

Restoration Advisory Board Beginning

The RAB is intended to serve as a forum for the early and continued exchange of restoration related information among the community, installation, and regulatory agencies.

In 1992, Fort Detrick began discussions with political, business, private citizens, and environmental interest groups on the concept of establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

Restoration Advisory Board

RAB Profile

- Twelve community members agreed to serve
- New members elected a community co-chairman
- Members of RAB included local government, lay community members, community members with knowledge of environmental matters, and environmental activists.

Army Guidance for RABs

RAB Member Responsibilities

- Provide their advice on restoration activities and community involvement
- Address important issues such as scopes of studies, cleanup levels, and remedial alternatives
- Review documents associated with environmental restoration activities
- Provide advise on priorities among sites or projects
- Identify applicable standards, propose cleanup levels consistent with planned land use
- Attend regular meetings
- Document decisions at meetings and make information available to the general public
- Interact with the Local Redevelopment Authority or other land use planning bodies to discuss future land use issues relevant to environmental restoration decision making.

Restoration Advisory Board

RAB Positive impacts

The Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board has made a significant impact on the quality and quantity of the remedial investigation and has proved to be a bridge to the community. It has increased our credibility and been effective in overcoming rumor and distrust.

Restoration Advisory Board

B-11 Impacts to IRP

- Removal action began in 2001
- Experienced cost growths
- Setback of the project completion date - two years.

- Remedial activities at other sites slowed significantly as attention and most IRP funding focused on the Area B-11 IRA.

Restoration Advisory Board

B-11 Impacts to RAB

- RAB meeting agendas focused on B-11 updates
- Required less input from members.
- Bimonthly RAB meetings were sometimes postponed due to lack of new information.
- As a result, RAB attendance has dropped.

Restoration Advisory Board

IRP and RAB Future

Starting in FY04

- B-11 Removal Project - complete May 04
- Studies to complete RI/FS phases at 5 sites are planned for this year.
- Performance Based Contracting is planned for Area B disposal sites and ground water. - May result in accelerated cleanup schedule starting this year.
- Community/RAB input will be needed
- Need to reinvigorate RAB interest and attendance

Restoration Advisory Board Membership

- Regular attendance has dropped off.
- Encourage members to attend

Reminder - Absence from three consecutive meetings is deemed just cause for dismissal.

- If a RAB member can no longer attend, or wishes to be removed from the board, the member may submit a resignation in writing to either RAB co-chairperson.
- Resigning RAB members may be permitted to nominate new members as replacements.

Restoration Advisory Board

Membership

- Vacancies should be filled quickly
- RAB should review community profile to current RAB membership
- RAB members should include representatives from the Army, EPA, state regulatory representatives, local government (city manager, mayor, environmental or health department officials) and members of the local community.
- Community interests should include a diverse selection of interest groups such as local residents, business community, homeowner associations, local environmental groups, environmental justice groups, senior citizens associations, civic groups, installation workers, and installation residents.
- RAB should be no larger than 20 individuals (Fort Detrick RAB Charter 10-15 members)

Fort Detrick RAB Charter

Membership Selection

- Open to the public
- Selection is approved by the installation commander
- 10 to 15 community members.
- Represent the diverse interests in the local community
- Preference given to those who are most impacted by the restoration process.

Fort Detrick RAB Charter

Membership Selection (cont.)

- RAB members will agree to serve a two-year term. - may be reappointed
- Vacancies among community members may be announced in public information media and other forums
- Resigning RAB members may be permitted to nominate new members as replacements.

Restoration Advisory Board

RAB Charter

Charter may need updated periodically to:

- Include new Defense Authorization Act requirements for RABs.
- Be consistent with Department of Defense policies.

Homework:

RAB members need to review current charter

Open Forum

Discussion by RAB members:

What is the RAB's path forward

Other questions or comments

Army Guidance for RAB Membership Selection

For new RABs,

- The Installation Commander identifies the diverse community interests.
- The commander assembles a selection panel of community members.
- The selection panel
 - ✓ identifies the diverse community interest groups
 - ✓ develops a solicitation process
 - ✓ establishes selection criteria
 - ✓ develop a list of suggested RAB members
 - ✓ submits the list to the Installation Commander for approval.
- The Installation Commander will review and accept the list unless he/she determines that it is not representative of the diverse community interests. If the list is not an accurate representation, the Installation Commander will specify the weaknesses for correction and instruct the selection panel to develop a new list for review/approval.