

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Summary from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting,  
June 13, 2007

**1. Summary Contents**

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

<b>SUBJECT/ACTION TYPE</b>	<b>SECTION NUMBER</b>
Summary Contents	<b>1</b>
Attendees	<b>2</b>
Meeting Opening / Remarks	<b>3</b>
Area A Long-Term Monitoring	<b>4</b>
Area B Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study	<b>5</b>
Area B Disposal Sites	<b>6</b>
Area B Five Sites (Former Close-Out Sites)	<b>7</b>
Area B Groundwater	<b>8</b>
Upcoming Actions / Schedule	<b>9</b>
Open Comments	<b>10</b>
RAB Member Actions	<b>11</b>
Date of Next Meeting	<b>12</b>
Meeting Closing	<b>13</b>

## **2. Attendees**

### Members Present:

Colonel Mary Deutsch, Garrison Commander  
Colonel Donald Archibald, Director, SEIPO (Installation Co-Chair)  
Mr. James Eaton, Community Member  
Dr. Henry Erbes, Community Member  
Ms. Helen Miller-Scott, Community Member  
Dr. Gary T. Pauly Community Member  
Mr. Larry Bohn, Frederick County Health Department  
Ms. Sarah Maxwell, Fort Detrick Public Affairs  
Mr. Robert Craig, Chief, Environmental Management Office  
Mr. Douglas Scarborough, Restoration Oversight Mgr., U.S. Army Environmental Center  
Mr. Curtis DeTore, Maryland Department of Environment

### Others Present:

Mr. Keith Hoddinott, U.S. Army Environmental Center  
Mr. John Fairbank, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Mr. Butch Dye, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Hazardous Waste Program  
Mr. Hank Sokolowski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III  
Ms. Alicia Evangelista, Frederick County Health Department  
Ms. Jennifer Adkins, U.S. Army Garrison, Environmental Management Office  
Mr. Doug Mayles, U.S. Army Garrison, Environmental Management Office  
Mr. Mark Lewis, U.S. Army Garrison, Environmental Management Office  
Mr. Jeff Parks, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.  
Ms. Karol Hazard, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.

### Members Absent:

Ms. Linda Robinson, Community Member and Co-Chair  
Mr. Charles Billups, Community Member  
Mr. Daniel J. Patton, Community Member  
Mr. Gerald Toomey Community Member  
Mr. Craig Toussaint, Community Member  
Mr. Thomas Wade, Community Member  
Mr. Thomas Meyer, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
Mr. Paul Offutt, Program Manager, Frederick County Health Department  
Mr. Joe Gortva, Environmental Restoration Program Manager, SEIPO

## **3. Meeting Opening / Remarks**

Colonel (COL) Mary Deutsch convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, in Conference Room 3 at 810 Schreider Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland. The attendees introduced themselves. COL Mary Deutsch thanked everyone for coming.

COL Deutsch announced that Fort Detrick received notice on 2 May, 2007, from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III that EPA is proposing that Fort Detrick be placed on the National Priority List (NPL) and that the RAB members had been notified about EPA's proposal. The communication timeline for this issue is as follows:

- 2 May, 2007 – phone call notification from EPA regarding its proposal to place Fort Detrick on the NPL.
- 22 June, 2007 – response from the U.S. Army regarding EPA's proposal required from EPA.

COL Deutsch explained that it is currently in the notification stage and that the final action had not yet been determined. She added that Fort Detrick stands firm on its commitment to the environment and the health of the community, and the sustainment of the community, as well as the mission at Fort Detrick. She stated that she believes that Fort Detrick has an excellent program in place and that they have been executing it methodically according to the plan. COL Deutsch advised the RAB members that Fort Detrick will continue to keep them informed of the progress that is being made with respect to this new development.

Mr. Hank Sokolowski of EPA Region III added that NPL listings are not taken lightly and that they are done after careful thought and consideration. He stated that it is an academic process within the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act environment and that the evaluation is based on many factors. This is not the first time Region III has looked at the various factors that are going on at Fort Detrick and the rationale for the proposal. He said that MDE does not propose NPL listings, but rather it is a function of the federal department within EPA Region III, who dialogues, converses, and evaluates if there are factors that would have EPA reach a conclusion that an NPL listing is a possibility. He expressed that this is not an absolute and that there are a lot of things that are being discussed and much correspondence on the subject.

Mr. Butch Dye of EPA's Hazardous Waste Program added that they are currently putting together a Hazardous Ranking System package for Fort Detrick. He said that it is not truly proposed for the NPL until the announcement makes it on the Federal Register. COL Deutsch said that in reference to the dialogue that the gentlemen from EPA eluded that she was completely caught off by the 2 May phone call notification. She stated that since being involved with the RAB meetings beginning in 2005 that she didn't have any feeling that Fort Detrick was heading toward this route. She said that Fort Detrick had been executing a plan and thinking that they were nearing the end, going through the plan methodically with the regulators at the table with us. On 2 May, Fort Detrick was taken aback. Fort Detrick will continue to execute in the full faith and disclosure with our regulators and advisory board members. Safety and the sustainability of the Fort Detrick environmental mission and the community remain Fort Detrick's priority, while working with open communication and public trust.

#### **4. Area A Long-Term Monitoring**

Mr. Jeff Parks of Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc. presented information on the long-term monitoring of Area A groundwater. The groundwater is being monitored at the water towers (FTD 68), where lead paint was scraped from the towers and contaminated the surrounding soil. Land use controls are in place at the water towers, and the area is inspected semi-annually, with monitoring conducted in September 2006 and March 2007. No issues were noted during monitoring. There will be a Five-Year Review completed this summer to evaluate the selected remedy to ensure that it continues to be effective and protective.

Groundwater at Building 568, a TCE spill site (FTD 66) is also monitored, with sampling being conducted September 2006 and March 2007. TCE concentrations in the source area continue to decline. The concentrations in the groundwater sampled from all wells have been decreasing over time, with one exception. Well 568-15A, showed a slight increase in concentration of TCE from 3.8 micrograms/liter in March 2006 to 5.8 micrograms/liter in September 2006 to 7.1 micrograms/liter in March 2007. This falls above the MCL of 5 micrograms/liter and is significant because of this reason, but is also within the limits of variability for groundwater sampling. The well will be watched closely during future sampling efforts to see if there are further contaminant concentration changes. A Five-Year Review will also take place this summer at Building 568.

#### **5. Area B Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study**

Mr. Parks then presented a status update on the Fort Detrick Area B Remedial Investigation /Feasibility Study (RI/FS) including information about the former disposal sites, the five former close-out/no further action sites, and groundwater. The status of these sites is found below in sections 6 - 8.

#### **6. Area B Former Disposal Sites**

Area B-2 (FTD 50): The RI/FS was finalized in October 2006. The Proposed Plan for a landfill cap remedy was reviewed and commented on by MDE, with a draft final Proposed Plan being resubmitted to MDE and the RAB. The Proposed Plan is scheduled to be finalized in June 2007. A public meeting and comment period should occur later this summer. The Record of Decision is expected in fall 2007. The landfill cap is scheduled to be designed in fall/winter 2007 and installed in spring 2008.

Area B-6 (FTD69): The RI/FS was finalized in February 2007. The Proposed Plan for a landfill cap remedy and public comment period should occur in fall 2007. The Record of Decision, officially recording the selected remedy is expected in fall 2007. The landfill cap design is expected in fall/winter 2007, with the cap scheduled for installation in spring 2008.

Area B-3 (FTD 51): The RI/FS was submitted to MDE and the RAB for review. The Proposed Plan for a landfill cap remedy and public comment period are expected in fall 2007. The Record of Decision is scheduled to be released in fall 2007. The landfill cap design is planned for completion in fall/winter 2007, with the cap scheduled for installation in spring 2008.

Western Disposal Areas: The combined draft RI/FS for the Area B Western Disposal Areas including Area B-8, the trenches north of B-8, Area B-10, Area B-10 grove and Area B-11 was submitted to MDE and the RAB for review. The Proposed Plan, detailing a proposed landfill impermeable cover, and associated public comment period, and the Record of Decision should all be completed in fall 2007. The landfill cap design is scheduled for fall/winter 2007, and the installation of the cap is expected in spring 2008.

Area B-18 (FTD 70/Former Sinkhole): A draft Site Inspection Work Plan was reviewed by MDE in January 2007 and is currently being finalized. Field work expected to begin in July 2007. Surface metal debris will be removed and a geophysical investigation will be performed to verify that there is no waste or debris buried beneath the ground surface.

#### **7. Area B Five Sites (No Further Action/Former Close-Out Sites)**

Shaw finalized the RI Report in June 2007, which incorporated all five of the no further action/former close-out sites – B-Ammo, B-Grid, B-Skeet, B-20 North, and B-20 South. The investigation indicated that the sites pose no unacceptable risks to human health and the environment. Shaw is drafting a No Further Action Proposed Plan for public comment in summer 2007. A Decision Document calling for no further action at all five sites is expected in fall 2007.

#### **8. Area B Groundwater**

There has historically been little change in groundwater flow patterns within Area B. The water table is currently at an average level for the last 10 years of monitoring. Quarterly and semi-annual monitoring of Area B groundwater wells is conducted, with sampling recently occurring in September and December 2006 and in March 2007. Laboratory quality control issues prompted a partial re-sampling in May 2007. A new analytical laboratory will be used for the June 2007 sampling round. While the geometry of the chlorinated solvent contaminant plume is remaining constant, data from the latest sampling episodes indicates a continued decrease in concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) at well BMW37D, while two other wells, BMW31D and BMW24D, showed up and down fluxes in concentrations over the last three sampling events. The data also reveals that trichloroethylene (TCE) concentrations are remaining highest in the center or source area of the plume.

An Army – MDE meeting was held on 7 June, 2007 to discuss the path forward for Area B groundwater. MDE is concerned that the nature and extent of contamination has not been sufficiently determined given the difficult hydrogeologic (karst) environment within

Area B. The Army will present its existing data and interpretations, together with a proposed path forward for completion of the groundwater investigation, to MDE in a technical memorandum by August 2007.

## **9. Upcoming Actions / Schedule**

The following activities are expected:

### June 2007

- Finalize Area B-2 Proposed Plan
- Conduct Area B Periodic Sampling

### Summer 2007

- Finalize Area B-3 Inactive RI/FS
- Finalize Western Disposal Area (B-8/B-10/B-11) RI/FS
- Submit Area B Groundwater Technical Memorandum to MDE
- Finalize Proposed Plan for Area B Five No Further Action Sites
- Conduct Public Comment Period for Area B-2 and Area B Five No Further Action Sites
- Site Inspection/Geophysical Investigation at Area B-18
- CERCLA Five-Year Review for Area A Long-Term Monitoring Sites

## **10. Open Comments**

Dr. Henry Erbes, RAB member representing the local community, provided the following comment, requesting that he be quoted verbatim. Mr. Erbes stated, “One of the primary purposes of the RAB as stated in the charter is for the RAB members as individuals to give advice to the Army. That’s why it’s called the Restoration Advisory Board. As such, I am going to give the Army my individual advice. With the letter from EPA on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, basically you request that the Army sign a consent order by a certain date. My advice to the Army is prior to signing a consent order, the Army ought to request a sit-down with EPA and go over a preliminary Hazardous Ranking Score determination in excruciating detail. I would not sign a consent form until you have done that. That’s my advice. In fact, I would not negotiate anything else prior to going through a Hazardous Ranking Score determination first. I say that with a little bit of experience. Likewise, I would advise the Army – this is the local Army – don’t be shy to elevate this. If necessary, take this up to the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the EPA level. I say that again. I mean go all the way. If the EPA does not agree to this, let them do the Hazardous Ranking Score without you. I think it’s that important. If they won’t play on this game with doing the preliminary first, then let the process go/proceed. Do not sign a consent agreement unless they let you look at that first.”

## **11. RAB Member Actions**

The RAB members present were provided a CD containing the Area B-2 Proposed Plan for review and comment. Mr. Joe Gortva indicated he would send the RAB members an e-mail with the timeframe for completing this review, as well as an e-mail containing a copy of the Area B Five No Further Action Sites Proposed Plan for their review and comment with an associated review timeline.

Mr. Larry Bohn from the Frederick County Health Department, who has been a RAB member since its inception, is retiring. Ms. Alisha Evangelista will replace Mr. Paul Offutt, who has also retired, and Mr. Bohn on the RAB as the representative of the Frederick County Health Department.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

RAB meetings are generally held bimonthly on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Fort Detrick Building 810, Conference Room 3. The next RAB meeting was tentatively planned for mid-August 2007.

## **13. Meeting Closing**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:17 p.m.

Reviewed by:

Donald F. Archibald  
Colonel, US Army  
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved

Mary R. Deutsch  
Colonel, US Army  
Deputy Installation Commander

Enclosure:

Fort Detrick Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Status Update Slide Presentation

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Each RAB Member (w/o enclosure)

Each Meeting Attendee (w/o enclosure)