

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
February 12, 2003

1. Index of Minutes

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

SUBJECT/TOPIC	SECTION NUMBER
Index of Minutes	1
Meeting Opening	2
Attendance	3
Opening Remarks and Introductions	4
Area B-11 Status	5
Area A Update	6
Area B Update	7
Area B Water Levels	8
Area C Update	9
Community Co-Chair Comments	10
Date/Agenda Items for Next Meeting	11
Meeting Closing	12

2. Meeting Opening

In the absence of Lt. Colonel Archibald, Mr. Gerald Toomey, Community Co-Chairman, convened the meeting at 7:35 p.m., on Wednesday, 12 February, 2003 in Conference Room 3, 810 Schreider Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland.

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of February 12, 2003

3. Attendance

Members Present:

Mr. Larry Bohn, Frederick County Health Department
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
Mr. Gerald P. Toomey, Community Co-Chairman
Mr. Thomas Wade, Community Member
Mr. Joe Gortva, Environmental Restoration Manager, SEIPO
Ms. Gyla Crutchfield, Analytical Services, Inc. (Recording Secretary)

Others Present:

Mr. Vincent Ceci, AKORN Consulting
Mr. Chuck Dasey, Public Affairs Officer, HQ USAMRMC
Mr. David Iseri, Shaw Environmental
Mr. William Kahl, Maryland Department of the Environment
Ms. Jill Kline, City of Frederick
Mr. Clint Kneten, US Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Doug Mayles, Analytical Services, Inc.
Ms. Eileen Mitchell, Public Affairs Office, USAG
Mr. Gary Pauly, Local Resident
Mr. John Robertson,
Mr. Bruce Ware, US Army Corps of Engineers

Members Absent:

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
Ms. Helen Alexander, Community Member
Mr. Charles Billups, Ph.D., Community Member
Mr. William Effland, Ph.D., Community Member
Mr. Michael Gresalfi, Community Member
Mr. Michael Kurtianyk, 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

4. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Community Co-Chairman, Gerald Toomey welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Tom Meyer who gave an updated slide presentation describing the status of the remediation project.

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 719. He continued describing the project status as of 11 February. Pit 1 has been completely excavated as of 19 December 2002. During the excavation, nearly 2000 tons of waste and contaminated soil (112 rolloffs) was removed. Surface material amounting to 175 tons of non-hazardous material was removed to the Fort Detrick landfill. Most excavation equipment used within the structure has been decontaminated and removed. This was performed by steam decontamination combined with a chlorine mixture, and verified by wipe samples. The HEPA filtration systems remain active until both the building and floor are decontaminated and confirmed by wipe samples. The carbon vessels were removed from the structure and refilled with new carbon in preparation for the next phase of excavation. The freeze pipes were flushed out with fresh water to remove the brine solution. That waste material was shipped off site for disposal. In the event of a future use, the steel freeze pipes will be cut and sealed, and remain in place for an undetermined period of time. The freeze pipes will be cut below-grade so Fort Detrick can retain the area as pastureland. Mr. Meyer continued the presentation with status reports on container removal and the Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). The container removal summary indicated that since the last RAB meeting, only one additional cylinder was recovered disclosing no new material results. Upon inquiry Mr. Meyer advised that exact figures for TCE and PCE amounts were unavailable. In an effort to save funding, not all rolloffs were sampled, as it was known the material was contaminated. Sample results of the carbon in the filtration system indicated high contamination therefore indicating high levels of contamination in the removed soil. No liquid solvents were detected in Pit 1. However, results from testing indicated TCE and PCE in the carbon as well as the bottom of the pit.

The ESD document has been updated to indicate the increase in the total volume of material to be excavated and disposed of; the reactive and explosive materials found in Pit 1; and, the biological wastes found in Pit 1. This document is complete pending a review from regulators and will be included in the Administrative Record.

Funding is available to schedule Pit 1 for building and floor disinfection, and pit backfill for a completion date of 28 February 2003.

Mr. Meyer advised that on 10 January 2003, Fort Detrick presented a briefing to the Department of the Army regarding activities in Area B-11, Pits 2, 3, and 4. Through extensive discussion,

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of February 12, 2003

approval to go forward with the project was given. However, this project will have strict budget constraints for the next two years. The recently negotiated contract cost is 6.7 million dollars. Additional costs for biological samplings were included. The schedule for the project indicates mobilization during March – April 2003, with excavation beginning in May 2003, and completion in fall 2003. These activities include the breakdown of the containment structure and reconstruction at the next location, as well as placing of equipment, and conducting preliminary activities to ensure proper operation of equipment and procedure adherence by personnel.

An additional ESD is being performed for Pits 2, 3, and 4. This will include the changes described for the Pit 1 ESD as well as the reasoning for not installing the freeze wall for Phase II. Since the waste is at a shallower location and the engineering controls are expected to protect the groundwater, the freeze wall will be eliminated and excavation can be conducted more discreetly. This will result in lower costs for this project versus Pit 1. A Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study will be performed after completion of the removal action to close out the site.

6. Area A Update

Mr. Meyer continued the presentation with the Area A Update. The only change made since the last meeting is the sampling date being moved to February/March 2003.

7. Area B Update

An update on the ESD for Pits 1, 2, 3, and 4 is pending. The ESD for Pit 1 is awaiting regulator comments and the ESD for Pits 2, 3, and 4 will be sent to regulators for review. There were no completed tasks since the last RAB meeting and the planned activities remain as previous – six month sampling and monitoring, dye trace study (pending funding), Krantz water treatment system (pending funding), background study to assess metals concentrations, and additional residential well research.

8. Area B Water Levels

Mr. Meyer advised that the groundwater has risen slightly since the last sampling, but it remains below 1997 levels. He continued with the TCE and PCE Plume maps advising that the maps remain the same as far as plume shape, but some of the levels of the TCE toward the center of the plume have decreased by approximately 50%. The PCE levels are higher in well 58D increasing from 89 to 1300 parts per billion, and well 31D increasing from 360 to 910 parts per billion. This may be due to current higher water table levels versus August 2002. These levels are still within the historic range but data obtained have not been conclusive to provide a clear explanation.

Upon inquiry from an attendee, an explanation was provided why some chemicals have an increase in level and others show a decrease. It was explained that there is no correlation in these levels, but that the two chemicals could have been deposited into the water table at different times, at different places, and may have taken different pathways. Further explanation

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of February 12, 2003

provided that as the chemical drains through the earth, there may be void at a rock shelf where a heavier solvent would tend to deposit out of the flowing water. If water levels drop, a pool of the solvent may form in that location. In reverse, as water levels rise, the chemical pool may be flushed out. In summary, if the two solvents were not deposited at the same time and followed the exact same pathway, they could then deposit in different places in the aquifer.

Mr. Meyer continued with the update on residential boundary wells and surface water. Levels at all sampling locations remain below one part per billion for TCE and PCE as established by USEPA drinking water standards.

9. Area C Update

Finalization of a remedial investigative report of the soils and groundwater is continuing. The feasibility study is scheduled to be awarded at the end of this fiscal year. Privatization of the project is still being considered and Ms. Mitchell advised that the Army guidance is to privatize. It was indicated that even with the decommissioning, it would still be a minimum of two years before that location could be privatized.

10. Community Co-Chairman Comments

Mr. Toomey invited a discussion on the budget for the project. Mr. Toomey understood that a strong budget was in place, but had also heard that a stringent cap would be placed on the continuing activities with no allowance for overrun. This was confirmed and further explained that for the installation restoration program to obtain additional funding, another program would have to be eliminated. A difficult process and no one involved in this program has ever seen it done. Additional funding received last year came from MEDCOM who released funds to the restoration project rather than choosing another site within their jurisdiction. Current funding is now located at the Army Environmental Center. All funding is currently allotted to installations with a cap of 8.62 million dollars plus the 2004 scheduled funding of 3.56 million dollars. This funding is obligated to completing the excavation of the pits and conducting minimal studies, keeping Area C active, as well as continuing some activities in Area B and long-term monitoring in Area A. With Pit 1 being five times the anticipated excavation area, Mr. Toomey inquired about the impact this had upon the budget. In response, he was told that everything found in Pit 1 is expected to be found in the remaining pits and this has already been factored into the budget for that work. Some contingencies have been set aside for finding unexpected materials (i.e., unexploded ordnance, bacillus anthracis, etc.) but anything vague are neither anticipated nor in the current funding baseline. Pits 2, 3, and 4 have already been determined to be larger than anticipated. This, along with the finding of biological materials in Pit 1 requiring HEPA filtration and decontamination processes, have already been factored into the budget. Proper planning and careful monitoring is expected to keep the activities within budget.

Further discussion continued regarding the absence of the freeze wall for Pits 2, 3, and 4 and the excavation depths for pit delineation. After excavation to a depth of 17 – 22 feet, undisturbed

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of February 12, 2003

clay was observed below the 8-foot level assuring that waste would not be located below that level. However, an additional 2 feet will be excavated making a total excavation depth of 10 feet.

An announcement was made that Fort Detrick was nominated for an Army Environmental Award and secured the first runner-up position. A local press release is expected during the week of 17 February. Letterkenney Army Depot (LEAD), near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania received the top award for its accomplishments in the long-term cleanup of soil and groundwater at sites used in the 1940s for the maintenance, modification, storage and demilitarization of vehicles, missiles and ammunition. LEAD removed 14,300 tons of contaminated soil from scrap yards, landfills and storage area; and pursued advanced technologies to clean groundwater through three pilot programs testing the use of injecting hydrogen peroxide and other solutions into the groundwater's bedrock aquifer to identify contaminants and neutralize them.

It was also announced that the Pit 1 site would soon be made accessible to the media, city officials, and community members interested in seeing the area. It is planned that Phase 2 will have an 'Open House' prior to commencing excavation in the remaining pits. A significant increase in the science applications and technical equipment should generate great interest in the activities of Phase 2. It was particularly noted that the facility, its scientific efforts and approach to biological hazards is state-of-the-art and should be recognized as such. Most recent efforts identified a need for government and laboratories to test environmental threat agent bacteria. Identification of the harmful bacteria when mixed with normal bacteria is a very complicated process, which Fort Detrick is working to improve. Papers submitted to the Department of Defense to increase the worldwide capability of segregating threat-type bacteria from normal environmental bacteria, are currently under review.

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, April 16, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., at Fort Detrick.

12. Meeting Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of
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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)