

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

**May 15, 2012, 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
Mr. Len Fuchs	RAB Community Co-chair/Gilbert resident
Mr. Scott Johnston	AFRPA Public Affairs/ Napkin Communications
Ms. Mary Hall	AFRPA Public Affairs/Napkin Communications
Mr. Andre Chiaradia	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)
Mr. Geoff Watkin	Booz Allen Hamilton
Mr. Don Atkinson	ADEQ
Mr. Don Smallbeck	AMEC
Harry Hendler	ADEQ
Mr. Glenn Stark	Gila River Indian Community
Mr. Jim Holt	RAB Member/Queen Creek resident
Ms. Pat Tennant	Arizona State University Real Estate Development
Mr. Steve Hunter	Arizona State University, Environmental Health and Safety
Mr. John Meyer	City of Mesa Environmental Sustainability Division
Ms. Julie Hamilton	AMEC
Mr. Everett Wessner	AMEC

Mr. Fuchs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. The RAB approved the February 2012 meeting minutes without changes.

Mr. Johnston reviewed action items from the February RAB meeting.

Program Updates for UST 1114, FT002, SS017, LF004, ST035 and ST012

Mr. Wessner began the presentation (see attached presentation slides), which focused on summarizing each of the cleanup sites at the former Williams Air Force Base.

UST 1114

Mr. Wessner stated that a soil sampling work plan for site closure were approved by ADEQ on March 27, 2012. Field work to achieve site closure was accomplished in April. The fieldwork involved collecting soil samples in the tank hold area and confirming that there was no contamination detected above levels allowing for unrestricted use. Based on the sampling results, site closure with unrestricted reuse is anticipated. Closure documents are being prepared for ADEQ review and site closure is expected in late 2012.

FT002

Mr. Wessner stated that a work plan is in process for the site and is scheduled to be submitted to regulatory agencies in June 2012. Pending regulatory approval field work will begin in September and will focus on soil and soil vapor sampling to update site conditions. Current data suggest that the site is suitable for unrestricted closure, but confirmation sampling is needed. Provided that sampling results allow for unrestricted use, site closure documents should be completed in December 2012 and regulatory approval is anticipated by spring 2013.

Mr. Holt asked if there was surface contamination at the site. Mr. Wessner responded that surface soil associated with the burn pits was excavated and disposed of site and that bioventing and soil vapor extraction was done in the shallow soils to remove residual contaminants. Sampling is being done now at deeper levels to make sure there is not a remaining problem.

SS017

Mr. Wessner stated that dieldrin was detected at three of four wells sampled in August 2011. In one of the wells, dieldrin was detected above the regulatory screening level. Resampling one the one well was done in February 2012 and the result remained above the screening level. Mr. Wessner added that it will be necessary to continue monitoring and see if the rising groundwater table is causing dieldrin to mobilize in the groundwater. Dieldrin concentrations in groundwater have remained stable near the source area over the last five years. The next sampling will take place in August 2012. A Draft Record of Decision for the site cleanup remedy (monitoring and, if needed, land use controls) is currently under regulatory review.

LF004

Mr. Wessner stated that in November 2011, 49 wells were sampled and results were similar to past events. The groundwater plume has remained stable. Perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) are the only contaminants found above Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) and Arizona Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS). PCE exceeded standards in 15 wells and TCE exceeded standards in 14 wells.. In January 2012, five new groundwater monitoring wells were installed off-site, south of the landfill in the City of Mesa right-of-way on East Pecos Road: two in the shallow zone, two in the middle zone, and one in the deep zone. No PCE or TCE was found above the MCL/AWQS standards.

Mr. Wessner stated that the groundwater results indicate slowly decreasing concentrations of PCE and TCE in hot spot areas and the plume appears stable. The next groundwater sampling event will be in May 2012. Mr. Holt asked how long the new wells will be monitored. Mr. Wessner responded that the wells will be monitored throughout the remedy.

Mr. Stark asked if there has been any sampling done for vertical gradient and is there cross contamination?

Mr. Smallbeck responded that there has been some sampling for vertical gradients in the remedial investigation and Mr. Watkin stated that water levels are regularly monitored in multiple vertical intervals to evaluate the potential for vertical gradients. Although the potential for a vertical gradient has been observed, the presence of a regional silt and clay layer (discontinuous) below the upper geologic unit (Upper Unit) appears to have prevented vertical migration to the Middle Unit in the area of LF004. The methods used for well installation and construction prevent cross contamination. There has been lateral and vertical migration of contaminants in the Upper Unit but contaminants were not detected in wells placed in the deeper Middle Unit.

Mr. Wessner pointed out that a focused feasibility study to address the PCE and TCE in groundwater and source locations will be submitted to ADEQ/EPA in June. A proposed plan/public comment period will take place in winter 2012/2013 with the record of decision scheduled to be issued in the spring of 2013. The remedial design/remedial action phase will be in the fall of 2013. Mr. Wessner stated that by the end of 2013 the cleanup remedy should be in the ground and operational.

Mr. Smallbeck stated that once started, the remedial action will take three to four years to complete.

ST035

Mr. Wessner stated that in November 2011 a sampling event took place at all 13 wells. Benzene exceeded the AWQS/MCL standard in three wells at the site. Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), 1,2-dibromoethane (EDB) and/or 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA), all additives to gasoline, exceeded regulatory levels in a total of five wells. Throughout 2011, the concentration of benzene decreased.

In the February 2012 sampling event, only one well exceeded the benzene standard, four wells exceeded the 1,2-DCA standard and the concentrations have continued to decrease significantly since 2010. Toluene, xylenes, MTBE and EDB are all below AWQS/MCL standards in all wells.

A groundwater characterization work plan was submitted to ADEQ in April and the next quarterly sampling is scheduled for May 2012.

Mr. Holt asked what caused the reduction. Mr. Wessner explained that the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system that has been operating for several years is removing the source contamination from the soil, and thus preventing it from going into the groundwater.

From October to December 2011, the SVE system had a 99.86 percent operational uptime and removed 1700 gallons of contaminants. From January to March 2012 it had 92 percent operational uptime and removed 742 gallons of contaminants. A total of six wells have been taken off line from October 2011 to March 2012 because they were no longer removing contaminants. Seven wells continue to operate.

A total of 15,000 gallons of contaminants have been removed since inception of the SVE system in October 2010.

Mr. Wessner pointed out that the corrective action work plan for addressing groundwater contamination in the source area is under ADEQ review and installation of an in-well air stripping well to remove contaminants from groundwater is scheduled for this fall.

ST012

Mr. Wessner stated that of the 28 wells sampled in November 2011, seven wells exceeded regulatory standards for benzene, three wells exceed the standard for ethyl benzene and toluene, and five wells exceeded the standard for naphthalene.

The distribution of benzene in the Upper Water Bearing Zone (UWBZ)/Cobble Zone was less extensive and lower in concentration than 2010. The distribution of benzene in the Lower Saturated Zone (LSZ) has remained approximately the same since November 2010. The next groundwater sampling event is scheduled for November 2012.

Mr. Wessner stated that this is another site where an SVE system is operating. From October to December 2011, the system operated at 73.65 percent uptime which resulted in the removal of 4,018 gallons of petroleum hydrocarbons (PHC).

From January to March 2012, the system operated at 84 percent uptime and removed 3,339 gallons of PHC.

Mr. Wessner stated that automatic system shutdowns had resulted from equipment issues and efforts are being made to raise the runtime percentage.

The system was switched to catalytic mode in January which uses 50 percent less fuel.

Approximately 250,000 gallons of PHC have been removed to date. SVE performance monitoring will take place in May 2012. A groundwater containment study is ongoing and the January to March 2012 results will be presented at the next RAB. A focused feasibility study addressing the groundwater remedy should be submitted to the ADEQ/EPA this May to be followed by a proposed plan/public comment period scheduled for fall 2012.

A record of decision is scheduled for spring 2013 and remedial design/remedial action will follow in the fall 2013.

Intended Disposition of Human Remains from Parcel N Debris Area

Ms. Lewis presented information regarding the intended disposition of human remains from the Parcel N Debris Area. The removal will be regulated by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, administered by the National Parks Service.

Human remains were found at the site in August and September of 2011. The remains were transported to a secure location in accordance with guidance provided by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Gila River Indian Community.

Shared group identity can be traced between remains and the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Hopi Tribe. These communities agreed that it was appropriate to transfer the remains to the Gila River Indian Community. Based on public notices placed in local newspapers, other tribes may claim ownership or control of the human remains from April 18, 2012 to May 29, 2012.

Contracting Update

Ms. Lewis provided an update on contracting issues

Ms. Lewis stated that the MRS XU403 site is outside the base-wide performance based remediation contract. A chemical agent found at the site was addressed by a response action that was discussed at the November 2011 RAB meeting. Since the chemical agent was found on site, further clearance and cleanup of the site has been turned over to the Army Corps of Engineers. The Army will put out a proposal for bids to get the project awarded. That contract will also be a performance based remediation, which means that it will have an end point that they need to reach; in this case the goal is no further action. The project will complete munitions and chemical clearance of the area.

For program scope that is included in the PBR contract, Ms. Lewis added that URS should complete the transitioning of their activities to AMEC by the end of June or the first of July.

Meeting Wrap-up

That concluded the information portion of the evening.

Mr. Stark asked if 1,4 dioxane has been sampled for at LF004. Ms. Lewis stated the question be added as an action item.

No other topics were suggested for the next meeting. Ms. Lewis thanked the RAB for attending and Mr. Fuchs adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m. The next Williams RAB meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at Highland High School.

Attachments:

May 2012 RAB meeting slide presentation

Action Items

May 20, 2012 – Mr. Glenn Stark: Has LF 0004 ever been sampled for 1,4 dioxane?

Date, Response: No, sampling and analysis for 1,4-dioxane in groundwater at the former Williams AFB has not been conducted. There has not been a requirement or identified basis for sampling and analysis of 1,4-dioxane in groundwater at the former Williams AFB. (DRAFT RESPONSE)