

Restoration Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2003

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met 7:00-8:00 p.m. October 21, 2003 at 407 Pershing Court, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Mr. Chuck Otte, Community Co-Chairperson, and Mr. B. Craig Phillips, Installation Co-Chairperson and Chief, Operations and Management Division, Directorate of Environment and Safety (DES), opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

Mr. Phillips began by introducing Mr. Bryant Burnett, the new United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representative. Mr. Burnett described his professional experience, including his positions with various state and federal agencies throughout the world.

Mr. Phillips requested a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Mr. Phillips asked if there were any additions or deletions to the current agenda. There were none.

Mr. Phillips asked for information regarding public comment documents. Mr. Oral Saulters, IRP Project Manager, stated that a cooperative effort between EPA, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Fort Riley had resulted in the addition of language to the draft final feasibility study (FS) for Marshall Army Airfield (MAAF). This language was intended to address concerns EPA had expressed in commenting on the document. Mr. Burnett had stated he expected to be able to provide concurrence on the FS soon. As KDHE had previously approved the FS, EPA concurrence will begin the development of the proposed plan (PP). The PP is expected in May 2004, and will be a public comment document.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Richard (Dick) Shields, IRP Project Manager, began with a short slide presentation to describe proposed work on the 354 Area Solvent Detection site. A meeting with regulators was held on September 5, 2003 to discuss the Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report for the 354 site. It was agreed at that meeting that the contamination near building 367 could and should be dealt with. It was later proposed by Fort Riley that a pilot study be done utilizing the Lang Tool Company "Deep Digger In-Situ Blender." The work plan includes using potassium permanganate as an oxidizing agent, injected into the upper 10 feet of soil, aerated by the blender. A core sample has just been taken from the contaminated area, which will allow a bench test to be done. The bench test will help determine the amount of permanganate to be injected. Dr. Shields

discussed the equipment that would be used to conduct the pilot study and showed a videotape from Lang Tool Company.

Mr. Otte asked if this operation was on schedule to be conducted. Mr. Phillips stated that money was still an issue since funds have not yet been allocated by the Army Environmental Center. The Corps of Engineers cannot solicit or issue a contract until funds are allocated. The action had to be changed from an Interim Removal Action to a pilot study under the Remedial Investigation (RI) phase. Only enough money has been received to pay for the work plan of the pilot study. DES will continue to request upper levels of the Army to get money released to pay for this operation. Dr. Shields expressed his concern that the equipment might not be available when the funds arrive, delaying the work. Mr. Otte expressed concern for the ability of the work to proceed after winter weather sets in. Dr. Shields echoed that concern.

Mr. Phillips and Dr. Shields then mentioned that as the potassium permanganate moves through the soil and contacts the groundwater, it would be carried through the contamination plume. It should eventually clean the wells located well south of the 367 area, including those near the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (now called the Civilian Human Resource Center). The potassium permanganate itself is not be considered a contaminant.

Mr. Phillips stated that current plans call for this operation to be started on or about November 19, 2003. Dr. Shields stated that interested individuals could log on to the Internet and visit the manufacturer's website to view information and criteria from different sites where similar work has already been completed.

PROJECT UPDATES

Dr. Shields gave additional information on the 354 project, stating the draft final work plan should be submitted to the regulators on November 6, 2003. Dr. Shields then discussed the Open Burning/Open Detonation site. The Burns and McDonnell Company is developing a technical memorandum with the intent to pull all the past, disassociated information together. A round of samples will be taken as well. KDHE has requested that it be allowed to sample for perchlorate and dioxin. Dr. Shields then explained that we will have to get permission from the Office of the Director of Environmental Programs (ODEP) at the Department of Army level. Criteria which must be met include 1) a historic presumption of use, and 2) a potential pathway for the contaminant to impact human health or the environment. A list of pyrotechnics and munitions that use or contained perchlorate makes tracking the compound easier. We do not have rockets and other similar propelled weapons that normally contain significant quantities of this chemical.

Mr. Weber stated that several locations in Kansas have perchlorate contamination. This chemical is known to affect the human thyroid system, but the overall impact on human health is still unknown. KDHE has been collecting

perchlorate samples from surface and ground water, as well as from grazing cattle. The concern is that perchlorate is persistent, mobile, and will move with groundwater. Due to the fact that long-term effects on human health are unknown, considerable testing will continue through this evolving operation.

Mr. Saulters stated that sampling of the groundwater wells at Marshall Army Airfield was completed in September with a split sample taken by KDHE. Samples indicated that groundwater from three wells continue to be above stated Maximum Contaminant Levels. The boundary survey underway at the Meinhardt property found that additional landowners may be involved, which will further complicate the potential purchase of the property.

Mr. Shimp addressed the group in reference to the Dry Cleaning Facilities Area monitoring. Two new wells, numbered 50a and 50c, were drilled and sampled, and no contaminants were detected. Most of the work on the RI phase should be completed by May 2004 and the report will be submitted to federal and state regulators. The feasibility study then will be initiated after acceptance of the RI Report Addendum.

Ms. Austin commented that Camp Funston's groundwater fall samples recently were completed. The results have not been returned to date. Past reports have shown little or no contamination in this area. Sampling now will begin concentrating on metals and semi-volatile compounds. The Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant Tank Farm is scheduled for sampling this fall (November 3, 2003). The passive/active system work has been suspended due to the fact that the free product (i.e. fuel) is below the operating level of the recovery equipment. There is approximately one foot of free product remaining in the active well that will be manually bailed until clean.

Mr. Otte asked if there was a standard for determining when it is safe to cap a well after sampling reveals acceptable levels of banned material. Ms. Austin stated there was no set period of time or standard, but that the DES will make the decision and contact the regulatory partners and negotiate closure. Dr. Shields then stated the DES may cap some wells to reduce the sampling of 354 wells, but will retain enough wells to serve as a sentinel to monitor the area. If sampling contaminant levels increase, the monitoring protocol will be re-evaluated.

Dr. Shields stated that DES spends about \$160,000.00 per year for overall sampling, and that only a small amount of lead and arsenic has been detected in most recent 354 area samples. The DES will continue to monitor wells to ensure there is not increased lateral or horizontal dispersion of the contaminants into groundwater. Wells will continue to be monitored at the outside limits of the contaminated area where readings are obtained.

Mr. Otte asked if the installation needed to maintain these wells to ensure “nothing slips through the fence.” Dr. Shields replied that DES would keep 15 to 18 wells open for monitoring and sampling.

Mr. Otte asked if the construction of the perimeter fence has caused any impact on DES job performance. Mr. Phillips stated that although the construction is quite extensive, there was only one area of fence construction that may cause access problems; the trail to the Republic River bank stabilization structure may be blocked. An inquiry with Mr. Dave Jones, DES NEPA Coordinator was conducted, and it was determined that 16-foot gates will be placed approximately every 3000 feet to facilitate entry if necessary. Only the Explosive Ordnance Detachment may be affected when they come to inspect for or detonate unexploded ordnance on the Republican River.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

There were no questions.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be conducted on from 7:00-8:30 p.m. January 20, 2004 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at 407 Pershing Court, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Mr. Phillips and Mr. Otte adjourned the meeting.

Meeting handouts included:

October Agenda

July Meeting Minutes

354 Update slides

Table of RAB Member attendance at the last four meetings: “P” signifies the member was present at the meeting, “EA” signifies an excused absence, and “UA” signifies an unexcused absence.

RAB Members		Oct 21, 03	Jul 29, 03	Apr 15, 03	Jan 21, 03
1.	B. Craig Phillips	P	P	P	P
2.	Chuck Otte	P	P	EA	P
3.	Bryant Burnett	P	N/A	N/A	N/A
4.	Rob Weber	P	P	P	P
5.	Harry Hardy	UA	P	P	P
6.	Alok Bhandari	UA	UA	P	EA
7.	Larry Denver	EA	P	EA	P
8.	Wayne Henson	P	P	P	P
9.	Steve Higgins	P	UA	P	UA
10.	Irwin Hoogheem	P	P	P	P
11.	Leslie Jamka	UA	P	P	P
12.	Peter Kulakow	UA	P	UA	EA
13.	Florence Whitebread	P	P	EA	P

IRP Members attendees at October 21, 2003 meeting:

Richard Shields
 Oral Saulters
 John Shimp
 Andrea Austin
 Carin Richardson

Non RAB member attendees at October 21, 2003 meeting:

James Hill
 Mark Otterstatter