

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
October 09, 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

Lieutenant Colonel Donald Archibald convened the meeting at 7:35 p.m., on Thursday, October 09, 2003 in Conference Room 3, 810 Schreider Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland.

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3. Attendance

Members Present:

Lieutenant Colonel Donald Archibald, P.E., Director, Safety, Environment, and Integrated Planning Office (SEIPO), Installation Co-Chairman
Mr. Gerald P. Toomey, Community Co-Chairman
Colonel John Ball, Commander, US Army Garrison, Fort Detrick
Mr. Joseph Gortva, Environmental Restoration Manager, SEIPO
Mr. Michael Kurtianyik, Community Member
Mr. Thomas Meyer, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Ms. Helen Miller-Scott, Community Member
Ms. Linda Robinson, Community Member
Mr. Douglas Scarborough, Restoration Oversight Manager, US Army Environmental Center

Others Present:

Mr. David Iseri, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure (Shaw E&I)
Ms. Eileen Mitchell, Chief Public Affairs, HQ USAMRMC
Mr. William Kahl, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Ms. Dawn Pisarski, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Mr. Douglas Mayles, Analytical Services, Inc. (Recording Secretary)
Mr. Gary Pauly, Community Member

Members Absent:

Mr. Charles Billups, Ph.D., Community Member
Mr. Larry Bohn, Frederick County Health Department
Mr. William Effland, Ph.D., Community Member
Mr. Paul Offutt, Program Manager, Frederick County Health Department
Mr. Dennis Orenshaw, US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region III
Mr. Stewart Taylor, Community Member
Mr. Craig Toussaint, Community Member
Mr. Thomas Wade, Community Member
Mr. Daniel Patton, Safety and Loss Control Manager, City of Frederick
Ms. Helen Alexander, Community Member
Mr. Chuck Dasey, Public Affairs Officer, HQ USAMRMC

4. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Lieutenant Colonel Donald Archibald welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a project overview of Area B-11. He indicated the project was ahead of schedule and steady progress was being made. Lieutenant Colonel Archibald briefly discussed the recent removal of highly contaminated soil and stated no unexpected issues have been encountered since the last RAB meeting. Projected close of project excavation should occur in December 2003, with project

closeout scheduled for February/March 2004. He presented an overview of the updates on Areas A, B and C and upcoming installation projects including conceptual plans for Area B development.

5. Area B-11 Status

Mr. Tom Meyer introduced Ms. Dawn Pisarski, who replaced Mr. Clint Kneten of the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Meyer provided an update for the Area B-11 indicating there have been no lost-time accidents for 960 days. Pit # 4 excavation commenced 7 August 2003 and is estimated to be 80 percent complete at this time. Of the three pits to be excavated, Pit 4 is the largest and is approximately 60 percent of the work to be done for the Phase II removal action. Some of the items recently removed from Pits 2, 3 and 4 include small glass containers, medical waste, metal fragments, small laboratory chemical bottles, cylinders and approximately 1,100 tons of soil. As indicated in the daily reports, analysis indicates the presence of Trichloroethylene (TCE) in heavily contaminated soil. Approximately 74 cylinders of unknown content were discovered in Pits 1, 2, 3, and 4. Cylinders range in size from less than 1 inch to 8 inches in diameter, by 5 inches to 25 inches long and are in various decomposing states.

Mr. Meyer discussed alternatives for disposal of these cylinders. The three alternatives currently under evaluation are:

- Alternative 1 – Cylinder contents would be transferred to Department of Transportation approved containers and transported to the Edgewood Chemical and Biological Command (ECBC) by helicopter with assistance from the Tec Escort Unit in Edgewood. Proper disposal of cylinder contents would take place off-site.
- Alternative 2 – Cylinders would be opened, analyzed, and disinfected on-site and the waste would be repackaged for off-site disposal. Cylinders would be opened inside a secondary containment vessel, called a cylinder management unit, inside the Area B-11 main containment structure. To prevent an explosive atmosphere, air would be purged from this unit and replaced with nitrogen. The cylinder would then be opened remotely and samples would be taken and analyzed. In the event of a biological concern, disinfection of the entire system in its closed state would take place.
- Alternative 3 – Cylinders would be opened through contained detonation in a closed unit inside the main containment structure. Detonation would split the cylinder length-wise, releasing the contents. The system allowing for analysis and disinfection, to take place on-site, with disposal of waste materials off-site.

A decision on which alternative to pursue will be made in the next couple of months. The Corps of Engineers is working with ECBC in analyzing these alternatives.

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A discussion took place on the history, usage, and contents of the cylinders; information in these areas is limited. Homemade cylinders were probably customized and used for specific purposes within the laboratories. A portable x-ray unit was used to view the volume of cylinder contents. The composition of this volume is undetermined (liquid or gas). Some of the cylinders contain dip-tubes and filter medium within them.

Mr. Meyer suggested moving some of the cylinders in their current state of decomposition was not preferred and on-site opening and analysis appeared to be the preferred alternative (Alternative 2). Discussion continued concerning on-site opening of the cylinders. Concerns were raised in the area of containing the cylinder contents. Mr. Meyer reiterated the safety features included in the proposed alternatives referring to the use of a cylinder management unit inside the main containment structure. Discussion took place concerning the contents of the cylinder once opened. Clarification was made describing an enclosed system, where the cylinders would be opened. This system would be contained within the main containment structure. Mr. Meyer expressed concern about the high projected cost of Alternative 3. Cost is a prohibitive factor in selecting this alternative. Mr. Meyer stated the majority of the cylinder valves were in various states of disrepair. Alternative 2 possesses the means of drilling into a cylinder to release its contents, if the cylinder valves are non-functioning.

Mr. Meyer stated once the excavation of Pits 2, 3, and 4 are complete, the structure and the ground surface would be decontaminated. All pits would be backfilled and cylinder processing would begin. Cylinder processing is estimated to take approximately twelve weeks. The HEPA and carbon filter systems for each unit would continue to be in operation inside the containment structure. Pit 4 is estimated to be approximately 10 feet deep, coinciding with initial trench delineation estimates performed at the beginning of the project. Samples were taken from the bottom and walls of Pit 4 and test results are due back in a couple of weeks. Mr. Meyer stated Pit 2 contains a high concentration of pesticides and Pit 3 has various containers within it. Once Pit 4 sample results are back, a funding-based decision can be made as to what containers and or contaminated soil will be removed.

6. Area A Update

Mr. Meyer gave an update of the Area A Long Term Monitoring. Monitoring and continuation of the pump and treat system continues to be in effect for removal of TCE. Semiannual monitoring was moved up from November to October with results arriving in the next couple of months. The June 2003 sampling report will be ready in November 2003.

7. Area B Update

An Area B background study will be finalized in November 2003. This data will be used to perform statistical analyses on the remaining sites in order to compare contamination found in these sites to background concentrations. These analyses will assist in determining how best to close out these sites. A draft close out document of the Area B-1 site is due January 2004.

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A new site has been identified as Area B-18 and a preliminary assessment is planned for this area. Area B-18 is located north of the B-Skeet Area and consists of a sinkhole in which various trash and containers were found. Area B-20, B-Skeet, B-Grid, and B-Ammo will need additional minor sampling prior to closeout. Negotiation and awarding of contracts for this work should take place in early fiscal year 2004, with a work schedule developed after the contract is awarded. A brief discussion took place concerning Area B-18 as Mr. Toomey referred to the sinkhole and asked if it is the same one involved in an earlier dye trace study. Mr. Iseri explained Area B-18 was the area where dye was introduced but not recovered. Mr. Meyer proceeded to discuss the periodic sampling for residential and on-site wells and surface water sampling scheduled for October 2003. Field activities for Area B-20, B-Skeet, B-Grid, and B-Ammo are in the planning process.

8. Area B Water Level Update

Mr. Meyer discussed general characteristics of the TCE plume, stating the recent groundwater surge has not increased TCE concentrations.

9. Area C Update

Mr. Meyer provided an Area C update. The Remedial Investigation, feasibility study, proposed plan, and decision document reports have been funded. The draft final RI report is scheduled for completion in October 2003. Arsenic contamination is above the limits of residential zoning, but is allowable for industrial zoning. Incorporating deed restrictions on it may close out this property. Residential use would not be permitted on this site. Discussion took place regarding privatization of this site and current surrounding land use. Residential areas and a school zone near this site raised questions concerning general public access to the contaminated area. COL Ball described the site as a fenced area containing the wastewater treatment plant.

10. Open Comments

Lieutenant Colonel Archibald discussed the removal of contaminated soils in Area B as being the main focus of this portion of the restoration program. Information gathered during this process would be used to develop future direction concerning the contaminated groundwater in Area B. A discussion of future conditions of Area B groundwater took place. Lieutenant Colonel Archibald explained the difficulties in assessing the subsurface conditions in Area B. Clean-up alternatives of Area B groundwater, including pump and treat and oxidation processes, were briefly discussed. The geology of the area is considered to be a major factor in deciding what treatment process to use. Mr. Gortva discussed the difficulties in analyzing trends of area groundwater flow given the variable conditions of drought and heavy rainfall in recent history. Mr. Gortva continued to discuss the difficulties in the long-term assessment of the area due to multiple changing variables, including rainfall and the karst subsurface. Discussion continued on the long-term groundwater cleanup possibilities and included a possible dye-trace study and funding issues.

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Colonel Ball stated Fort Detrick's need for the wastewater treatment plant, whether or not it becomes privatized. He discussed the difficulties in privatizing buried utilities due to the inability to effectively evaluate the systems. He indicated there is currently no interest from private entities to operate the water and/or wastewater treatment systems.

Colonel Ball began a discussion on conceptual future uses for Area B. He stated approximately 5 percent of the acreage in Area B, excluding the area of the permitted landfill, is being remediated. Colonel Ball presented information for land use plans that are environmentally consistent with Area B. Possible conceptual uses include the following:

- Expanded Antennae Field
- New Marine Reserve Center
- Recreational Vehicle Park
- 18-hole Golf Course
- Indoor Skeet / Pistol Range
- Paintball Course

Colonel Ball expressed Fort Detrick's interest in designing a sound-abated indoor skeet and pistol range. He reiterated this project is in the initial concept stage of development and will proceed once it meets environmental standards of sound abatement. Berms and large rolls of hay set outside the indoor range is the conceptual thought for sound-abatement. Colonel Ball stated the concept of an indoor skeet / pistol range has not been developed anywhere in the world. He added the indoor range is planned for the center of Area B. An environmental assessment for Area B has been funded and will take these proposed uses into consideration.

Development of land adjacent to Area B was mentioned and the RAB discussed the possibility of phoning inactive members to gauge their level of interest in further participation with the group.

Ms. Eileen Mitchell offered information on Fort Detrick Community Liaison Council as a means of public participation in Fort Detrick affairs.

11. Date/Agenda Items for Next Meeting

RAB meetings are normally held bimonthly on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2003 at 7:30 p.m., at Fort Detrick.

12. Meeting Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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Reviewed by: *///Signed///*

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

Approved/~~Disapproved~~ *///Signed///*

John E. Ball
Colonel, US Army
Deputy Installation Commander

Enclosure:

1. Fort Detrick Installation Restoration Program Presentation - 9 October 2003.

DISTRIBUTION:

Each RAB Member (w/o enclosure)

Each Meeting Attendee (w/o enclosure)