

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
August 13, 2003.

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

Colonel John Ball convened the meeting at 7:40 p.m., on Wednesday, August 13, 2003 in Conference Room 3, 810 Schreider Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland.

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3. Attendance

Members Present:

Colonel John Ball, Commander, US Army Garrison, Fort Detrick
Mr. Larry Bohn, Frederick County Health Department
Mr. Joe Gortva, Environmental Restoration Manager, SEIPO
Mr. Michael Kurtianyk, Community Member
Mr. Thomas Meyer, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Ms. Linda Robinson, Community Member
Mr. Douglas Scarborough, Restoration Oversight Manager, US Army Environmental Center
Ms. Gyla Crutchfield, Analytical Services, Inc. (Recording Secretary)

Others Present:

Mr. Robert Craig, Safety, Environment, and Integrated Planning Office (SEIPO)
Mr. David Iseri, Shaw Environmental
Mr. William Kahl, Maryland Department of the Environment
Mr. Clint Kneten, US Army Corps of Engineers
Ms. Jill Kline, City of Frederick
Mr. Douglas Mayles, Analytical Services, Inc.

Members Absent:

Lieutenant Colonel Donald Archibald, P.E., Director, Safety, Environment, and Integrated Planning Office (SEIPO), Installation Co-Chairman
Mr. Gerald P. Toomey, Community Co-Chairman
Ms. Helen Alexander, Community Member
Mr. Charles Billups, Ph.D., Community Member
Mr. Chuck Dasey, Public Affairs Officer, HQ USAMRMC
Mr. William Effland, Ph.D., Community Member
Mr. Michael Gresalfi, Community Member
Ms. Helen Miller-Scott, Community Member
Mr. Paul Offutt, Program Manager, Frederick County Health Department
Mr. Dennis Orenshaw, US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region III
Mr. Daniel Patton, Safety and Loss Control Manager, City of Frederick
Mr. Stewart Taylor, Community Member
Mr. Craig Toussaint, Community Member
Mr. Thomas Wade, Community Member

4. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Colonel John Ball welcomed everyone to the meeting. He presented an overview of the information to be presented as well as status reports on the construction of the new Post Exchange, Commissary, Fire Station renovations, new housing, and the new Integrated Research Facility for National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Also, discussed were initial

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plans for the Department of Homeland Security's National Bio-Assessment Countermeasures Center (NBACC) to be built on Fort Detrick. A traffic study, recently completed in coordination with the City of Frederick, will benefit not only Ft. Detrick and Frederick city, but also the county and state in their planning activities. The installation environmental assessment will include plans for tree planting, road widening, and creating parks and should be released for comment by September 1, 2003.

5. Area B-11 Status

A Fort Detrick Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS) handout (Enclosure 1) was provided.

Mr. Meyer began by updating the number of accident-free days to 903 and gave a review of the excavation and waste materials discovered in Pit 1. Overburden from Pits 2, 3, and 4 was removed during May 2003. Excavation of Pit 2 was conducted from June 5 to June 11; Pit 3 excavation was performed from June 16 to August 1; and Pit 4, which is one of the largest pits, began on August 7 and is on-going.

As in Pit 1, items found in Pit 2 included small glass containers, other glass and plastic, medical waste, metal fragments, small laboratory chemical bottles, scalpels and other various containers of less than 5-gallon capacity. Among these were two vials containing a white-yellowish powder, which are currently being evaluated for appropriate testing and/or disposal. Also located within Pit 2 were approximately twenty intact cylinders of various sizes, all which have been cataloged and secured with disposition options being investigated.

As of August 12 approximately 650 tons of soil has been loaded from Pits 2, 3, and 4. This figure includes 162 tons of sampled and verified non-hazardous overburden, which was disposed of at the Ft. Detrick landfill.

Mr. Meyer described heat stress as a major issue with personnel working at the site. The use of cooling suits and an adjusted starting time of 5:00 A.M. assists in alleviating this issue.

Continuing, Mr. Meyer provided the schedule of activities for Pits 2, 3, and 4 from startup in March 2003 to site restoration by February 2004. Activities are currently ahead of schedule, due in part to full funding by the Army in June 2003. This enabled excavation and remediation to continue without downtime caused by funding delays.

Pit 2 was described as approximately ten feet in diameter and ten feet in depth. A high concentration of pesticides was located in the bottom of this pit and further investigation will be conducted. Based upon a survey, Pit 3 was excavated in an area approximately fifteen feet wide by forty feet in length, and ten feet in depth. Additional containers remaining along the sides of Pit 3 will be revisited upon completion of the excavation of Pit 4. Smoking discovered during Pit 3 excavations were quickly corrected and considered minimal in comparison to Pit 1 events.

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Pit 4, which is currently ten feet deep and five feet wide on one end is approximately 10 percent completed at this time.

6. Area A Update

Continuing the presentation with an update for Area A, Mr. Meyer provided the results of a June 3rd sampling. The samplings indicated TCE levels were lower than the May 2002 readings and levels in production wells had decreased. All levels were non-detect in boundary wells with the exception of 568-20A at 2.2 parts per billion, which was below the action level of 5 parts per billion.

The shallow (50 feet or less in depth) water levels indicate a general flow in a south-southwest direction and are similar gradients as previously observed. The deep well (more than 50 feet) water levels indicated the pumping of the wells is maintaining the zone of influence desired for the remedial action. Direction of flow is also in the south-southwest direction.

7. Area B Update

The Background Study, completed on August 3, was submitted to the regulators for review. Following that review a partnering meeting will be held and upon approval of the study, determinations will be made on closing-out the area. Continuing on a semi-annual basis, residential and on-post well and surface water sampling will be conducted. The Dye Trace Study remains a planned activity as well as the Water Treatment System for the Krantz property, both pending funding. Monitoring of groundwater contamination to residential wells downgradient of Area B is also planned.

The PCE plume perimeter concentrations remain generally equivalent to the November 2002 levels. It is suspected that water table fluctuations may be causing a large decrease back to concentrations similar to August 2002 in deep, historically contaminated wells. The TCE levels are also comparable to November 2002, and are on the lower level of the range of concentrations determined in previous sampling.

Residential boundary wells and surface water samplings are much the same as previous results. Well 17, which is the only sampling well used for drinking water, did have a trace of Carbon Disulfide (0.32 ppb) but remained well below any level of risk.

Upon inquiry by Ms. Robinson, Mr. Meyer and Colonel Ball explained the causal factors involved in the level decrease in the plumes are not always clear. Although concerned about the rise in groundwater causing reintroduction of contamination into the aquifer, Mr. Meyer advised this did not occur.

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8. Area B Water Levels

There were no changes to the groundwater elevations since the most recent sampling event.

9. Area C Update

The Draft Final Remedial Investigation report will be submitted to regulators in September with a projected approval by October 2003.

10. Open Comments

Mr. Meyer said further discussions were held regarding partnering on Area B sites to determine if additional sampling is needed, or if the site could be closed out. Many of these decisions were pending the completion of the background study to determine those needs, and were also influenced by the funding being used by other projects. Additional discussions are scheduled for September 2003.

In order to demonstrate to the community the completion of cleanup of Area B, the containment structure will be moved to an alternate location yet to be determined. After appropriate studies and assessments, the structure may possibly be used as an indoor skeet range. Considerations to be investigated include noise levels and the use of lead within the structure. Colonel Ball made everyone aware that the Krantz lease of property in Area B for cattle grazing has been terminated for convenience due to cost-effectiveness and not due to any danger to the cattle. Early discussions for the reutilization of the capped areas of Area B include:

- Golf Course
- Recreational Vehicle Park
- Paint Ball Course
- Indoor Skeet Range

Colonel Ball made it clear these discussions are preliminary and further actions to obtain permits and conduct environmental assessments would be completed prior to any construction. He stated a large portion of the wetlands area is allocated for tree-planting. Colonel Ball stressed the importance of cooperation with the community and adjacent land developers prior to any decisions being finalized. If used as either a skeet range or a golf course, the facility would be available to both military and non-military personnel, with fee schedules designed to allow enlisted personnel access to the facilities.

The Department of Defense is currently planning on issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the development of a Conference Center on Fort Detrick near the Nallin farm. Although ownership of the Naillin farmhouse will change, all regulations regarding historic maintenance of the farm will be enforced. The decision to change ownership was based upon the exorbitant financial requirements necessary to make repairs and improvements to the existing house, as well as the

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subsequent cost of maintenance. Colonel Ball stated that 70 percent of the 163 single-family and townhouse buildings will be awarded to local contracting companies.

Upon request by Colonel Ball, Mr. Robert Craig provided information regarding the level of tritium (described as low level radioactive water) contained in the leachate from the active landfill. Although the process of disposing of tritium via the wastewater system was discontinued in the late 1990s, the sludge collected at the sanitary sewage plant has detectable levels of tritium. Investigation indicated the leachate from the landfill contains tritium and a possible solution would be to discontinue the leachate connection to the sewage plant and have an on-site treatment system. This would then alleviate sludge shipments of the low-level hazardous waste to Utah for disposal. The detection of tritium could be explained by a past practice issue such as disposing of an old Exit sign from a World War II building or the disposal of compasses, watches or gun sights, all of which contained tritium. It was mentioned that the levels of tritium in the wastewater of Frederick are likely equivalent or higher (i.e., hospital waste) than those found on Fort Detrick. Although regulations are in place at other facilities, the difference in concern is due to the NRC licensure requiring more control and monitoring of substances from creation to termination. Colonel Ball stressed the level is very low and risk is negligible, however his goal is to have the facility NRC license decommissioned.

11. Date/Agenda Items for Next Meeting

RAB meetings are held bimonthly on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., at Fort Detrick.

12. Meeting Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Reviewed by:

//s//

Donald F. Archibald
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved

//s//

John E. Ball
Colonel, US Army
Deputy Installation Commander

Enclosure:

1. Fort Detrick Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study

DISTRIBUTION:

Each RAB Member (w/o enclosure)

Each Meeting Attendee (w/o enclosure)