

**Former Williams Air Force Base (AFB)
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Meeting Minutes**

November 16, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Highland High School
4301 E. Guadalupe Rd.
Gilbert, AZ

Attendees:

Ms. Michelle Lewis	Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE)/Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator (BEC)/Air Force Co-Chair RAB Community Co-Chair
Mr. Len Fuchs	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Remedial Project Manager
Mr. Andre Chiaradia	ADEQ
Mr. Adam Mohamed	ADEQ
Mr. Don Atkinson	Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) Public Affairs Officer
Ms. Linda Geissing	AFRPA
Ms. Susan Wolbarst	RAB Member/Mesa
Ms. Beverly Selvage	RAB Member/Gila River Indian Community
Mr. Dale Anderson	RAB Member/Mesa
Mr. Scott Bouchie	RAB Member/Arizona State University (ASU) Polytechnic
Ms. Jean Humphries	RAB Member/Queen Creek
Mr. James Holt	RAB Member/Queen Creek
Mr. Thom Schuett	RAB Member/Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport
Mr. Dennis Orr	RAB Member/Gilbert
Ms. Lisa Gerdl	RAB Member/ASU student rep
Mr. Matt Fesko	Community Member/Gilbert
Mr. Paul Cooper	Community Member/Gilbert
Ms. Patsy Lawrence	Community Member/Gilbert
Mr. Doug Lawrence	Community Member/Gilbert
Ms. Kathy Rall	Community Member/Gilbert
Mr. Doug Ashline	Community Member/Gilbert
Dana Koziel	Community Member/Power Ranch Community Assoc.
Mr. Glen Smith	Community Member/Power Ranch
Mr. Alan Ruffalo	Community Member/Power Ranch
Ms. Lori Kluck	Community Member/ASU student
Ms. Amber Cargile	Cargile Communications, LLC
Mr. Jay Harbin	URS Corp.
Ms. Janet Workman	URS Corp.
Ms. Rachel Donigan	BEM Systems
Mr. Charles Helms	Booz Allen Hamilton

Mr. Fuchs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and RAB members and attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Fuchs introduced the RAB's Air Force Co-Chair, Ms. Michelle Lewis. The RAB approved the August 2010 meeting minutes without changes. Ms. Lewis began the main presentation with updates of major environmental remediation actions.

First, Ms. Lewis and Mr. Harbin provided a program update on the Site Inspection and Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) Investigation at the Parcel N Debris Area (PNDA), which is located on the south border of the former base. Mr. Harbin discussed the history and timeline of the MEC Investigation, which began with a first phase in January 2010 and resulted in confirmation of the presence of inert munitions debris at the site and recommended an expanded follow-on investigation.

Due to this finding, in February 2010, the Air Force installed a security fence around PNDA. In July and August 2010, URS performed a second, expanded phase of MEC Investigation at the site. During this second phase, Mr. Harbin said URS discovered two blasting caps and approximately 20 small fragments of bulk explosives (similar to TNT) and glass from chemical agent identification sets (CAIS). One 3.5-oz. CAIS bottle and pieces of six other bottles were found. The second phase of the investigation was able to narrow down the affected area to approximately three acres and the Air Force erected a second interior fence around that site.

Mr. Harbin explained that during the second phase of the MEC Investigation, URS excavated two test trenches (17-21 feet long and 7-8 feet deep) and collecting shallow soil samples. He said the test trenches were excavated in an area that was suspected to be a possible former trash pit. The area was depressed and contained wooden pallets that appeared to be partially buried. No debris was below the pallets in the trenches. Several soil samples were collected from within the trenches and no chemicals of concern (COCs) were identified. Mr. Harbin said other soil samples were collected elsewhere on the site near debris. One sample, taken from one foot beneath a lead-acid battery, contained lead and antimony concentrations above state remediation levels (SRLs). He said this was the only sample that contained COCs above SRLs.

Mr. Anderson asked if an archaeologist was present on site when URS tested the trenches during the second phase of the MEC Investigation. Mr. Harbin said an archaeologist was present during the excavations, but found no cultural resources. However, he added that during the first phase of the MEC Investigation, approximately 160 pottery shards were collected and were curated by the Arizona Historic Preservation Office. Mr. Cooper asked how deep the shards were found. Mr. Harbin said all shards were located on the surface of the soil.

Mr. Ruffalo asked how this investigation relates to the plume near the landfill that was briefed at a previous RAB meeting. Mr. Harbin showed the location on the map where the trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE) plumes are located at site LF004, the former base landfill. Mr. Ruffalo asked what a downgradient well is. Mr. Harbin explained that groundwater changes depth/elevation as it flows through soils and so sampling wells are placed downgradient (or “down stream” so to speak) from the plume to test groundwater as it flows away from the plume. Mr. Ruffalo asked if PCE is the same as PCB and related to jet fuel. Mr. Harbin said the contaminants at the landfill are PCE and TCE, which are solvents, not fuel components, but are often found around industrial sites such as airports because they were used to clean engines.

Mr. Ruffalo asked if any TCE or PCE was discovered off the site near the landfill. Mr. Harbin said URS worked with the City of Mesa to gain easement access off the former base boundary and subsequently bored three samples off the site near the landfill. One sample had detectable levels of PCE/TCE below the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). He added that the Air Force has programmed the budget to install nine off-site wells south of the landfill to test for COCs such as TCE and PCE related to the landfill. Mr. Ruffalo asked if the clay level located deep below ground provides a barrier to the deep water aquifer in the area. Mr. Harbin said it does.

Ms. Lewis said the Air Force will submit the draft Phase 2 MEC Investigation report to regulators later in the month for review. Additionally, she said in October 2010, the Air Force funded URS to conduct a third phase of the MEC investigation, which will cover the entire enclosed three-acre site. URS expects to begin the third phase of the MEC investigation in March 2011. Additionally, the Air Force has added new No Trespassing signs in both English and Spanish on the fence around the PNDA site.

Next, Mr. Harbin provided an update on Site ST035, the former base service station and underground storage tank (UST) site located on the ASU Polytechnic campus. He said the Air Force began operating a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system at the site in October 2010, and he noted several RAB members participated in a tour of the site in November to see the new system operating. Mr. Harbin said the thermal oxidizer on the SVE system is destroying nearly 99.9% of hydrocarbon vapors being pulled from the soils at the site.

Mr. Ruffalo asked what overall percentage of the total contamination is being destroyed. Mr. Harbin said URS has modeled estimates on the total mass of contaminants at the site but it is difficult to say how much total contamination there is. Mr. Ruffalo asked if fumes, not gasoline, are being removed and if the gasoline is being left in the soil. Mr. Harbin explains that gasoline is a volatile compound and that almost all of gasoline volatilizes into vapors. Thus, by extracting the vapors out of the soil, you are able to capture most of the gasoline. Ms. Workman added that approximately 80% of volatilized gasoline can be captured through SVE, and the remaining amount in the soil would not present a health risk requiring additional cleanup, under regulatory standards.

Mr. Harbin added that the primary chemical of concern in gasoline is benzene, and benzene is highly volatile and almost completely evaporates, so its vapors are the easiest to clean almost completely with SVE technology. Ms. Geissinger added that the ST035 fact sheet that was handed out to meeting attendees has a graphic representation of air pockets between soil particles and how vapors are extracted.

Mr. Ruffalo asked how far east the gasoline has migrated at Site ST035. Mr. Harbin said they are not sure how far it extends in soils, but that groundwater has been impacted northeast of the building complex. He added that additional step-out testing is planned for the site. Mr. Fesko asked if there is air quality monitoring in the ASU academic complex that sits on the site. Mr. Harbin said ASU would need to answer that question. Others in the audience commented that fresh air probably cycles through the building as part of its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified criteria.

Mr. Harbin provided the final environmental update of the evening on the long-term monitoring (LTM) being conducted for sites ST035 (the former base service station), ST012 (the former liquid fuels storage area) and LF004 (the former base landfill). He said the Air Force will submit the 2010 groundwater monitoring reports to regulators in January 2011 and the Air Force will brief the RAB on the results at the next RAB meeting.

Ms. Lewis then discussed the 2011 Five Year Review for the former base. She said the Five Year Review is a federal requirement. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for reviewing cleanup actions and remedies at Superfund sites at least every five years where hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants will remain on site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. Five-year reviews provide an opportunity to evaluate the implementation and performance of a remedy to determine whether it remains

protective of human health and the environment. She said the Air Force has contracted URS to conduct the Five-Year Review for Williams A.F.B. The Air Force will submit the report to EPA, which has the responsibility for determining the protectiveness of the remedy. EPA is also responsible for preparing an annual report to Congress on the findings of these reviews. Ms. Cargile said that community members and stakeholders are interviewed as part of the Five Year Review process. She said if anyone is interested in participating in the 30-minute interviews, to please see her after the meeting. She will be working w/ URS to conduct the interviews in December and January. Mr. Harbin added that the draft Five Year Review report is expected to be complete by the second quarter of 2011.

Next, Ms. Lewis provided a contracting update for the former Williams Air Force Base. She discussed the contracts being funded for the new fiscal year and also explained the transition to a Performance-Based Remediation (PBR) contract at Williams. She said the PBR contract is expected to be awarded in the second quarter of 2011, will include 13 sites at the former base (eight active sites and five only requiring Five-Year Review). The duration of the contract will be 9.5 years. She said under the PBR, the Air Force is still in charge of the cleanup and will be managing the project, but that it provides one large contract with clearly identified performance standards and milestones, designed to keep the project on time and bring in new and creative solutions via the bid proposals.

Mr. Ruffalo asked which contractors are eligible to compete for the PBR. Ms. Lewis said competition is open to any Worldwide Environmental Restoration & Construction (WERC) contractor.

Ms. Lewis briefed that in addition to site cleanup operations, the PBR contractor will be tasked with implementing the 2011 Five Year Review and preparing the 2016 Five Year Review, providing Base Realignment and Closure and RAB meeting support, as well as working toward a partial delisting of Williams from the National Priority List (NPL).

Mr. Holt asked how the Air Force can consider NPL partial delisting when groundwater is moving on the site and contaminants may be migrating. Ms. Lewis said that sites still under investigation would not be delisted, but that there are plenty of clean areas on the base that are not environmentally impacted and yet fall under the NPL. She said of 4,000 acres on the base, more than 95% has been transferred. She said it is usually in the community's best interest to de-list the clean sites and remove the stigma from them, while continuing long-term monitoring and working on the sites that require investigation and cleanup.

Mr. Holt commented that rising groundwater at the site could mean that a spot that is clean now might not be clean in the future. He said delisting it and leaving it concerns him. Mr. Harbin said that SVE treatment of the soils means that if groundwater rises or moves through the site, there are no contaminants to liberate from the soil. He added that sites that are closed still have regulatory restrictions attached to them, such as requirements for long-term monitoring to regularly test the site to ensure conditions have not changed. Mr. Mohamed added that when regulatory agencies close a site, they reserve the right to reopen the site if there are changes in the future or concerns. He said that the history never goes away. Ms. Lewis said that the Air Force always retains responsibility, regardless of whether the site is de-listed, and that protecting human and health and the environment are always the primary concern.

Ms. Lewis provided an update on property transfer at the former base. Three sites remain to be transferred: Parcel N (including the landfill), Site SS016 (the former electroplating and chemical cleaning facility) and Site SS017 (the former pesticide shop).

Ms. Cargile noted no action items taken from the meeting and no topics were suggested for the next meeting. Ms. Lewis thanked the RAB for attending. Mr. Fuchs adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The next Williams RAB meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., at Highland High School.

Attachment:
November 2010 RAB meeting slide presentation