

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of January 10, 2001

1. Index of Minutes

Items addressed at the meeting are listed below, with corresponding section numbers indicated in the column on the right.

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2. Meeting Opening

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 10, 2001, in Conference Room 3, 810 Schreider Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland.

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3. Attendance

Members Present:

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery Springer, P.E., Chief, Safety, Environment and Integrated Planning (SEIPO), Fort Detrick (Installation Co-Chair)

Mr. Gerald P. Toomey (Community Co-Chair)

Colonel James Greenwood, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Detrick

Mr. Michael Kurtianyk, Macintosh Realtor

Mr. Thomas Meyer, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

Mr. Paul Offutt, Program Manager, Frederick County Health Department

Mr. Dennis Orenshaw, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region III

Ms. Helen Miller Scott, Community Member

Ms. Linda Robinson, Community Member

Mr. Douglas Scarbrough, Administration Oversight Manager, U.S. Army Environmental Center

Mr. Stewart Taylor, Ph.D., P.E., Community Member

Mr. Thomas Wade, Community Member

Others Present:

Ms. Sudha Brown, Field Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Joe Bruntsman, Project Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Fred Bush, Army Environmental Center

Mr. John Crook, University of Maryland

Mr. Kirk Tichner, Project Manager, IT Corporation

Mr. Jeff Hutchins, Program Health & Safety Manager, IT Corporation

Mr. David Iseri, IT Corporation

Mr. Paul Karmazinski, IT Corporation

Mr. Gary Pauly, Local Resident

Captain Jeff Phillips, Attorney, Judge Advocate General Corps, Fort Detrick

Mr. Jim Richmond, Maryland Department of the Environment

Mr. John Robertson, Director of Project Management, New Dominion Management

Mr. John Sinsel, Universe Technologies, Inc.

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Mr. Bruce Ware, Resident Engineer, Environmental Resident Office, Construction Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Reporter (no name given), Frederick Post

Ms. Nancy Shropshire, SEIPO, Fort Detrick (Recording Secretary)

Members Absent:

Mr. Charles Billups, Ph.D., Community Member

Mr. Larry Bohn, Frederick County Health Department

Mr. William Effland, Ph.D., Community Member

Mr. Michael Gresalfi, Community Member

Mr. Jay Rhoderick, Community Member

Mr. Craig Toussaint, Ph.D., Community Member

4. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Lieutenant Colonel Springer welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone introduce himself or herself.

5. New Member Introduction

Mr. Toomey introduced Mr. Kurtianyk and welcomed him as a new RAB member. The vote was taken by email, with the final result of 9 votes for, no votes against, and no vote by two members.

6. Soil Freezing Information

Lieutenant Colonel Springer stated that no video had been located to show the soil freezing process. Mr. Meyer added that information about soil freezing could be found on web sites by doing a search on the internet. Mr. Meyer displayed still photos showing freeze pipes being pushed into the soil. In response to a question, Mr. Meyer stated that the pipes are made of some type of plastic. Mr. Meyer continued that a calcium chloride brine will circulate through a refrigeration unit and the pipes in the ground. Ground contact with the pipes will cause moisture in the surrounding area to freeze. The goal will be to reduce the ground temperature to approximately 20 degrees Fahrenheit. The work will be done during the summer, but that should not have much impact on the process since ground temperature remains approximately 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit year-round.

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Mr. Meyer stated that the pipes will be driven into the ground at an angle of approximately 32 degrees.

7. Area B Removal Project Update

Mr. Ware stated that we are now getting into the final work plan and final site safety and health plan stages. The final drafts of these plans are being circulated for comments. With that, we are moving toward the remedial action phase, which will begin shortly. The IT Corporation was chosen as the contractor for this project based on their capability and expertise in this type of work. Meetings will be held with Fort Detrick and local community emergency responders to ensure they have a good understanding of the work that will be done and to establish a good means of communication.

Mr. Tichner presented an overview of the removal action planned for Area B-11, which contains one known and two suspect disposal pits. Data indicates that drums of solvents, tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE), were disposed of in the known pit. Soil in the trench is contaminated with those solvents and substances typically found in labs during the 1950-70s. The plan is to remove this material in order to protect the groundwater in the area.

Public safety is a primary concern, so the approach is to encapsulate the waste to avoid any contact by the public. This interim removal action is to remove the source contamination. Additional study and remediation will follow. The site will be set up and mobilized in January. A seismic survey, completed in November, located bedrock approximately 32 feet below the work surface. A sprung building, similar to the H.O.T. dome, will be erected in February. In March, a backhoe will be used for test trenching and site evaluation. The work will be done inside the building and begin at the outside edges, where we know the area is clean, and slowly proceed toward the pit. Workers will wear decontamination suits and breathe bottled air. As an added precaution, a vacuum system will be in place to pull out any contaminated air, filter the air through about 800 pounds of carbon, and then exhaust the air back into the building in order to contain any contamination. As work is being done, air quality will be continually monitored, both inside and outside the building.

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An odor absorbent, Ecosorb, or a foam spray can be applied if needed.

Mr. Toomey noted that, approximately 2-1/2 years ago, test trenching caused release of an odorant, with the result that several people in the immediate area became ill and were taken to the hospital. Mr. Toomey asked whether odor suppressants were strong enough to handle this type of situation. Mr. Meyer explained that odor suppressants are sprayed into the air and react with the chemicals in the air to suppress the reaction and stop the smell. If underground fumes escape or there is a reaction in the ground, the foam will be used to stop that and keep the area covered. Mr. Ware added that the air filtration system is designed to remove any odor-causing aerosols that might get into the air. Mr. Ware agreed to get additional information for the RAB about this issue. Mr. Tichner stated that the air filtration system will run continuously and be designed to provide three full air changes per hour. The carbon filters will be changed daily and transported off site for disposal.

Mr. Tichner noted that, according to historical data, the size of the pit should be about 15 feet deep, 12 feet wide, and 20 feet long. When trench size is delineated, a crane will be used to move the sprung building. The freeze barrier will then be installed underneath the waste. After that, the sprung building will be put back in place. Excavation of the waste will be initiated in late April or May and should be completed by late summer or early fall. During excavation, a decontamination trailer will be in place where workers will put on/take off their decontamination suits prior to entering/ exiting the building. In addition, workers will be washed down prior to exiting the building. The wash water will be tested and treated. Production rate is designed to be low, approximately 10 cubic yards per day. Excavated waste will be placed directly into metal rollout boxes and sorted by workers, who will remove large pieces of debris and small containers, such as test tubes and bottles. Simple field tests will be done to determine compatibility of chemicals so these containers can be sorted into drums and transported for analysis and disposal. After the soil is screened and remaining large items are removed, it will be stockpiled in the building, sampled, and sealed in large metal boxes suitable for over-the-road transfer for proper disposal. We expect that a total of approximately 500 cubic yards, or

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approximately 20-30 truckloads, of waste will be generated. There is insufficient electric power available to run the equipment, so two super-quiet diesel generators will be used. Work hours will be Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

8. Area B Removal Project Health and Safety Plan

Mr. Hutchins explained that he is the program health and safety manager for the Baltimore Total Environmental Restoration Contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

His number one goal is zero contaminant release outside the building and no chemical exposure above Occupational Safety and Health Act limits for the workers. Safety expectations will be achieved through planning, employing veteran team members, and providing the workers with the right tools to do the job every day. Each worker has significant time invested in a Level B suit and is familiar with the suit's restrictions and dangers, such as heat stress. A 10-hour day will yield approximately six productive hours. The team members are accustomed to working with the unknown and as a team. Prior to beginning work, they will walk through the process and work out any details. Drills will be conducted for emergency response actions. A safety person will be in the building at all times while work is on-going. Video cameras will be located inside the building for worker safety. A stand-by person will always be suited up and ready to enter the building. Mr. Hutchins will routinely make audit and surveillance visits.

9. Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Update

Area A:

Lieutenant Colonel Springer stated that the Area A FS appropriately proposed no additional action. As a result, when the decision document is completed, a public meeting is required only if necessary. No clean-up action is needed for Area A. The intent is to release the proposed plan for 30 days for public review and comment. A date, approximately 45-50 days following release of the document, will be identified for a public meeting in case there is enough public interest to hold the meeting.

Mr. Meyer stated that the estimated completion date for the Area A FS was moved to February 2001. At the October 2000 partnering meeting, a decision was made to sample southern

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boundary wells in Area A and one interior well in order to establish a current baseline from which language for the FS, Proposed Plan, and Decision Documents could be crafted. The October 2000 sample results showed non-detects for all boundary wells. Sample results for Well 11, the interior well, were 2 parts per billion (ppb) for TCE, down from previous results of 12 ppb. The Department of the Army still feels there is a need to contain the central residual plume to prevent off-site migration of elevated levels of contamination.

Mr. Toomey recalled information from the previous meeting that indicated that the pumping rate for the production well was reduced. Mr. Meyer responded that there was a reduction in the pumping rate by the tenant, but that an analysis of wells in the area showed that the plume was still being contained at the lower pumping rate. Mr. Toomey asked what would happen if the tenant quit pumping from the well. Lieutenant Colonel Springer responded that the tenant pumps the water and purifies it for use in on-going research for fish health studies. If a decision were made to discontinue this mission, the tenant would notify us and we would begin pumping from the well, most likely with no discontinuity in the process. Mr. Toomey requested data on the rate that TCE was being recovered from water pumped from the well.

Mr. Meyer pointed out that the samples were taken by the new standard method of low-flow sampling. He added that the contours on the map were not updated. Mr. Toomey asked that the next update include the current contours and the new contours so estimated changes in the plume are depicted.

Area B:

Mr. Meyer stated that no new documents were completed. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is conducting a photographic analysis, with an estimated completion date of January 2001. The estimated completion date for the Dye Trace Study Work Plan and the Chemical Oxidation Bench-Scale Test Report is February 2001.

Area B quarterly sampling was completed in November 2000, but the results are not completely validated. Perimeter sampling was completed in December 2000, but that data is not available yet. Rehabilitation of Well 57D was partially completed by the end of November 2000. We removed the

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screen and pumped out the well, but it is silted in. We are making plans for silt removal without addition of substantial amounts of water to the area.

Approximately 1200 wells have been identified for the residential well survey, from west of Area B to the Monocacy River. The survey is 90 percent complete and results will be included in the Dye Trace Study Work Plan. Coordination continues for the water treatment system for the Krantz property.

Surface water sampling data for Robinson's Box and Rocky Springs show virtually no change. All residential boundary well samples were non-detect, except for TCE detection of 1 ppb in Well 6. This well is used only for the bathroom facility of an auto repair shop. November 2000 test results for the TCE plume were similar to previous rounds. However, 4 ppb TCE was detected at the post pond for the first time.

Well 47D had a detection of 6 ppb in October 2000 and November 2000. Letters were sent to residents west of Kemp Lane to request permission to sample.

The overall level of PCE in the area is lower. The center of the plume may be shifting eastward. Well 47D was resampled due to an August 2000 PCE detection. Resample results had a 1 ppb PCE detection. The PCE detection rate for Well 21D increased to 29 ppb. PCE in Well 31D increased from 110 to 260 ppb. TCE concentrations in Area B interior wells remain relatively consistent. PCE concentrations generally decreased with the exception of Well 58D where the concentration increased from 31 ppb to 880 ppb.

Mr. Meyer provided results for the stream gauge study performed by the U.S. Geological Survey to identify increases and decreases in stream flow. Three areas showed the largest increases, as also shown by the previous dye trace study. A second study will be performed in Spring 2001.

Area C:

The major finding of the study was a larger area of ash disposal than previously anticipated. Based upon analytical data, the ash is most likely non-hazardous. We are trying to streamline the RI, which includes interim ash disposal. We are looking at possible removal action of the ash itself.

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RI/FS funding constraints may preclude finalization of the RI/FS this fiscal year.

10. Monitoring Well Elevations

Mr. Meyer noted that elevations of the bottom of wells immediately west of Area B are generally deeper than the deeper wells in the western portion of Area B. A fault borders the site on the western side of Area B. Well borings and geological maps were used to obtain this data. This is something to be aware of while doing this investigation, to see whether they provide a preferential pathway for groundwater. Well water levels are similar to those of August 2000. The gradient near Well 47D appears to be more southerly.

11. Meeting Summary

Lieutenant Colonel Springer announced that the next environmental partnering meeting will be held 31 January-1 February 2001 at Fort Detrick. A RAB member is welcome to attend as a guest. Lieutenant Colonel Springer asked that Mr. Toomey be contacted by anyone interested in attending so a notation could be made on the agenda for the partnering meeting. Mr. Toomey added that the guideline is for one member at a time to attend as an observer.

Colonel Greenwood stated that he attended a very good meeting earlier in the day with emergency response representatives. A lot of issues came out of the meeting, which lasted almost 3-1/2 hours. Colonel Greenwood expressed his appreciation for each person who took the time to attend the RAB meeting and be a participant in this whole process.

12. Date/Agenda Items for Next Meeting

RAB meetings are held bimonthly on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 14, 2001, at 7:30 p.m., at Fort Detrick.

Agenda items for the next meeting:

- Information on Odor suppressants
- Technical information about mufflers for generators to be used at Area B

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- Data on how many pounds of contaminant are being recovered from U.S. Army Center for Environmental Health Research wells
- Area A groundwater contamination contours, both old and new
- Information on dye trace study work plan
- Details on contaminant removal update, including a chart that shows funding by area by percentage

Mr. Wade requested that the RAB tour Area B-11 before excavation begins, maybe after the sprung building is up or when the freeze wall is installed. Mr. Hutchins agreed and suggested that late March or early April would probably be the best time. Lieutenant Colonel Springer stated that the Frederick News Post and television representatives, and possibly some city officials, could also be invited.

13. Meeting Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Reviewed by:

_____//s//_____

Jeffery C. Springer, P.E.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved

_____//s//_____

James R. Greenwood
Colonel, U.S. Army
Deputy Installation Commander

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION:

Each RAB Member

Each Meeting Attendee