



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 95TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)  
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE CALIFORNIA**

15 November 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: 95 ABW/CEVR

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Environmental Restoration Program, Restoration Advisory Board  
(RAB) Meeting, 17 May 2012

1. Time: 1740
2. Place: California City, California
3. Chairman: Mr. Bruce Davies, North Edwards Public Representative/Public Co-chair
4. The following RAB members were present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Col Amy Arwood	Air Force Co-chair
Mr. Kevin Depies	California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Remedial Project Manager (RPM)
Mr. Ai Duong	Edwards Air Force Base (AFB) RPM
Mr. Bill Gaddis	Rosamond Public Representative
Mr. Jessie Gray	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Public Representative
Dr. Joseph Healy, Jr.	United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) RPM
Mr. Milton McKay	Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Public Representative
Mr. Tim Post	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) RPM
Ms. Jocelyn Swain	Lancaster Public Representative
Mr. Victor Yaw	Mojave Public Representative

5. The following members were absent:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Mr. Marvin Crist	Lancaster Public Representative (Alternate)
Mr. James Ricks	U.S. EPA RPM
Mr. John Steude	LRWQCB RPM
Dr. Leslie Uhazy	Rosamond Public Representative (Alternate)
Ms. Brenda Weems-Hunter	Edwards AFB South Base Public Representative
Vacant	Boron Public Representative
Vacant	California City Public Representative

Vacant	Edwards AFB Housing Public Representative
Vacant	Edwards AFB Main Base Air Base Wing Public Representative
Vacant	Edwards AFB Main Base Test Wing Public Representative
Vacant	Edwards AFB North Base Public Representative

6. The following advisors were present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Mr. Ranney Adams	AFRL Det 7/SEE
Ms. Viola Cooper	U.S. EPA
Ms. Patrice Hallman	95 ABW/CEVR
Mr. Gary Hatch	95 ABW/PA
Mr. Tom Merendini	95 ABW/CEVR
Mr. Paul Schiff	95 ABW/CEVR
Mr. Warren Seidel	AFFTC/JA
Dr. Stephen Watts	95 ABW/CEVR

7. Others present were as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Mr. Todd Battey	AECOM
Ms. Adria Bodour	Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE)
Mr. Tom Doriski	FPM
Ms. Sarah Grossi	AECOM
Ms. Patti Kumazawa	JT3/CH2M HILL (Recorder)
Ms. Leilani Richardson	JT3/CH2M HILL

8. Mr. Davies read the *Statement of Purpose and Conduct*.

9. Mr. Hatch introduced Mr. Gray, the new NASA public representative.

10. Mr. Davies presented the 17 November 2011 RAB meeting minutes for acceptance. The minutes were accepted as presented. Mr. Post asked if his comments had been incorporated. Ms. Richardson said they had been.

11. New Business – *South AFRL Five-Year Review* (attachment 1). Mr. Duong explained that every five years the Air Force has to go back and review remediation activities to see if they are still protective of human health and the environment. He said the Air Force would have to deliver the review to the regulators before the end of the year and introduced Ms. Hallman.

a. Ms. Hallman explained the South AFRL is the area near the security gate. In 2007, the Record of Decision was signed for the South AFRL areas. The U.S. EPA requires a review of remedies at least every five years at sites where hazardous substances remain above a level of

acceptable risk. Edwards is conducting this Five-Year Review. The U.S. EPA will review the protectiveness determination and either concur or develop their own determinations.

b. Ms. Hallman pointed out the containment zone and vapor intrusion compliance boundary on a map. She also discussed the groundwater monitoring program that confirms the groundwater contamination does not leave the containment zone, and the Land Use Controls that have been implemented at South AFRL.

c. Mr. Davies asked if there is an active fault in the area.

d. Ms. Hallman said there are no seismic faults in the South AFRL; however, there are some further east.

e. Mr. Gaddis asked about the timing of the community involvement – would it happen in September? Ms. Hallman said an e-mail had gone out to the RAB and ads were placed in local newspapers. Community involvement for a Five-Year Review is different from a Proposed Plan review. Typically, for a five-year review, a public notice may be put in the local paper at the start and the completion of the Five-Year Review.

f. Mr. Gaddis asked if the vapor intrusion testing program would be included in the document. Ms. Hallman said results would be summarized.

g. Mr. Depies asked if the draft could be made available to the RAB members for review. Ms. Hallman said the Air Force is following the U.S. EPA guidance. It is structured so that public input is included in the draft document.

h. Mr. Depies said he would like to see public input into the draft. Ms. Hallman responded that the public can offer input to the document through the interview process. Mr. Gaddis said he is interested in the process and understanding how that works.

i. Col Arwood asked what the purpose of the review report was. Ms. Hallman said the purpose is a structured review per U.S. EPA guidance. It examines whether the Land Use Controls are being managed and whether there are concerns about that or technical issues regarding Remedial Action Objectives.

j. Mr. Davies asked if the review's purpose is to evaluate if Air Force is meeting the objectives of the plan. Ms. Hallman said the review is very rigorous.

k. Mr. Depies said in a nutshell the purpose of the document is to see if the remedy is still protective after five years. It's also an opportunity to look at any new information. The regulators review it on behalf of the public. And the public will get an opportunity to see it.

l. Mr. Post said the regulatory agencies will review the data to ensure the risk has not changed. They will ensure there are no completed exposure pathways.

m. Dr. Healy said one of the key parts of the remedy regarding vapor was that the Air Force would check buildings periodically to see if conditions had changed. Dr. Healy said the U.S. EPA will check to see if a program is in place to monitor this. He said the U.S. EPA knows the

Air Force is doing this. If there is a new issue, that would require an amendment to the Record of Decision. They are not expecting anything like this.

n. Ms. Hallman said this review would occur every five years.

o. Mr. Depies said if cleanup standards change, those are included in the Five-Year Review.

12. Air Force Performance Based Remediation (PBR) Initiative –Mr. Duong briefed on the PBR initiative because Mr. Barefoot was unable to attend the meeting (attachment 2).

a. Mr. Duong said the Air Force expects this program to save money and reduce the time required to get all sites to Remedy in Place.

b. Mr. Gaddis asked how long this program has been in place at other bases and if there were any lessons learned. Mr. Duong said it started within the Air Force in 2010. Ms. Bodour said in 2011 there were 11 active bases. Under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program, they've been using this for five years (starting in 2008). The Army has been doing it for 10 years. The AFCEE has been using lessons learned from BRAC and the Army. Eleven bases went into the program in 2011, 14 in 2012 and another 15 to 18 will be using this method in 2013. Adjustments have been made all along the way. The size and complexity of Edwards will benefit from the program. The AFCEE has started to see some return on investment; however, it is too soon to see any remediation goals met.

c. Mr. Davies asked if the contracts were fixed price or cost plus. He asked about the flexibility of the contract if something changes. Mr. Duong said it is like a firm fixed price contract. The Air Force is concerned only that the contractor meets the objectives.

d. Mr. Post said some sites will cost more than planned for the contractor; but on others they'll save money. There is more risk for the contractor.

e. Dr. Healy reiterated that the Air Force is the responsible party. The Air Force is responsible for selecting the final remedy in concurrence with the regulators. The contractor is accepting the risk that the document quality meets regulatory requirements. If it doesn't meet the regulator requirements they won't get paid. It behooves the contractor to do the quality control checks to make their documents acceptable.

f. Mr. Davies had concerns about technological changes that might be missed because the contracts are 10 years in length. Mr. Depies said it is opposite—the contractor will have more ability to change to new technologies. Dr. Healy said any changes will have to be proposed and approved.

g. Mr. Gaddis asked about the length of the contract. Mr. Duong said nine years.

h. Mr. Davies asked about the excluded sites. Mr. Duong said those site would continue as they are right now.

i. Mr. Depies said the Cal/EPA DTSC has concerns with PBR. However, the state does not direct the Air Force in their contracting. For the state, PBR has been problematic and negative in

the past. The contractor's profit motive causes them to cut corners and deliver poor quality documents. It has led to the breakup of the team concept.

13. Opportunity for Public Comment –Mr. Hatch reported that no comment cards were received.

14. Status of RAB Vacancies–Mr. Hatch said three members—Ms. Julie English (Boron), Mr. Bob Smith (California City), and Mr. Rick Salazar (Test Wing)—opted not to volunteer for another term. Mr. Gray came on board for NASA. The Air Force is processing an application for Base Housing. An applicant for the Test Wing slot deployed. There is still no interest for North Base. Mr. Hatch said the Air Force continues to advertise. The Air Force will run two new ads and will prepare some new flyers. Mr. Post asked if an e-mail can be sent to everyone on base. Mr. Hatch said it could go out in the Wednesday consolidated basewide e-mail.

15. Reports from Public Representatives.

a. Mr. Davies, North Base, appreciated the tour he received. He said it was invaluable in understanding the ERP. He said he'd like to see more tours.

b. Mr. Gaddis, Rosamond, also thought the tours improve members' knowledge.

c. Mr. McKay, AFRL, said he had been contacted and interviewed for the South AFRL Five-Year Review.

d. Mr. Yaw, Mojave, also went on the South Base tour. He's also been attending Mojave Water Board meetings.

e. Mr. Gray, NASA, had nothing to report. He offered to host a tour at NASA.

16. Reports from Remedial Project Managers.

a. Dr. Healy, U.S. EPA, said the regulators have had an extra long visit this month because of the discussions about PBR. Ms. Cooper (community involvement for the U.S. EPA), Dr. Healy, Mr. Depies and his community involvement staff have been pushing for an update of the Community Involvement Plan. Work will begin on that once the contract is put together. There will be opportunities for interviews with that project.

b. Mr. Depies, Cal/EPA DTSC, discussed two former skeet ranges in the South Base area from 50 or 60 years ago – Sites 81 and 102. The areas have lead shot and the skeet target debris contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). The Air Force is trying to characterize the sites. The skeet shards and lead shot can impact migrating birds and damage lizards.

c. Mr. Post, LRWQCB, said the regulators and the Air Force have met for three days regarding the PBR. He thinks it will be difficult, but it is doable.

17. Report from Base Remedial Project Manager

a. Mr. Duong, Edwards Remedial Project Manager, said the Air Force can set up additional tours for RAB members.

b. He briefed the status of his staff's projects (attachment 3).

18. Mr. Davies said the next RAB meeting is proposed for 15 November 2012 in Boron.

19. Mr. Davies adjourned the meeting at 1927.

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AMY V. ARWOOD, Colonel, USAF  
Air Force Co-chair  
Restoration Advisory Board

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BRUCE H. DAVIES  
Public Representative Co-chair  
Restoration Advisory Board

Attachments:

1. Five-Year Review for South Air Force Research Laboratory Sites 37, 120, 133, and 321
2. Air Force Performance Based Remediation (PBR) Initiative
3. Reports from Environmental Management Program Managers

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