

**Former Walker Air Force Base
Restoration Advisory Board
23 July 2002**

RAB Members Present:

Kathleen Aisling	EPA
Ron Courts	City of Roswell
David Henry	USACE, Project Geologist
Julie Jacobs	NM Environment Department
Leroy Lang	NM Farm Bureau
Dick Smith	Citizen
Derrick Dubiel (representing Darryl Ward)	ENMU

RAB Members Absent:

Eva Gomez	Citizen
Steve Harris	Chavez County
Kay Havenor	Geologist, Co-Chair
Ken Hirst	NM National Guard
Kerry Hunter	Citizen
Ethyl Logan	Citizen
Raymond Prescott	Citizen
Mary Kay Samples	Citizen

Guests Present:

John Forslund	Tulsa District, USACE
Eileen McBride	Sacramento District, USACE
Jerry Vincent	Sacramento District, USACE

Facilitator:

Jim Morris	Tecumseh
Lauretta Dozier	Note Taker

MEETING SUMMARY – JULY 23, 2002

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

There was not a quorum present, so votes could not be taken on any issues, including minutes of the past two meetings. It was noted that the minutes of the January and April meetings would not be posted on the website until they had been formally approved.

There were no Co-Chair announcements or comments.

NEW RAB MEMBER

There was a brief discussion regarding the designation and voting in of new RAB members. Derrick Dubiel was present, representing Darryl Ward, who is Richard Cervantes replacement at ENMU – Roswell. Since there was not a quorum, no vote could be taken relative to new members.

UPDATES

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

David Henry passed out a summary of his US Army Corps of Engineers Update, WAFB RAB, dated 7/23/2002.

David Henry announced that effective October, 2002, the Walker AFB environmental project support is transferring from the Tulsa District to Sacramento District of the Corps of Engineers. This shift is due to a re-alignment of division boundaries, and will have no effect on progress on projects. Sacramento District will be represented at RAB meetings, and will replace Tulsa District staff in that capacity.

TCE Plume

With the exception of two wells, the TCE concentrations were relatively unchanged. Well PH7-SW16 went from 110 ppb to 260 ppb, and concentrations in the Partin well increased to approximately the same concentrations recorded during this period last year.

The update summary distributed to the RAB included Y-O Acres TCE monitoring results for the current and last quarter. It appears that any increases may reflect seasonal variations in water table levels.

Pump House #7

Quarterly sampling of the monitoring wells for Pump House #7 indicated little change since the last quarter. MTBE was detected in a couple of wells closest to the pump house. No free product was detected in the monitoring wells during this sampling event.

The Corps will document what has been done over the past years regarding USTs. If it is verified that all USTs have been removed or abandoned in place, the Corps will move to close out the UST portion of the project. Contamination of groundwater associated with the USTs will be rolled over into an HTRW project.

Waste Oil Disposal Area (WODA)

Within the past two months, 15 boring were drilled to a depth of approximately 25 feet, with 3 samples taken per boring. Samples were tested for volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and metals. Nothing was detected above New Mexico

soil screening regulatory benchmarks. The area was used as a landfill, and trace amounts of solvents and some methane gases were detected, but not at concentrations requiring action.

Two monitoring wells will be installed in August. If no contaminants are detected in the groundwater, the Corps will move to have the WODA site closed.

Future Plans

In response to questions, the following topics were discussed:

- The five-year pilot treatment study that was begun four years ago has not been effective. The Corps will begin re-evaluating what to do next, and has begun work to better define the sources of contamination prior to completion of the five-year pilot study.
- The Walker AFB program consists of 23 sites. The Corps plans to look at individual sites, with the intent of closing sites that do not have contamination and eliminating them from the list, so that resources can be concentrated on the remaining contaminated sites.
- When Sacramento District comes on board, they will compile all information relative to the sites at Walker AFB, and determine what can be done to complete the projects. This compilation will take about a year.
- At Y-O Acres, the State of New Mexico is looking for additional sources of contamination. The contamination in that area has not moved significantly and may not have come from the base.
- The City of Roswell has a contractor drilling where the soil vapor investigation a year ago indicated elevated concentrations of TCE in soil vapor near Hanger #58. Drilling had been delayed pending availability of funds for the work.
- Tulsa District has a contractor, Hydrogeologic, doing a records search and developing a draft report relative to additional potential responsible parties for contamination at the base. The study could indicate responsible parties more recent than the military use of the base.

Slide Presentation

David Henry gave an update of the graphs presented at the last meeting. He plans to give an updated report at each RAB meeting.

There is a correlation between TCE concentrations and the groundwater level at most of the monitoring well locations. Concentrations of TCE increase as the water table rises.

Sacramento District

Jerry Vincent of the Sacramento District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers further explained the transition of the Walker AFB sites to the Sacramento Office. As FUDS Program Manager, he will be working with David Henry on the PRP (Potential Responsible Parties) part of the program. Eileen McBride, representing the Engineering Design Section will be working with David Henry on the HTRW, UST's, and other portions of the FUDS cleanup on the site.

The Sacramento District will gather and analyze all data relative to the sites, so it can be determined how to most effectively proceed with the cleanup operations. They will keep David Henry updated on their progress and findings.

State of New Mexico

Julie Jacobs reported that the State reviewed the plan for two monitoring wells at Hanger #58, and for the work at the WODA site. The State's comments were incorporated into the approved final work plans for both sites.

The State is also reviewing files for another site on the base, in preparation for a detailed look at that site.

The State is working with the Corps of Engineers and the EPA on procedures for closing sites. The intent is to develop a process that meets all regulatory and legal requirements.

The State has a person from their Superfund group looking at Y-O Acres. Julie Jacobs will check and determine the status of that investigation.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business matters presented to the RAB.

OPEN DISCUSSION/OPEN FORUM

John Forslund, of the Tulsa District, said he had enjoyed working with the RAB on the Walker Project. The RAB expressed their appreciation for John Forslund's efforts, and invited him to visit anytime.

ACTION ITEMS

Update of Action Items From Last Meeting

An update of the website was completed about a month ago. The update included a link to the McGaffey and Main Street Superfund Site Fact Sheet, as Kathleen Aisling had requested.

Kay Havnor forwarded a copy of the RAB charter to Jim Morris and David Henry after the last meeting. The agenda format was changed to better adhere to the charter.

At the last meeting, it was requested that each member receive an e-mail notification for meetings. For this meeting the e-mail notification was sent to all members, with a hard copy of the notification mailed to members with no e-mail address. The day before the meeting, all members received a telephone reminder of the meeting.

Jim Morris is working on updating the RAB Member Directory. There are a couple of members he has been unable to contact. Their telephone numbers indicate they are not in service, and there has been no response to mail or e-mail.

Current Action Items

There are now three sets of minutes that will need to be approved at the next meeting, January, April, and the current meeting. They will not be posted on the web site until they have been approved by the RAB.

Julie Jacobs and Kathleen Aisling are going to work together to determine the procedure to close out a FUD site. This would include which party has the authority/responsibility for close out activities. Julie will update the RAB at the next meeting.

RAB will get an update at the next meeting on the two wells that are being installed this week, as well as information regarding whether it is feasible to pursue close out of the WODA site.

David Henry will bring a checklist to future meetings that will indicate tasks that are being worked on, and progress since the previous meeting. Additionally, Mr. Henry will bring a large map that shows the locations of all WAFB projects to future meeting.

Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2002, at the same time and location.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 PM.