

**FORMER WALKER AIR FORCE BASE  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
ENMU – ROSWELL, CAMPUS UNION BUILDING  
17 July 2003**

**RAB Members Present:**

*Citizen Representatives*

Kay C. Havenor	Geologist, Co-Chair
LeRoy Lang	NM Farm Bureau
Dick Smith	Citizen

*Government/Regulatory Representatives*

Ron Courts	City of Roswell
David Henry	USACE, Project Geologist, Co-Chair
Julie Jacobs	NM Environmental Department

**RAB Members Absent:**

*Citizen Representatives*

Kerry Hunter	Citizen
Ethel Logan	Citizen
Darryl Ward	ENMU-Roswell
Eva Gomez	Citizen
Steve Harris	Chaves County
Ken Hirst	NM National Guard
Raymond Prescott	Citizen

*Government/Regulatory Representatives*

Kathleen Aisling	EPA
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**Guests Present:**

Eileen McBride	Sacramento District, USACE
Jerry Vincent	Sacramento District, USACE
Anita Logan	Citizen

**Facilitator:**

Jim Morris	Tecumseh Professional Associates
Lauretta Dozier	Note Taker

## **MEETING SUMMARY – July 17, 2003**

The RAB meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 pm.

There was not a quorum present. Anita Logan attended the meeting representing her mother, Ethel Logan, who was on vacation. Eva Gomez has recently had major surgery and was unable to attend. Kerry Hunter had indicated that he would not be at the meeting, and had asked that the RAB find a replacement to take his position. Steve Harris doubted that he would be there, since he had commitments in Artesia today. Raymond Prescott could not be here. Darryl Ward had indicated that he would be here.

At the request of David Henry, the agenda for the meeting was modified to allow New Business – RAB Membership Status to be discussed next.

### **New Business – RAB Membership Status**

David Henry expressed concern that the RAB frequently does not have a quorum present and thus cannot conduct business or vote on matters. The RAB Operating Rules (Charter) allow for the RAB to be terminated if the community members fail to establish a quorum for three consecutive meetings. The Charter does not allow for someone else to act as proxy for an absent member. Community participation is the keystone to the existence of the RAB, and it is important to have members that can and will attend regularly.

David Henry reminded the RAB members that according to the By Laws, after a person misses three meetings in a row, they can be dropped from membership in the RAB. The RAB currently has three members, Raymond Prescott, Ken Hirst and Steve Harris who have not attended the last six meetings, nor expressed a specific desire to continue in spite of the absences. David announced that it would be assumed that those three persons are no longer RAB members. Three of the remaining seven RAB Community Members were present, short of a quorum.

Jim Morris sends all RAB members a notice of the meeting and follows up with telephone calls to remind members of the meeting. He suggested that several members have difficulty attending during the summer vacation months.

Anita Logan asked if she could be a RAB member, even though she and Ethel Logan are from the same household. The Charter has no restrictions to prevent Anita from being a member.

Jim Morris will contact Kerry Hunter and make sure he wants to be replaced as a RAB member.

Kay Havenor indicated that he has talked to an individual interested in becoming a RAB member, and that he will get in touch with him.

David Henry would like to consider changing the frequency of RAB meetings, to bi-annually instead of quarterly. This action requires a vote of a quorum of the RAB members at a meeting.

David Henry emphasized the importance of having a quorum at the next meeting. This will only require four members. The RAB cannot even add members without a majority vote of a quorum.

### **Co-Chair Announcements**

Kay Havenor attended a meeting at the University of Massachusetts, at Amherst, concerning environmental clean up at military facilities, which he found to be very educational. It covered activity from Alaska to Puerto Rico. Kay was happy that he could report that the citizen groups, the military and regulatory agencies had worked well together at Walker AFB. Approximately 60 people attended, and represented a variety of interests. Kay reported that Walker AFB is “low on the totem pole” relative to impact of environmental problems. This is partially due to the physical situation, compared to facilities surrounded by built up areas.

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

There were no members of the general public in attendance.

### **Corps of Engineers Update**

David Henry presented the quarterly update to the RAB. It followed the same format as previous reports.

#### *TCE Plume*

At Y-O Acres, the June 2003 sampling indicated only minor variations in TCE concentrations. One of the new monitoring wells installed near Hangar 58 about a year ago, indicates TCE concentrations of 980 ppb.

#### *Pump House # 7*

The last sampling event for 2003 was in March. The highest concentrations detected were 36 micrograms per liter for benzene and 570 micrograms per liter for total naphthalenes. These concentrations are typical for that time of year. Quarterly sampling is on hold until after completion of the data gaps analysis.

### *Waste Oil Disposal Area*

The project was completed approximately 6 months ago. The final report has been submitted to the State of New Mexico, and the Corps is awaiting the response from NMED so that further action can be planned.

### *Hospital Debris Landfill and Base-Wide Sampling*

The work plan for this project was sent to the State of New Mexico on July 16, 2003. When NMED comments are received, the Corps will update the plan appropriately.

### *Other*

David Henry included graphs of the TCE sampling results for monitoring wells in the written report handed out. The results do not indicate significant changes, other than cyclic variations.

In answer to a question, David Henry stated that the Corps could not tell people in Y-O Acres what their wells could be used for. However, they would not recommend that they be used for drinking water. Use of any individual domestic well for irrigation of trees would not have a significant effect on the treatment plans for the TCE plume. The wells in Y-O Acres are outside the areas of influence for the large areas of the plume. There would be no additional permit required from the State of New Mexico, as long as the permitted 3 acre-feet per year of pumping is not exceeded.

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

Julie Jacobs reported that the Corps had submitted quarterly reports and she agreed with information presented in David Henry's report. It appears that Hangar 58 is a potential contaminant source. Julie says that quarterly reports indicate the center of concentration for the upper granular zone and it looks like it is coming from Hangar 58.

In March the Corps had a project-planning meeting to discuss approach needed for the Medical Landfill. The meeting included a site visit.

Julie has reviewed the quarterly reports for Pump House # 7. The UST Bureau is handling that project. Rene Romero of the NMED office in Roswell is working with the UST Bureau relative to Pump House # 7.

Julie Jacobs has received a copy of the final modified site investigation at the Waste Oil Disposal Area (WODA). It includes the investigation of reports that oil had been dumped there. Ground water samples indicated some metal concentrations above WQCC standards. They are looking into whether the samples are representative of

aquifer conditions. This does not appear to be a huge problem. In the soil samples, arsenic was above the screening level. However, the arsenic may be at background level.

Kathleen Aisling, with EPA in Dallas, has been assigned to a new position, and will be replaced as EPA representative on the RAB.

In discussions, it was felt that the groundwater samples at the WODA were not what would normally be expected for this location. The results will be confirmed in September sampling.

### **Data Gaps Analysis**

In response to a question, Jerry Vincent reported that the Data Gaps Analysis is on schedule. A spreadsheet is being prepared that indicates each building, when it was constructed, who used them, how long they were in use, and current use. The focus is to find trends that account for current concentrations of TCE.

The draft should be ready for internal review by the end of September, and for RAB review by the January meeting.

### **Action Items**

From the last meeting there were two action items. First was to have a draft of the newsletter ready for review by the RAB. That draft was distributed to the RAB at this meeting, with a request for comments within the next few weeks.

Second item was to check on the status of the WODA Report. That was reported at this meeting.

Kay Havenor asked if the website could be updated. David Henry indicated that the Corps had lost their network administrator, which had made updates difficult. However, Tecumseh and the Corps will get this done.

New Action Items included:

- Generate more public interest in RAB meetings and activities
- Follow up letter to RAB members relative to getting a quorum, including a Letter of Urgency to absent RAB members a month before next meeting, in addition to normal letters and telephone calls.

## **Other**

Jerry Vincent noted that there does not have to be a RAB in order to get information out to the public. At some other sites, there is a Technical Review Committee (TRC). They hold meetings that are scheduled to correspond to particular activities at the site. For example, prior to starting an activity, there will be a meeting to brief the TRC and the public, and then a meeting will be held when the work is done and reports are completed. Community participation has been better, because there is something specific to report and discuss.

It would be possible to structure the existing RAB to schedule meetings to correspond to major events, rather than just every quarter.

Jerry Vincent indicated that the Walker site is important, with considerable activity in progress and planned for the future.

Ron Court stated that it is important to note that even if the RAB lack of attendance resulted in changes in the structure of the public participation, investigation and cleanup activities at Walker would continue.

Jerry Vincent stated the TRC is usually made up of representatives from the lead regulatory agency (this would be NMED at Walker), the Corps of Engineers, property owners, member(s) of the community, and other individuals as appropriate. TRC meetings are scheduled to utilize people's time and energy effectively.

## **Next Meeting Date and Agenda**

Without a quorum present, there can be no vote to change the frequency of meetings.

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2003, at the same location.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.