

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
December 18, 2002

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

Lieutenant Colonel Donald Archibald convened the meeting at 7:35 p.m., on Wednesday, December 18, 2002 in Conference Room 3, 810 Schreider Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland.

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of December 18, 2002

3. Attendance

Members Present:

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. Michael Kurtianyk, Community Member
Mr. Thomas Meyer, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Ms. Helen Miller-Scott, Community Member
Mr. Daniel Patton, Safety and Loss Control Manager, City of Frederick
Mr. Douglas Scarborough, Restoration Oversight Manager, US Army Environmental Center
Mr. Stewart Taylor, Community Member
Ms. Gyla Crutchfield, Analytical Services, Inc. (Recording Secretary)

Others Present:

Mr. Vincent Ceci, AKORN Consulting
Mr. Chuck Dasey, Public Affairs Officer, HQ USAMRMC
Mr. Michel Griben, AKORN Consulting
Mr. Joe Hurley, Local Resident
Mr. David Iseri, Shaw Environmental
Mr. William Kahl, Maryland Department of the Environment
Mr. Clint Kneten, US Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Doug Mayles, Analytical Services, Inc.
Mr. Gary Pauly, Local Resident
Mr. Bruce Ware, US Army Corps of Engineers

Members Absent:

Colonel John Ball, Commander, US Army Garrison, Fort Detrick
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. Paul Offutt, Program Manager, Frederick County Health Department
Mr. Dennis Orenshaw, US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region III
Ms. Linda Robinson, Community Member
Mr. Gerald P. Toomey, Community Co-Chairman
Mr. Craig Toussaint, Community Member
Mr. Thomas Wade, Community Member

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of December 18, 2002

4. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Lieutenant Colonel Don Archibald welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented a summarization of the agenda items for the evening. The presentation would include a status report of Area B-11 and Pit 1 excavation activities, which are 90 percent complete. Since the last update at the RAB meeting in October, the rate of vial recovery has dropped significantly. Approximately 20 partially deteriorated drums have been excavated, as well as 47 drum carcasses and soil, which have been removed and incinerated. Again, no lost time accidents have resulted in a spotless safety record on the project.

Approval from the Pentagon will be sought for going forward with the removal action for Pits 2 through 4. Although the funding is available, the amount exceeds a monetary cap. Therefore, regulatory approval must be obtained from a higher level.

Lieutenant Colonel Archibald then introduced Mr. Tom Meyer who made a slide and video presentation regarding 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. (Note: Enclosure 1 is dated December 11, the original scheduled date for the meeting, which was postponed due to inclement weather).

Mr. Meyer provided detailed information regarding the Area B-11 Pit 1 removal project status. The safety record has now surpassed 664 days accident-free. The perimeter of the pit has been probed to confirm the absence of any additional waste. With all waste removed from the pit, no additional excavation activities are expected. The freeze wall, which was powered off in mid-October, remains frozen in many areas. Samples taken from the bottom of the pit indicates no presence of TCE or PCE contamination. However, an additional study is being done on other semi-volatiles and items found in the pit. This information should be available in January after a series of technical meetings. Decontamination of the pit, containment structure and equipment will soon be started, with completion expected by early February. After the area is certified as clean, the containment structure will be disassembled and the area will be backfilled.

After an inquiry from the audience, Mr. Meyer advised that the source of the TCE/PCE, which they had hoped to find in Pit 1, was not located during the excavation and may, in fact, be found during excavation activities at the remaining pits.

The presentation continued with a Container Removal Summary indicating the amount of drums and vials found and removed, contents of those items, results of testing, and any other items located during the excavation activities. Sampling and testing is being performed by the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC). Pesticides, plastics, and polymers have been identified. Miscellaneous copper tubes and lab pipettes have been recovered and incinerated by Fort Detrick.

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of December 18, 2002

Mr. Meyer advised that the newly installed HEPA unit has passed all DOP testing and all HEPA filters are now in operation with no further production delays. He continued the presentation with a description of an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD), a required document due to process changes that have occurred since the Decision Document was originally agreed to in July 2000. Some of those significant differences included an increase in the volume of material to be excavated and disposed of, the finding of reactive and explosive materials, as well as biological wastes. Additional procedures were required for appropriate removal and disposal of the biological wastes. Lieutenant Colonel Archibald advised that this project was originally designed and appropriated for the excavation and removal of chemical waste. When the biological waste was located, it significantly impacted the activities and funding level. This document will provide the necessary background information to substantiate the funding increase. The ESD document is complete and is pending regulatory review, after which it will be included in the Administrative Record and will be made available to the public at both the Fort Detrick Library and the C. Burr Artz Library. Scheduling for Pit 1 excavation, backfill, equipment decontamination and confirmation sampling is set for April 2003 with funding available.

A status report was provided for Pits 2, 3, and 4. Regulators have provided verbal agreement that due to the shallow depth of about 8 feet, a freeze wall will not be required for the excavation activities to be conducted at these pits. Equipment is currently onsite and will approach the pit area from the side in order to get an evaluation of the pit contents and subsequent excavation required. The Army is performing an alternatives analysis, as an internal review document, to assure appropriate fund utilization. Five alternatives being considered include:

- 1 – No Action
- 2 – Surface Containment (RCRA Cap)
- 3 – Containment (RCRA Cap, Frozen Soil Barrier)
- 4 – Containment (RCRA Cap, Chemical Grout Barrier)
- 5 – Excavation and Off-Site Incineration

Additional information regarding the analysis was provided, with an expanded explanation for the determination that Alternative 5 is the preferred action. This alternative was planned in the original Decision Document, complies with NCP criteria, and is permanent. Lieutenant Colonel Archibald added that the state's hesitancy to consider alternatives 2 through 4 is because Fort Detrick has contamination migration posing a risk to groundwater. This situation requires either a 'hot spot' removal and a cap, or a barrier beneath the contamination, or the best option, which is complete removal. He pointed out that in the alternatives analysis document, it is obvious that Alternative 5 has the most positive comments. It is, however, also the most costly. From a public perception standpoint, the base feels strongly that removal of the contamination is in the best interest of both the post and the local population. The goal of this process was to remove the source of the groundwater contamination and follow on with cleaning up the groundwater. This was the path determined to follow and the path for which we are seeking funding approval.

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of December 18, 2002

Mr. Iseri added that many more options were reviewed both for Pit 1 and the remaining areas, but these five shown in the presentation were those determined to be most feasible.

Upon questioning by an attendee, Mr. Meyer explained that thermal alternatives were reviewed, but not considered as acceptable for Pit 1 since there were explosive materials present in the soil and characterization of the remaining pits has not yet been determined.

Setup for the excavation activities for Pits 2, 3, and 4 is scheduled for Winter 2003 with operations to begin during May and be completed in Fall 2003. An effort is being made to expedite authorization and release of funds from the Army. Approval on release of funds from USAEC is also awaited.

6. Area A Update

Mr. Meyer continued the presentation with the Area A Update. Completed since the October RAB meeting was the Semi-Annual Sampling Report of the sampling performed in May 2002. It was noted that the last sampling indicated no TCE present at the border of Area A. Mr. Meyer commented that the system is doing its environmental work along with some natural attenuation of the product in the groundwater.

7. Area B Update

Mr. Meyer presented a review and update on the documents for Area B. The Background Study Work Plan has been completed and will provide useful information to either close out other sites in Area B or to assist in deciding what actions should be taken. The November 2002 quarterly sampling was also completed since the last RAB meeting. This information is being validated and the results will be available for the next scheduled RAB meeting. Early indications are that Well 58D has a higher-than-usual contamination reading and further validation is necessary. There is no reason to think that any of the excavations conducted had any effect upon the reading, particularly in consideration of the freeze barrier.

8. Area B Water Levels

Mr. Meyer provided the groundwater data, which revealed a gain of approximately 0.5 foot since August 2002. It remains 6.5 to 7 feet lower compared to the 1997 measurements.

9. Area C Update

A risk assessment of the soils and groundwater is currently being finalized. Mr. Meyer advised that the final report is still on schedule to be completed during the winter of 2003.

It was asked if the developer of the property near Area B had provided any results from well testing as they had previously indicated they would do. Lieutenant Colonel Archibald advised

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of December 18, 2002

that he was aware that wells were drilled but the results of the sampling have not been received. A claim against the government has been filed, the validity of which is yet to be determined. Mr. Iseri indicated that he had been in communication with the consultant, who requested if soil background data was available (sampling is scheduled for the first week of January 2003). The consultant advised Mr. Iseri that the report would be made public record as soon as it is filed, but did not indicate if the information would be provided directly to any officials at Fort Detrick. Initially, the report will be submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and access to the report could be obtained by contacting the Environmental Restoration and Redevelopment Program, which includes the Voluntary Cleanup Program office of MDE. It was also noted that the report would probably be available with the City of Frederick Planning Commission. The consultant, identified as ENSAT, has participated in MDE's Voluntary Cleanup Program. Their sampling program and well installation process has been approved and evaluated by the state as being adequate, allowing them to go forward on the project.

Upon inquiry regarding funding, Lieutenant Colonel Archibald said that 8.6 million dollars has been set aside this fiscal year for the remediation effort. Fort Detrick will be presenting the decision document to officials at the Pentagon in hopes of obtaining the decision on funding. The timeliness of the decision will have an impact on the cost particularly if the contractor has to demobilize the site and either release workers or obtain a contract extension until a decision is made. The Army Environmental Center has released funds to insure personnel are available until a decision is obtained.

The planning for Pits 2, 3, and 4 will be based upon the findings at Pit 1, that is, a lessons-learned approach with safety procedures and setup will be followed. There exists a high level of confidence with the contractors and their experience locating small vials and other items in Pit 1, and those same procedures will be used, if given the funding authorization. Lieutenant Colonel Archibald stated Major General Martinez-Lopez is very interested in going forward with this project and will be certain to clearly express his opinion to the decision makers. It is felt that the technical knowledge and the weight of the Fort Detrick argument will be sufficient to get approval.

10. Community Co-Chairman Comments

Mr. Gerald Toomey was not in attendance.

11. Date/Agenda Items for Next Meeting

RAB meetings are held bimonthly on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., at Fort Detrick. Confirmation will be made with members who were absent this evening and communicated via electronic mail.

MCHD-SI

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of
December 18, 2002

12. Meeting Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 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

Enclosure:

1. Fort Detrick Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study

DISTRIBUTION:

Each RAB Member (w/o enclosure)

Each Meeting Attendee (w/o enclosure)