

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting  
August 21, 2002

**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**

Lt. Colonel Donald Archibald convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, 21 August, 2002 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  
Lieutenant Colonel Donald Archibald, P.E., Director, Safety, Environment, and Integrated Planning Office (SEIPO), Installation Co-Chairman  
Mr. Joe Gortva, Environmental Restoration Manager, SEIPO  
Mr. Paul Offutt, Program Manager, Frederick County Health Department  
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. Chuck Dasey, Public Affairs Officer, HQ USAMRMC  
Dr. Henry E. Erbes, Local Resident  
Ms. Kim Gross, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Ms. Beverly Hand, BAHC  
Mr. David Iseri, Shaw Environmental  
Mr. William Kahl, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Mr. Clint Kneten, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Mr. Gary Pauly, Local Resident  
Mr. John Robertson, Local Business Person  
Mr. Kirk Ticknor, Shaw Environmental

#### Members Absent:

Ms. Helen Alexander, Community Member  
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. Michael Kurtianyck, Community Member  
Mr. Thomas Meyer, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
Ms. Helen Miller-Scott, Community Member  
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. Gerald P. Toomey, Community Co-Chairman  
Mr. Craig Toussaint, Community Member  
Mr. Thomas Wade, Community Member

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#### **4. Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Lt. Colonel Don Archibald welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that anyone who had not attended the June meeting introduce themselves to Colonel Ball.

Lt. Colonel Archibald summarized the activities for the evening. He advised that excavation operations resumed on June 18, 2002, with the continuing emphasis on public safety. As stated at the June meeting, excavation equipment was very close to some of the buried drums. These deteriorated drums, some of which contain materials, have now been unearthed and are being tested. He also explained that the hot weather has caused a slow down in the excavation project. In order to safeguard the health of the workers, modified hours have been initiated enabling the workers to perform during the cooler hours. Lt. Colonel Archibald gave an overview of the results of testing done on previous drums located earlier in 2002 and the changes made in the process of locating, sampling and identifying those materials.

Lt. Colonel Archibald then introduced Mr. Joe Gortva who made a slide and video presentation regarding the status of the remediation project.

#### **5. Area B-11 Status**

Copies of a Fort Detrick Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS) handout (Enclosure 1) were provided.

Mr. Gortva reviewed the project activities since the resumption of excavation on June 18, 2002. Mr. Gortva pointed out that there have been no lost time on-site worker accidents in 567 days. As of August 15, 1,100 tons of soil have been removed. Included in this soil was found four vials of medical waste and twelve drums. Mr. Gortva further explained that, at this time, the main issue of concern is the heat. He advised that within the tent structure, the temperature can reach 100 degrees by 10:00 A.M. and has been as high as 115 degrees during the peak hours of the day. In order to combat this, earlier working hours have been scheduled as well as providing the workers with cold-tube suits which circulate cold water through vests helping cool body temperature.

Mr. Gortva continued with a description of the 55-gallon drums to include their condition and contents. Samples of those drums with contents have been taken and are awaiting testing. Photographs of drums, the area in which they were located, and the removal processes were included in the presentation. It was noted that the drums closer to the surface have been found to be in a more deteriorated condition than those found deeper within the pit. This was explained by the increased oxygen nearer to the surface, which causes rusting of the metal drums.

A video of drum removal operations was then presented with narration by Mr. Gortva. The video included scenes of the workers brushing the drums to determine any identifying marking or

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labeling, placement and sealing of the drum in an overpack container by a backhoe, and how all drum contents are handled.

Mr. Gortva continued with an explanation of the process upgrades, particularly the fogging unit which releases a very thick mist of bleach solution lasting up to 24 hours. It was also advised that the bleaching procedure was evaluated and subsequent increase in the bleach content occurred. Recent delays in the work schedule were explained as being caused by the heat and the large amount of individual pieces of biological waste found in the pit area. Information on the current schedule and funding was provided. Mr. Gortva was asked to describe the additional pits as well as the schedule and funding for completion of those areas.

Colonel Ball provided additional input regarding funding projections in addition to the impact of activity continuity and experienced personnel. It was noted that cost estimates have been revised in light of the higher than expected amount of materials found in Pit 1 and the consequent expense of removal, testing, and disposal.

Mr. Gortva then introduced Mr. Dave Iseri of Shaw Environmental, who presented an update for Areas A, B and C.

## **6. Area A Update**

Mr. Iseri continued with the presentation focusing on the remedial investigations of Areas A, B, and C. Mr. Iseri advised that there were no new completed items since the meeting in June, 2002. The reports and reviews schedule for monitoring and sampling for Area A was presented. The semi-annual sampling report is estimated to be available in September, 2002. The five-year review is estimated to be complete by July, 2006.

Mr. Iseri provided detailed explanations of the area map, locations of testing wells and sampling activities, to include residential wells. A discussion was held concerning Fort Detrick Building 568 and the containment of the TCE contamination in that area.

## **7. Area B Update**

Mr. Iseri then presented a review and update on the documents for Area B. An additional Investigation Work Plan is pending the completion of a site background study to look at concentrations of metals (arsenic, lead, iron, aluminum, chromium, etc.) to determine a representative sample. Areas B-1 and B-18 are continuing to be evaluated for Close-Out Documents. Many other activities are pending funding and/or scheduling to include the Groundwater Pilot Test Field Technology Assessment Work Plan and the Dye Trace Study Work Plan. On request, Mr. Iseri provided results information regarding the Chemical Oxidation Bench-Scale Test Work Plan. Quarterly sampling of Area B wells were completed in early August, 2002 with additional sampling scheduled for every three months. The water treatment

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system for the Krantz property is still pending funding. However, their water source is regularly tested, and the Krantz family has not expressed any dissatisfaction.

Completed and planned activities for Area B were described as were the May, 2002, sampling results of the TCE Plume, the PCE Plume, and the residential boundary wells and surface water. It was noted that the highest contaminant levels are typically within the Fort Detrick property, and there are a small number of residential property owners who are not fully cooperative regarding well testing.

The 'Hospital Spring' area was further described with particular emphasis given to the trout which are currently being raised there by the Maryland Extension Service for release into local waterways. A recently completed textbook study indicated no risk with human consumption of the fish.

Attention was directed to residential wells 13 and 17 where no volatile compounds have been found. Residential well 66 had a level 600 times below the maximum standard level established by USEPA. Very low levels of Trichloroethane and Tetrachloroethene were found in well 26 near Shookstown Road and Mr. Iseri noted that the plume is continually closely monitored..

#### **8. Area B Water Levels**

Groundwater elevation, in the wells tested, dropped between 0.5 to 2 feet since February, 2002 with an average loss of 1.98 feet. A drop of 5 feet was noted at the Landfill area during this same period. This drop is related to the lack of rainfall. No other changes were noted.

#### **9. Area C Update**

Finalization of the groundwater data assessment continues and the Final Report has been funded. Upon completion of the report, it will be provided to Fort Detrick to facilitate going forward with the property transfer.

Colonel Ball advised that the sludge from Area C is currently being stored in roll-offs near the fenceline located between the school and the wastewater treatment plant. This material is to be removed to a site near the drying beds, in a level gravel parking lot. This change in storage location is for appearance only; the sludge has no ill effect upon anything or anyone. Five tons of this material would have to be consumed before any radiological hazard would present itself. Once Fort Detrick is decommissioned, the sludge will be disposed of as normal sludge. This material is described as leftover radionuclides previously used for tracing studies. Before 1999, this material was permitted to be disposed of through the sewer system at Fort Detrick.

Colonel Ball continued to explain that because of the NRC license currently in effect for Fort Detrick, the sludge produced through the Fort Detrick process is classified as a radiological hazard. Without approval for disposal as normal sludge, these containers would be shipped to

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Utah for disposal at the cost of \$250,000. In order to alleviate the regulatory restrictions and the expense, Fort Detrick will continue to pursue decommissioning.

Further discussion was held regarding the production of the sludge and its eventual disposal alternatives. Lt. Colonel Archibald advised that if the sludge spilled from its container, the NRC would not recommend that it be cleaned up due to the material being 75 percent below the level of radioactivity for which the NRC would normally require a cleanup activity.

An audience member questioned the contents of the vials recently discovered. Lt. Colonel Archibald advised that there was a variety of materials noted - one vial contained a liquid, one contained a tar-like material, one was labeled as pesticide, and some contained a powdery substance. Analyses are being conducted to properly identify the contents.

Also, it was mentioned that the largest cache of drums, which is located in the central area within the tent structure, is yet to be excavated. A discussion regarding the gases and other elements present at the excavation site revealed that there existed small particles of various elements, some of which are highly explosive but had very low volatility. However, all air within the structure is monitored, captured, and treated, eliminating any hazard to human health.

#### **10. Date/Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

RAB meetings are held bimonthly on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 9, 2002, at 7:30 p.m., at Fort Detrick.

#### **11. Meeting Closing**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Reviewed by:

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

//s//

Approved/Disapproved

John E. Ball  
Colonel, US Army  
Deputy Installation Commander

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Enclosure:

1. Fort Detrick Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study

DISTRIBUTION:

Each RAB Member (w/o enclosure)

Each Meeting Attendee (w/o enclosure)