

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Summary, 18 FEBRUARY 2010

1. Summary Contents

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

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Please note: A PowerPoint presentation was utilized during the RAB meeting. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes and is incorporated into these minutes by this reference.

2. Attendees

Members Present:

COL Judith Robinson, Garrison Commander and Co-Chair
Ms. Linda Robinson, Community RAB Member and Co-Chair
Mr. Robert Craig, Chief, Environmental Management Office
Mr. Joseph Gortva, Environmental Restoration Program Manager
Dr. Gary T. Pauly, Community RAB Member
Mr. Butch Dye, Maryland Department of the Environment
Ms. Laurie Haines, US Army Environmental Command
Mr. Barry Kissin, Community RAB Member

Others Present:

Mr. Jeffrey Parks, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.
Ms. Robin Sims, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.
Mr. Bill Hudson, USEPA Region III
Mr. Keith Hoddinott, USACHPPM
Mr. Chuck Gordon, USAG/PAD
Mr. Gary Zolyak, USAG/OSJH (Ft. Detrick Environmental Attorney)
Mr. Tim Davis, City of Frederick
Ms. Karen Harbaugh, Clustered Spires Pastry Shop
Ms. Kibby Powell, USAG/FD
Ms. Mary Chizmar, USAG/FD
Ms. Jenna Laube, USAEC

Members Absent:

Mr. John Fairbank, MD Department of the Environment
Mr. Charles Billups, Community RAB Member
Mr. James Eaton, Community RAB Member
Dr. Henry Erbes, Community RAB Member
Ms. Alicia Evangelista, Frederick County Health Department
Ms. Helen Miller-Scott, Community RAB Member
Mr. Gerald Toomey Community RAB Member
Mr. Craig Toussaint, Community RAB Member
Mr. Thomas Wade, Community RAB Member

3. Meeting Opening / Remarks

Colonel (COL) Judith Robinson convened the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m., on Thursday, February 18, 2010, in the Community Activities Center (CAC), Building 1520A, Fort Detrick, Maryland. COL Robinson thanked everyone for coming, was glad everyone found the new location, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She spoke of how the old community center was too old to repair, so this building was built to replace it. However, this new building will be turning into an auditorium and classroom center by Sept/Oct of this year. At that point, it will still be usable for these RAB meetings.

4. Ft. Detrick Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Status Update presented by Mr. Jeffrey Parks

Mr. Jeff Parks of Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc. began by explaining that his presentation would cover Area B Groundwater Monitoring, and the Area B Former Disposal sites, and Area B Groundwater Remedial Investigation Work Plan. The first section of the

presentation covered the most recent long-term Area B groundwater monitoring data results (June '09, Aug/Sept '09, and Dec '09).

Area B Groundwater Quarterly Monitoring

Quarterly groundwater monitoring is being performed at Area B. The most recent sampling events were in June 2009, Aug/Sept 2009, and Dec 2009. During these sampling periods, the nearby homeowner wells and Robinson Spring were sampled. Several of the homeowner wells have been sampled since the beginning of the sampling program. The results have been fairly consistent over time, with rarely any detection. In June 2009, the only samples to have TCE and PCE detections were two Robinson Spring samples, with TCE detected above MCL. [This spring is not used for drinking water purposes] In Aug/Sept 2009, the five newly-installed wells were also sampled. Two of them were deep wells to 325 ft below ground surface. Detections from Robinson Spring stayed pretty consistent [with past sampling events]. TCE was detected in one of the deep wells. [at levels consistent with Robinson's Spring] So, a conduit may have been found for the TCE that has been observed going across the entire site. The Army is planning a focused dye trace study in order to find out if the TCE detected in the deep well is making its way to nearby surface water. Previous results indicate that TCE breakdown products (other VOCs) were detected, indicating that TCE is most likely naturally degrading. Those compounds were not detected in the earliest sampling events. Enhanced biodegradation will be evaluated in the future as a possible groundwater remediation technique at this site. In December 2009, Robinson Spring detections were consistent and the new wells were not sampled. In summary, the homeowner wells do not pose any issues. Robinson Spring is being monitored, since it seems to be a significant discharge point for TCE. It is promising that the TCE does seem to be naturally degrading.

- Ms. Linda Robinson brought up that she thought there was a period where TCE wasn't being detected in Robinson Spring. The Army and Shaw responded that there have been consistent detections between 10 and 15 ppb in Robinson Spring since 1997. There was a very high detection as soon as the work started, but that was a one-time spike which may have been real or contributed to a laboratory mistake or accidental concentrated drop getting in to the sample. [Upon discovery of the elevated sample results, the spring was resampled. The results came back consistent with historical low values. This calls the original detection into question.]

Area B Former Disposal Sites

During the last RAB meeting, attendees had the opportunity to view the current state of these sites. The recent snow has not helped Shaw's progress. It has shut down work for the past 2 weeks. The current state and progress at each site was presented. B-3 West was the only site that doesn't have a drainage membrane (layer on top of geomembrane and directs water off of the landfill) over it yet. A few deer crossed it and punched a few small holes in it. However, Shaw finely combed the membrane to find each and every hole and then repaired them.

- The vents coming out of the landfills were discussed and explained (to answer an inquiry of Ms. Linda Robinson's) that they allow the possible build-up of methane gas from organic decomposition to safely escape from the landfill. The Army believes the landfills are too old to produce methane, but the vents are there as a precaution and to meet MDE standards.

Shaw hopes to begin work on the caps again on Monday, February 22, 2010. However, they need to wait until the snow stops because they cannot place dirt on top of snow. Shaw needs 4 weeks of hauling dirt in order to complete the work there. Then, hydroseeding (placing down a vegetative mat with seeds in it) and removing the erosion controls are the final steps. The

hydroseeding may need to be re-done later on in the year depending on when hydroseeding occurs and if the seeds happen to freeze.

- Mr. Butch Dye (MDE) asked how long it typically takes for the hydroseeded grass to grow to a sufficient amount of coverage. Shaw responded by saying that germination usually occurs within a week and then it takes about 2 weeks to have a fairly decent amount of grass that is stable enough for one to walk across.

Area B Groundwater Remedial Investigation Work Plan

Mr. Jeffrey Parks explained that the Army has been partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to develop this work plan that all parties would agree upon. The goal of the work plan is to address human health and ecological concerns regarding the groundwater at Area B. Before the development of this work plan began, the deepest wells at Area B were to a depth of 180 ft below ground surface (bgs). Now, several wells have been installed to 325 ft bgs in order to help fully characterize the groundwater contamination and flow. It is important to understand that there are both geological and chemical components to consider in deciding whether or not there is a need to drill additional deeper wells.

- It was asked if there has been any contamination found in groundwater east of Robinson Spring or downstream of the Monocacy River. The Army responded that the only known locations east/south east of Area B include Hospital Spring and an unused well near the Carroll Creek drainage basin. During a dye trace test in 1995, dye was deposited by site B-11 and was detected in Robinson Spring and Hospital Spring.
- It was also asked if the solubility of PCE and TCE in water is known. The response was yes and that the Army will be investigating to be sure they don't have any DNAPLs in groundwater on site. [At this time there is no groundwater data that indicates a DNAPL is present.]
- Mr. Robert Craig added that the RAB attendees are all coming up with great questions and that the Army encourages everyone to read through the work plan on CD available to everyone at this meeting and make sure their questions are answered by this work plan.

Mr. Parks went on to explain that the vapor intrusion potential has been addressed in the work plan. Like radon in basements, VOCs can possibly make their way up from groundwater underneath nearby homes into their homes. After all groundwater chemical data is collected, it will be easier to determine whether or not vapor intrusion is plausible in this situation and under which conditions testing is needed. [The work plan includes testing of several buildings directly above the plume that most likely would have the highest potential VI. Based on the results of the study, additional locations could be evaluated.]

There are numerous proposed remedial investigations activities. One of those is a focused dye trace study which will involve injecting dye into the 325 ft deep well that had the 10ppb detection and see if the dye makes its way to nearby surface water bodies. However, this is just the initial step. If the outcome is not what is expected, the Army will go deeper and conduct additional dye trace studies.

There are also numerous new monitoring wells that will potentially be installed on site. Some are planned as shallow wells and some are planned to be drilled deep. Many will have multiple completions (different depths where groundwater samples could be taken).

- One RAB member asked if the wells at the two houses between Waverly and Beverly have ever been sampled. The army responded by saying that one house has been sampled numerous times with no detections found above the drinking water standards and the other house has always refused to be sampled. [There were two very low level estimated detections in 1999 and one very low level detection in 2004. These detections were

- flagged by the laboratory as “results less than reporting limit but greater than instrument detection limit.” The results are questionable but are below the drinking water standard.]
- Another RAB member asked if the wells at the Kemp Lane residences have ever been sampled. Joe Gortva responded by saying that five residences on Kemp Lane have been sampled, but are upgradient from the site. [Sampling results to date do not indicate that the residential wells are being impacted, but we have been supplying them bottled water as a precaution only.]

5. Area B Construction Projects

Mr. Robert Craig introduced this presentation and the presenters Ms. Kibby Powell and Ms. Mary Chizmar. Mr. Craig made everyone aware that this proposed construction/land use at Area B affects the work plan and both must be analyzed together. Colonel Robinson added that the Army is linking the two together and making sure the City of Frederick does not disturb the landfill caps in their construction plans. She also wanted to let everyone know that the Area A environmental assessment will be out in about 3-4 weeks.

- One RAB member was very concerned about if the EPA and MDE are evaluating these construction plans. It was confirmed that the EPA and MDE will be evaluating these plans when it comes to the time when they are supposed to.

Ms. Kibby Powell and Ms. Mary Chizmar presented the proposed plans of the Army to build numerous buildings and structures at Area B.

Mr. Tim Davis with the City of Frederick then presented the city’s proposed road alignment plans. He portrayed a map showing a proposed road to run through Area B (Master Plan Alignment for Christopher’s Crossing). The current proposed road would be built over 450 sqft of one Area B landfill cap. The city is aware that the Army has a problem with this and is going to work with the Army in order to find some compromise that will appease both constituents. The city wants the road to stay straight and go over the landfill so that the speed limit on the road can be higher. However, the Army is certain that they can figure out an acceptable slower speed limit that the city will agree with so that the road can curve somewhat in between the caps.

Colonel Robinson tried to make it clear that the Army has decided to present this information to the RAB so that there is full disclosure and no one thinks anything is trying to hide anything or get away with anything.

- A RAB member added that disclosure is great, but that expert review still needs to be completed. He asked why the EPA and MDE were not speaking up on this topic. Colonel Robinson ensured that the expert review is the next step. Right now this is just the city’s preliminary plan and it will be reviewed thoroughly by all constituents and regulators and will be tweaked before being accepted. Ms. Linda Robinson added that the RAB and its meetings are not for the regulators (EPA and MDE). Instead, they are intended for the public to be made aware of what is going on, understand it, and to have a voice. Mr. Butch Dye with MDE spoke up and said that it is not the regulators place to speak up now. It is the regulators job to partner with contractors, such as Shaw Environmental, and ensure they are doing their job in accordance with the regulations and what is best for the environment. Their job is to work closely with those they are regulating (Shaw and the Army) to ensure the work is done correctly. So, he added, the information presented by Shaw Environmental at these RAB meetings is information that has been developed and already agreed upon by the regulators. Regulatory agencies do not dictate plans, they can only object to or agree upon them. Ms. Linda Robinson added that there has been and will continue to be a large amount of behind-the-scenes partnering between the Army, Shaw, and regulatory agencies regarding this work. Mr.

- Joe Gortva added that the Army and Shaw have spent the better part of the last two years meeting with/partnering with the regulators working to develop the work plan. The work plan would have taken much longer if the partnering had not been occurring. This is because the older process involved the contractor and Army guessing and writing what they think would be a good plan of action, then the regulators reviewing and responding with things that must be changed, and the contractor guessing how to make those changes, and then the same thing over and over again.
- A RAB member added that he didn't understand why the remediation of Ft. Detrick has taken so long (over 40 years so far). Mr. Dye added that the process is currently moving as fast as it can move. Mr. Parks added that it hasn't been 40 years of nothing positive going on. There was a 25 million dollar removal action completed. [Which has led to substantial reductions in contamination.] [The army also completed a removal action at the old skeet range and the capping project at 6 landfills] It is unfortunate that it cannot move faster than it currently is moving, but there is a process that must be undertaken that involves a lot of constituents that must agree. Mr. Dye with MDE stated that he has been in this line of work for 35 years and can attest to the fact that the current process is much better than it used to be, the science is much better now, and that he thinks this site is a testament to how well the process is working.

6. Future RAB Meeting Location

Mr. Joe Gortva brought up the issue of where to hold the future RAB meetings. He wanted to know the opinions of RAB members as to where they would like the meetings held. Did they think they should be held off of the base? The RAB members seemed to all be fine with the meetings continuing to be on Ft. Detrick property. Regardless, Joe Gortva decided he would email all members and they could reply letting him know if they had an issue with this. He also wanted to know how long members wanted to review the work plan provided to them on CD. They all seemed to be okay with the 3-4 week timeframe in order to get their comments to the Army.

Mr. Robert Craig stated that the Army would like to see more new RAB members, so if anyone present wanted to join or knew of someone who would like to, they are welcome to join and request to become a member.

7. RAB comments/questions

Mr. Joe Gortva asked if there were any general questions or comments from the RAB members. Ms. Linda Robinson stated that she appreciated all the comments from everyone at the meeting. Colonel Robinson restated that she just wanted to present the land use/road plans in order to help keep the RAB members abreast of the situation.

10. Meeting Closing

The date for the next RAB meeting is not yet set and will most likely be contingent upon when the first grass cutting will occur at the landfill caps. So, perhaps it may be around May 18th, 2010. Colonel Robinson concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and requesting them to please drive safely.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.

Reviewed by:

Approved/Disapproved

Enclosure:

Fort Detrick Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Status Update Slide Presentation
Meeting Sign-In Sheet

DISTRIBUTION:

Each RAB Member (w/o enclosure)

Each Meeting Attendee (w/o enclosure)