Meeting Minutes
Restoration Advisory Board
Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area
December 9, 2004
Lynnwood Reformed Church
Schenectady, New York

Restoration Advisory Board Members and Project Staff Attendees:

Ted Ausfeld, Alternate Acting Community Co-Chairman
Heather Bishop, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Angelo Bracco
Joan Burns
Scott Dillman, Parsons
Dan Geraghty, New York State Department of Health
Gregory J. Goepfert, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Army Co-Chair
Bob Griffin
George Moreau, Parsons
F. Kevin Reilly, DLA/DNSC
Charles Rielly, Acting Community Co-Chair
Stephen Tomasik
Deb Volkmer, Weston

Other Attendees

Margaret J. Claus and son
Drew Graham, Shaw Environmental
Ron Groves, Albany County Health Department
Melissa Hale-Spencer, Altamont "Enterprise" newspaper

Introductions

G. Goepfert called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. After the pledge G. Goepfert welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked C. Rielly for suggesting the Lynnwood Reformed Church as the location of the meeting. G. Goepfert thanked J. Burns for her cooperation during the sampling of her property during the last few months. G. Goepfert said the relationship between technical crews and residents improved during the last sampling effort. He added that C. Rielly and T. Ausfeld also visited the site during sampling.

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, project staff, and other attendees introduced themselves. G. Goepfert said the reason for the meeting was to go over the recent technical activities of the Data Gap Work Plan that was reviewed by RAB members and to discuss each area of concern. G. Goepfert reviewed the following items for the meeting's agenda:

- Introductions

- Results-to-Date: Data Gap Remedial Investigations
- Discussion of Future Work Effort
- Adjournment

A variety of handouts were provided for the RAB members and meeting attendees:

- Agenda and Summary of Future Work
- Figure 1 – Site Vicinity, SADVA, Guilderland, New York (Draft)
- Figure 2 – Former SADVA Site Plan and AOCs Addressed in Data Gap Investigation (Draft)
- Figure 3 – AOC 1, U.S. Army Southern Landfill (Draft)
- Figure 3A – AOC 1, U.S. Army Pond Samples (Draft)
- Figure 4 – AOC 2, Former Bivouac Area/Post Commander's Landfill (Draft)
- Figure 5 – AOC 4, Triangular Disposal Area, and AOC 7, C & D Landfill (Draft)
- Figure 6 – AOC 8 Black Creek Data Gap RI Sediment Sample Results (Draft)
- Figure 7 – AOC 8 Black Creek Upstream Surface Water Sample Location (Draft)
- Figure 8 – AOC 8 Black Creek Data Gap RI Surface Water Sample Results (Draft)
- Figure 9 – Building 60 Area (Draft)
- Table 1 – 2004 Data Gap RI at Former SADVA Sampling and Analytical Program (Draft)
- Table 2 – Sediment Data Summary for AOC 1, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 3 – Deep Groundwater Data Summary for AOC 1, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 4 – Groundwater Data Summary for AOC 2, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 5 – Waste and Soil Characterization Data Summary for AOC 2, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 6 – Waste Characterization Data Summary for AOC 2, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 7 – Sediment Data Summary for AOC 2, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 8 – Surface Water Data Summary for AOC 2, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 9 – Soil/Waste Characterization Data Summary for AOC 4, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 10 – Soil/Waste Data Summary for AOC 4, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 11 – Surface Water Data Summary for AOC 4, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 12 – Sediment Data Summary for AOCs 4 and 8, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 13 – Soil Data Summary for AOC 7, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 14 – Groundwater Data Summary for AOC 7, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)

- Table 15 – Surface Water Data Summary for AOC 8, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- Table 16 – Groundwater Data Summary for AOC 9, Data Gap RI at Former SADVA (Draft)
- RAB Meeting Minutes, June 10, 2004

Results-to-Date: Data Gap Remedial Investigations

G. Moreau said that Parsons and the Corps identified the data gaps and worked with T. Ausfeld and C. Rielly who provided information. The data gap sampling was done during the summer 2004 and the information provided is considered preliminary at this point. From the data collected in 2000 and 2004, reports will be produced in the spring 2005 for state and public review.

AOC 1 – U.S. Army Southern Landfill

G. Moreau provided an overview of the recent (2004) sampling efforts at AOC 1 – U.S. Army Southern Landfill:

- Learning contamination's extent laterally and with depth in the pond sediments.
- Pond water is only 1 to 2.5 feet deep.
- Sampled pond sediment. Collected samples at five locations in top 2 inches and down to 9 inches. Pesticides and metals were elevated in the sediment samples from the pond.
- Obtained good data on the vertical extent of the contamination in the pond.
- To evaluate the aquatic life, first, a biologist performed a visual assessment and noted normal conditions; everything healthy. Second, a laboratory in Ithaca, New York, evaluated sediment for diversity of organisms in the pond setting. The lab determined the pond to be "slightly impaired" because of little diversity in the aquatic habitat (pond is probably man-made and is very uniform in its bottom characteristics).
- The deep well is connected with a shallow well. Collected deep well sample and elevated concentrations of metals and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs) were present in the deep groundwater sample; metals and one SVOC exceeded criteria.

T. Ausfeld asked if PCBs were tested.

G. Moreau said yes, PCBs were analyzed for in the groundwater samples and referred Mr. Ausfeld to the handout of tables.

G. Goepfert said based on the data the Corps will develop a feasibility study and proposed remedial action plan for AOC #1 but will focus on AOC #2 – Former Bivouac Area, now Mrs. Burns' property.

C. Rielly asked why there were a lot of "J's" on the charts.

G. Moreau responded the concentration is considered estimated but usable, mostly because the concentration is below the reporting limit, but above the method detection limit.

C. Rielly asked what the method detection limit referred to.

G. Moreau responded, the limit of the testing equipment.

S. Tomasik asked about pesticide presence. He also asked if the numbers are close but not precise.

G. Moreau replied that if shaded they exceeded criteria.

S. Tomasik asked if there was some background data to shed light on the source of pesticides.

G. Moreau said they see pesticides a lot – apparently from airborne spraying of pesticides. He added there are a lot of different sources and he could not relate their presence to a specific use.

S. Tomasik asked if they were easily transported, for example, by water.

G. Moreau responded that each chemical is different for chemical interaction and physical movement. G. Moreau also stated the most important aspect of pesticide migration in sediment is the physical transport of sediment, which has a low probability of occurring in the pond because it is a static setting, but does connect to Black Creek.

S. Tomasik asked if there were any of specific concern.

G. Moreau said not really, the pond is stagnant and not a moving system.

B. Griffin asked for the direction of the groundwater flow.

G. Moreau said part of the investigation determined that groundwater flow seemed to be divided between east and west. He added that additional wells were installed down to 30 feet to determine groundwater flow to the east in areas that had no well coverage.

B. Griffin said it would be good to know if the Metweld wells were upgradient or downgradient of the site.

T. Ausfeld recommended that neighboring Metweld wells be tested. He added that companies ran private wells until recently and it would be worth looking into.

G. Goepfert said that would need a right-of-entry from the property owner and that can be addressed in the feasibility study. He asked Ron Groves to look into this. He added his agreement with Mr. Ausfeld that it was worth looking into.

R. Groves said he recalled the wells had been tested for VOCs and metals, and would look into that.

G. Goepfert said the information may already exist.

A. Bracco asked if the deep well was fully recovering during sampling.

S. Dillman replied that it was still slow.

G. Moreau said they had originally planned to conduct a pump test to assess the potential connection between the upper and lower water-bearing zones. However, there is not enough water in the deep well to allow the pump test.

On a different matter, G. Moreau discussed an unusual find located in the woods – a bunker. Undated photographs of the bunker were obtained. The sampling crew used a backhoe to open the entrance to the bunker. They found the bunker was actually a metal storage tank, opened it up, and looked inside. G. Moreau reported that a former depot employee said the Army at one time stored radioactive ore in the bunker. The sampling crew screened the area for radioactivity, but there were no readings to suggest a problem exists. The entrance was locked and the key given to the owner of Northeastern Industrial Park. The discovery of the bunker of unknown use will be described in the remedial investigation report.

S. Dillman said there were no stains in the bunker that would show burning. He added that there were no drains on the metal floor.

G. Moreau said there was no need to be concerned about the bunker at this point.

AOC #2 – Former Bivouac Area, Now Mrs. Burns' Property

G. Moreau provided an overview of the recent sampling efforts at AOC #2 – Former Bivouac Area, now Mrs. Burns' Property:

- There are two areas of pill bottles that at contain salt and iodine tablets. A feasibility study was started and it was realized that groundwater data was needed. A 1983 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) report that T. Ausfeld had provided listed other materials at the area. Mrs. Burns' sons took S. Dillman on a tour of the area.
- Test pits were excavated in the areas pointed out by Mrs. Burns' sons and in the areas identified in the 1983 U.S. EPA report. Substances found included paint residue, drums that were not fully excavated, and glass bottles that contained a red liquid. The liquid smelled like paint remover/turpentine.
- In the area called the Post Commander's Landfill, trenches were dug in a clay setting. Fifty test pits were dug to fully characterize the areas and provide data.
- Aerial photographs provided by Mrs. Burns showed disturbed areas. Sampling crews excavated test pits in those areas, but did not see any buried materials.

C. Rielly asked if there were burn pits in the swamp.

G. Moreau responded that the test pits indicated only natural soil.

T. Ausfeld said the sampling crews dug test pits pretty much wherever he asked them to.

T. Ausfeld asked about the foundations on the small hill near the rear of the property.

S. Dillman said the pill bottles go up one side and there is natural soil on the other side. He added that they found an old stone foundation out near the road that was maybe for an old barn.

Mrs. Claus said there was never a barn at that location but there was a milk house that had a long concrete vat. She added that there was a large metal milk storage tank to keep the milk cold. She said next to that was a very large farm well to water the stock during the winter months.

S. Tomasik asked if the whole area drains to the wetlands and if the water was tested.

G. Moreau said the sampling crew did not disturb the drums in the test pit because the material in the drums was determined to be a hazardous waste. He added that the wastes had accumulated into a puddle, and the material was sampled.

S. Tomasik asked if the material in the drums determined an immediate action.

D. Geraghty said they had looked at it the material and determined that it was not an immediate concern.

G. Goepfert said the drums and their contents will be looked at in a comprehensive way.

S. Tomasik asked if the downstream was tested to determine any threats.

G. Moreau said yes, there are both pesticides and metals in the surface water. He added that three wells were installed and then two more wells were added based on finding the drums and solvent bottles. He said those wells will be sampled in the next week and, therefore, data was not available. The newly collected data will be rolled in with the existing data so the project can move forward over the winter months.

G. Goepfert said the Corps will look at the analysis results, recommend several alternatives to clean up the property, provide an opportunity for public comment, and solicit public involvement in the process.

T. Ausfeld asked if the area can be cleaned up in the year 2005.

G. Goepfert said the Corps can get the cleanup plan together in 2005.

T. Ausfeld asked if funding was available for the cleanup.

G. Goepfert said the proposed plan will estimate the costs for cleanup. He added that he could not make any promises on when remedial actions could take place, but would work to move the process along. He said the quicker the proposed plan gets done, the quicker they can proceed to remedial action activities. He noted that the schedule slates the feasibility study and proposed plan for March 2005. The Corps will sponsor a public meeting and implement a process for public comment on the documents. After completing that step, the Corps will seek

funds to implement action. He said the paperwork has to be done and that it is better to wait until they have all the data.

G. Moreau said now they have more areas to address, need to recalculate remedial options and costs, and must redo the remedial investigation/feasibility study.

C. Rielly asked about the drums that were not touched. He asked how the Corps will determine the costs of remediation if they do not know how many drums and what the contents were.

G. Moreau said the information collected from the test pits will allow them to make assumptions – enough information to make decisions on costs of the various remedial action options.

S. Tomasik asked if the area has been secured or if there were any physical boundaries. He was concerned for explosion and fire.

S. Dillman and G. Moreau said the area was most stained soils and the sampling crew used hay and kitty litter to absorb substances and covered the drums back up.

S. Tomasik asked if there was a potential for concern, such as smoking or fire.

D. Geraghty said he wanted to talk to Mrs. Burns and ascertain her level of concern.

J. Burns said the land is posted; however, hunters do go there. She added that her sons took down a hunter's tree stand.

D. Geraghty said the contamination maintains a low level of availability to public impact and is not an immediate concern.

T. Ausfeld said the Corps could tape the whole area.

S. Tomasik asked how many people are in the area.

C. Rielly said someone could light a cigarette, which could cause a problem.

G. Goepfert said the Corps could post signs to inform the public of the hazard; however, he does not want to draw attention to the area. He added that the area is not visible from the road.

J. Burns said that hunters come into the back area.

G. Goepfert said the Corps will place some red caution tape in the back part.

G. Moreau said they could go back and replace the hay and kitty litter if the area had been disturbed.

T. Ausfeld said they need to tape the back area.

J. Burns asked if someone was injured on the property would she be liable.

G. Goepfert said he would check into that.

AOC #4 – Construction and Demolition Landfill

G. Moreau provided an overview of the recent sampling efforts at AOC #4 – Construction and Demolition Landfill:

- Reviewed archive search report.
- Collected surface soil and surface water and sediment from a sump structure.
- The soil samples were not characteristically hazardous. Noted that zinc was at elevated levels in water and sediment in the sump structure (described as a water test pump facility for the fire department). However, the criteria used for comparison, the Class C and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) sediment criteria, do not apply in a regulatory sense, but were used for general comparison purposes.

AOC #7 – Triangular Disposal Area

G. Moreau provided an overview of the recent sampling efforts at AOC #7 – Triangular Disposal Area:

- This area had temporary wells installed during the initial remedial investigation (RI) in 2000. New "permanent" wells have been installed.
- Found PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) in surface samples.
- The samples collected at 38 feet deep (in the well screen zone) did not show any contamination.
- Well GW02 showed iron above Class GA groundwater quality criteria.
- GW03 showed no concentration above Class GA criteria and upgradient concentrations.
- Groundwater flows southwest in this area.

C. Rielly asked from where does the magnesium come.

G. Moreau said that he did not know.

S. Dillman said they will develop a new groundwater flow map as part of the RI report.

AOC #8 – Black Creek

G. Moreau provided an overview of the recent sampling efforts at AOC #8 – Black Creek:

- Regarding surface water data for Black Creek, they collected samples upstream of the SADVA site, because it was possible that contamination from AOC #2 could impact AOC #8.

- Sampling points were reviewed.

T. Ausfeld asked what other contaminants did they look for.

G. Goepfert said semivolatile organic compounds, pesticides and metals in surface water.

C. Rielly asked isn't the depot storing zinc? He said he was told that the footprint was very limited.

K. Reilly said that zinc does stay in place; however, there could be some scouring to get to the surface water. He said in AOC 8 surface water samples the iron seems high and he doesn't know where the aluminum comes from.

T. Ausfeld there was so much stuff stored at the depot back in the 1950s that there has to be trace contamination.

Someone at the meeting said he knew of material stockpiled outside and being weathered from days he was a kid.

K. Reilly said the depot did stockpile and store a variety of substances. He said some materials will be moved from the Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) Voorheesville Depot to Scotia.

Someone at the meeting asked if the material was weathered.

K. Reilly responded that metals typically don't dissolve off the metals and ores, but some scouring was possible where bits were weathered from the material. He added the following points of interest:

- Materials stored at Scotia are on concrete pads, are not leaking, and are not entering the soil.
- No cover is required.
- In AOC #5—Voorheesville Depot-- flumes and weirs were installed. The fence will be repaired and excavation has cleaned out the ditches leading off the Voorheesville Depot. Excavated material was moved to the Voorheesville Depot, dried out, and will be transported to a landfill. All commodities could be removed from the Voorheesville Depot by mid-summer 2005. Property will be turned over to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to be sold to the state, a local government, or public.

T. Ausfeld asked if it could be donated to the City of Guilderland.

K. Reilly said he knew of other facilities that were sold for low prices to local government.

T. Ausfeld said they were definitely interested and it should be looked at for what is to be done with the property.

K. Reilly said it is out of DLA's (Defense Logistics Agency) hands once the property is turned over to the GSA. He noted there may be other requirements, such as deed restrictions, on the property that can limit site use for specific purposes. He added that GSA looks to sell everything when it comes to depots.

T. Ausfeld asked if there was any water quality changes during the sampling effort.

K. Reilly said no, there were settling ponds doing what they are supposed to do.

A. Bracco clarified that the metal columbium is niobium, a naturally occurring element.

K. Reilly said that was correct and there was a report on that. He added that all the drums were intact and with a release obtained from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

A. Bracco said to show radiation, there have to be large pieces of these naturally occurring radioactive materials.

T. Ausfeld asked if the settling ponds could be shown on a map.

G. Moreau said the settling ponds will be shown in the final remedial investigation report.

T. Ausfeld asked if there is any other standing water around AOC 1 and 4? He asked that these be shown on all the maps.

G. Moreau responded yes.

S. Tomasik referred to the western ditch that drains the west side of the industrial park and that flows into Black Creek, and asked if the channel drained water during heavy rain events.

S. Dillman said he saw no significant flow; only puddles collect in low spot or slow kind of flow. He added that it was not a significant contributor and there is earlier data to compare concentrations from the area.

AOC #9 – Building 60 Area

G. Moreau said that crews purged and re-sampled one well; the sample was taken for metals analysis.

Sediments in Black Creek

G. Moreau said he has a lot of sediment data to review. Original samples were collected from the top 2 to 3 inches of the sediment surface. The recent sampling effort went back to the old sample locations and collected deeper samples from 12 to 18 inches. Results of the samples are compared to sediment criteria that assess impacts on aquatic life and habitat.

C. Rielly asked if there was a need to sample sediment farther downstream of Black Creek and in the ponding areas. He said we do not know from where the magnesium is coming.

D. Geraghty said sediment is not the easiest for humans to be exposed to, for example, look at arsenic and PAHs levels. He added that it is fish and wildlife that may have concerns to address.

C. Rielly said he was not concerned about fish and wildlife; he was concerned that contamination is flowing to the public water supply.

D. Geraghty said the public water supply is tested and is safe to drink.

T. Ausfeld asked who tests the fish and wildlife.

H. Bishop replied the Fish and Wildlife Division of the NYSDEC performs those tests.

T. Ausfeld asked if the results are made public.

H. Bishop and G. Goepfert responded yes.

G. Moreau said it might be helpful to compare sediment results to human health criteria for comparison.

T. Ausfeld said people are drinking from Black Creek.

G. Moreau said sediment quality is not always indicative of water quality.

D. Geraghty pointed out that if sediment is used for soil fill, he wants to know what may be spread around yards where children play is not a heavy impact on human health.

S. Tomasik asked if sediment samples were collected from flow of stream.

S. Dillman responded yes.

G. Moreau said Parsons prepared a new map at the request of Joan Kappel. The new map shows concentrations of a series of metals (lead, iron, etc.) along the creek. He said Parsons created a histogram which is a tool that will help to answer some questions. The map and histogram will be included in the final remedial investigation report. He added that these tools will help the state assess the data and make their recommendations.

A. Bracco asked if there was enough data to model plumes of groundwater.

G. Moreau said it depends on what you are trying to model, but they probably would not need modeling.

G. Moreau concluded his presentation that the first priority was the feasibility study for AOC #2 – Former Bivouac Area, now Mrs. Burns' Property, and the second priority was to submit the final remedial investigation report in spring 2005.

G. Goepfert said the Corps would focus on the AOC #2 feasibility study and get it in the queue to obtain funding.

J. Burns said she received a phone call from a neighbor (who lives on Lenann Drive) who said she had been ill and the caller's neighbor also had been ill. The neighbor/caller has read in the Altamont *Enterprise* newspaper that there was oil seeping, and this person had observed material seeping from the ground near her home. The neighbor/caller asked Mrs. Burns if it was possible that there was some drainage from the depot to her property.

T. Ausfeld asked Mrs. Burns to tell the neighbor to contact him and Mr. Rielly.

D. Geraghty said the neighbor should contact the NYSDEC spill response section. He added that the New York State Department of Health also would like to talk to the neighbor if people are ill.

Mrs. Claus said the houses on Lenann Drive were not there when she lived there; all of those houses were built after she moved from the property.

G. Goepfert said if there is a link to the Army or the U.S. Department of Defense then he and the Corps would take action to investigate. He asked the RAB members to contact him and let him know of the initial response.

G. Goepfert commended Mr. Dillman for the four months of heavy sampling and thanked Mr. Moreau for his preparation of the meeting presentations. He added that in the near future the Corps will be looking into the following items:

- Metweld wells
- Taping off areas of AOC #2 – Former Bivouac Area, now Mrs. Burns' Property
- Property owner liability
- Human health criteria for sediment
- Show ponds and wetlands on map

He said the next RAB meeting will be in the March/April 2005 timeframe.

Discussion of Future Work Effort

In the handout, "Agenda and Summary of Future Work," G. Goepfert provided the following information.

Summary of Future Work*

- Areas of Concern 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 9
  - Regulatory and RAB review of results
  - Incorporate results in Remedial Investigation Report

- Areas of Concern 1 & 2
  - Advance Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan to completion at AOC 2 (March 2005)
  - Initiate Feasibility Study at AOC 1 during this Fiscal Year

- All Areas of Concern
  - Complete Remedial Investigation Report for Public Review (June 2005)

* Subject to availability of funds

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Note: Mr. Ausfeld advised G. Goepfert of a revision to the minutes of the June 10, 2004 RAB meeting. The correction is at the middle of page 3 of 11, which should read: "Mr. Ausfeld said that pond water has a connection to Black Creek."