Walker site.

Jerry Vincent indicated that the Corps could have poster boards for the next RAB meeting. David Henry suggested displaying a large aerial photo of the site also.

Jerry Vincent also offered to send poster boards that could be displayed in the community. Ron Courts offered to display them in the community to attempt to generate public interest in the RAB meetings.

It was noted that there is a Community Calendar where meetings could be announced, and that it would be great to generate some interest on the part of the local newspaper.

It was decided that if advance publicity was accomplished, the meeting could start with a period of time set aside for an Open House for the public, which would be followed by the RAB meeting.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.