

Meeting Minutes
Restoration Advisory Board
Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area
May 6, 2010
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 (NYSDEC)
Joan Burns
Bridget Callaghan, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
Gregory J. Goepfert, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Army Co-Chair
George Moreau, Parsons
Cliff Opdyke, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Charles Rielly, Acting Community Co-Chairman
Neil Sanders, Guilderland Central School District
Deb Volkmer, Weston

Other Attendees:

Joseph Crua, NYSDOH
Christina Diamente
Barbara Fraterrigo, School Board Member, Guilderland Central School District
Ronald Groves, Albany County Department of Health
Anne Hayden, Altamont “Enterprise” newspaper
John McGuire, Guilderland Central School District

Introductions

G. Goepfert called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone for coming to the meeting. Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, project staff, and other attendees introduced themselves. G. Goepfert distributed a handout that provided an update on each Area of Concern (AOC) and was the focus of discussion. The handout is provided at the end of the minutes. Four posters of site maps were displayed and referred to at the meeting.

Summary of Remedial Investigation

G. Goepfert reported that additional groundwater samples from the irrigation wells and monitoring well 09 (MW-09) located on the Guilderland High School property were collected on April 27, 2010, to address residents concerns. He said he expected laboratory results on the sample in about a month and would share the data with the school and residents. He added that the school is downgradient from the site.

T. Ausfeld asked if the wells were installed before the garage.

N. Sanders said yes they were.

C. Diamente referred to a newspaper article that stated the school had tapped into FSADVA water supply until 1963. She asked how long school children had been drinking the water and whether the pipes had been tested for residue that might remain from when the water supply was from the depot.

B. Callaghan said the NYSDOH has results of the current public water supply testing.

C. Diamente asked if both the water and the pipes in the school building were tested.

B. Callaghan said the state regulated the water from the depot.

T. Ausfeld said the state may have tested for bacteria.

C. Diamente asked where the monitoring wells were located on the school property.

G. Goepfert showed where the four groundwater monitoring wells were located on one of the maps.

J. Crua said volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are not residual in pipes for a long period of time.

C. Diamente asked how much of the perimeter between the depot and the school had been tested for contamination.

G. Goepfert referred to a map on display and pointed to a strip of land.

T. Ausfeld said at one time the depot sold a strip of land to the school district.

G. Goepfert referred to the site layout map and noted Mrs. Burns' property on AOC 2 – Former Bivouac Area/Post Commander's Landfill.

C. Opdyke said the Corps tested the soils from borings on school property and no TCE (trichloroethylene) or VOCs were detected.

C. Diamente asked how much of the high school property was tested.

G. Goepfert said all the monitoring wells were tested.

C. Diamente said if the Army owned the entire school property they should test the whole school property.

T. Ausfeld said they should test once a year for radon and other concerns.

C. Diamente said the school should ask the Army to sample the school property and include a soil grid and soil borings.

G. Goepfert said when the Corps was looking at this property years ago, Charles Rielly asked for a magnetometer survey of the ball field area. Mr. Goepfert showed the area on a map

and said the Army did perform the survey and found nothing so it stopped investigating because everything was clear.

C. Diamente asked where the groundwater plume was located.

G. Goepfert showed the plume on a map and said there was a significant amount of digging for utility (storm drain, water lines, electrical, and cable television) trenches for the new bus garage on the school property and no evidence of contamination was found, other than the wastes that were subsequently removed during the emergency cleanup.

N. Sanders said the utility trenching activities were done in 2002-03.

C. Diamente said the trenching activities were not a controlled experiment and asked who did the work and did they give soils to the Army to sample and test.

T. Ausfeld said nothing was found and the Army and contactors would stop digging if they saw or noted something out of the ordinary.

C. Diamente said chemicals could be in the soil without the containers or visual evidence of contamination.

T. Ausfeld said stuff could have been sent down Black Creek.

G. Goepfert said utility trenching contractors did not find stained soil or odors that would indicate chemicals in the soil.

C. Diamente said none of the contractors worked for the Army and were contented to dig the trenches and collect their money at the end of the trenching job.

C. Opdyke said the FSADVA project started with an archive search report and historical records search which identified burn pits and landfills based on facility operations. He added that the Corps will address any problem that is linked to Army facilities or operations.

C. Diamente asked how many students attended the high school.

N. Sanders said 1,800 students.

C. Diamente said the whole school should be tested because of the possibility of the children getting cancer later in life.

C. Opdyke said he agreed, if the entire school property was originally part of the depot property.

G. Goepfert said he will look into the property boundaries.

C. Rielly said history is not well documented at all. He added that Mrs. Burns kept finding things on her property and T. Ausfeld said test pits needed to be done.

J. Crua said when the school was building the new bus garage the Army sampled from the depot property west onto school property and defined the extent of contamination.

T. Ausfeld said the Corps needs to monitor the well field to detect Army or landfill problems. He added that the Corps could make a deal with the local municipality to test the water.

C. Diamente asked what time of the year was best to test for groundwater contamination.

H. Bishop said contamination would not flow through an aquifer like a stream.

C. Diamente asked if the Army would sample at different times of the year.

G. Goepfert said that sampling will be considered, but sampling at peak (irrigation) time at the high school would be spring through summer.

T. Ausfeld said he wouldn't want kids exposed to coliform-contaminated water sprinkled on the fields. (Coliform is a group of bacteria commonly found in the environment. Its presence in water may indicate contamination by disease-causing microorganisms.)

B. Callaghan said the Bureau of Water oversees that.

J. Crua said an irrigation well spraying on a field would not have the same exposure as if swimming in contaminated water.

G. Goepfert referred to the CERCLA page on the handout and described the various phases in the CERCLA process.

T. Ausfeld asked if the RAB could have a tour of all the AOCs to reevaluate and see if there is anything we are missing.

C. Rielly said we could tour at least AOC 1 – U.S. Army Southern Landfill.

G. Goepfert said the property owners would need to agree to a tour on their property.

C. Diamente asked where all the contaminants were listed.

G. Goepfert said they are listed in the remedial investigation report that is posted on the project Website: www.fsadva.com.

C. Diamente said the lead levels have been traditionally high and that should be reason to test the schools.

G. Moreau said the high lead levels were in sediment samples taken during the oil-water separator removal by the Army in 1999, NYSDEC has no standards for sediment with regard to human exposure. The state's sediment guidelines are for protection of aquatic life.

A question was asked about the transfer of property regarding AOC 5 – DNSC Voorheesville Department. G. Goepfert said the General Services Administration contact is Barbara Salfity, who can be contacted at 617-565-5700.

C. Diamente asked if the groundwater plume could be removed.

G. Moreau said there was very little contamination left and the water was almost drinkable. He added that the ongoing groundwater monitoring program would determine if the contamination is continuing to decrease naturally.

G. Goepfert asked if there were any reports the Town of Guilderland had issued regarding AOC 6 – Former SADVA Wastewater Treatment Plant.

T. Ausfeld said something must be available and to contact Bill West, Superintendent of Water, Town of Guilderland.

G. Goepfert said AOC 4 – C&D Landfill, AOC 6 – Former SADVA Wastewater Treatment Plan, and AOC 9 – Building 60 Area will be combined into one proposed plan document. He said groundwater sampling will be performed for AOC 3 at MW-09 on school property, downgradient from the former burn pits, in 2010 and 2011.

C. Rielly said it was important that the City of Watervliet be involved in decisions for AOC 8 – Black Creek.

G. Goepfert said the Corps will make sure Watervliet's Superintendent of Water, Mark Gleason, receives a copy of the report.

C. Diamente asked the Corps to continue testing of school property: groundwater, soil, and soil borings.

G. Goepfert said the Corps will continue monitoring groundwater from MW-09.

C. Diamente said if the Army owned the property at one time then a geophysical survey was needed.

G. Goepfert said the Corps needs to have a reason to test the property.

C. Diamente asked how many years did high school students drink water from the depot.

T. Ausfeld said the depot had a water treatment facility and it was probably a better facility than the municipal water treatment facility.

C. Diamente asked the representatives of NYSDOH and NYSDEC if they were sure there is no possibility of exposure to radiated material in the drinking water between 1988 and 1998 and wouldn't exposure be a health risk.

B. Callaghan asked how the drinking water could have been radiated. T. Ausfeld said the Town of Guilderland was exposed from fallout in the 1950s from radioactive testing done in western United States.

J. Crua said the municipal water supply is tested for radon.

R. Groves said radon testing in drinking water is tested every three years.

J. Crua said radioactive materials at AOC 5 (Voorheesville Depot) were contained in drums not in the ground; therefore, there is no exposure to groundwater and drinking water. He added that determining health risks to exposure is very conservative. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was responsible for ensuring that there was no radioactive contamination at the Voorheesville Depot.

Meeting participants focused on discussing general sampling and analytical testing and expressing concern for the students at Guilderland High School.

D. Diamente thanked the Corps for testing the groundwater monitoring wells at the school.

Adjournment

G. Goepfert said in closing he looks forward to making further progress at the site. He thanked the participants for attending and said minutes will be prepared and mailed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Handouts



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New York District

Former Schenectady Army Depot- Voorheesville Area (FSADVA) Restoration Advisory Board Meeting May 6, 2010 Schenectady, New York



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New York District

Summary of Remedial Investigation

- RI field work began in 2001; other investigations were conducted in the late 1990s.
- Several phases of data assessment and additional data collection ensued.
- Nine Areas of Concern (AOCs) were identified for in-depth characterization.
- Remedial Investigation Report issued Jan.2008

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New York District

AOCs 1 & 7 U.S. Army Southern Landfill and Triangular Disposal Area

- Feasibility Study to be issued "Final" by Sept. 2010
- Proposed Plan – issue by Dec. 2010
- Record of Decision – issue by Mar. 2011
- Implement ROD – subject to availability of funds (Fiscal Year 2011)

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New York District

AOC 2 Former Bivouac Area / Post Commander's Landfill

- Record of Decision signed in Nov. 2009
- Monitoring wells to be closed
- No further action - letter of concurrence from NYSDEC, dated Jan. 6, 2010

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New York District

AOC 3 School & Former Burn Pits

- Removal Action conducted at Guilderland School, Fall 2002; cost - \$900,000
- Interim Action conducted at Burn Pits, Spring 2003; cost- \$700,000
- Follow – up groundwater monitoring
 - Two years (8 quarters) of monitoring 9/2003 – 6/2005
 - Two additional rounds 8/2006 and 11/2006
 - Five annual samples from MW-09 [2007 – 2011]

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New York District

AOC 4 C&D Landfill

- The construction and demolition (C&D) landfill was not active during the Army's operation of SADVA
- Limited characterization indicated that high levels of contamination were not found and there is no evidence of direct connection to SADVA operations
- Proposed Plan / Record of Decision – issue by Dec. 2010

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010



US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District

AOC 5 DNSC Voorheesville Depot

- This area is the only part of the former SADVA that was operated by the government until 2007 (now inactive).
- Used for storage of materials critical to national defense (metals and ores).
- DNSC conducted their own RI for the site in cooperation with the SADVA RI.
- Property transfer now being administered by General Services Administration

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010



US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District

AOC 6 Former SADVA Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Historical aerial photos suggested this may have been a dumping ground.
- Waste materials were found and disposed of during construction of the new Guilderland wastewater treatment plant in mid-1990s.
- Test pits were excavated during the RI; buried wastes were not found.
- Some metals concentrations in soils were slightly above background and NYSDEC criteria; however there no obvious signs of buried waste sources or significant contamination that would warrant further action.
- Proposed Plan / Record of Decision – Dec. 2010

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010



US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District

AOC 8 Black Creek

- Feasibility Study is complete
- Proposed Plan/Record of Decision – issue Sept. 2010

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010



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New York District

AOC 9 Building 60 Area

- Proposed Plan / Record of Decision – Dec. 2010

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010



US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District

Summary/Follow up Actions

- Provide analysis report on School irrigation well sample taken on April 27, 2010
- Prepare proposed plans for AOC 8 and AOCs 4, 6 and 9 (combined)
- Conduct 2 additional years of groundwater monitoring at AOC 3, MW-09 [2010, 2011]
- Finalize feasibility study; issue proposed plan and record of decision for AOCs 1 & 7
- AOC 5 being addressed by General Services Administration (GSA).

FSADVA 4 Mar 2010

