

Agenda for the Restoration Advisory Board
Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area
June 23, 1999

- I. Introductions

- II. Discussion of the RAB Formation
 - A. General Description
 - B. Mission Statement
 - C. Guidelines
 - D. RAB Chair Selection

- III. Project Update
 - A. Defense Logistics Agency
 - B. Army Corps of Engineers
 - C. Schedule

- IV. New Business / Questions and Answers

- V. Date, Time, and Location of the Next Meeting

Thank You for Participating

MEETING MINUTES
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JUNE 23, 1999, 6:30 P.M.
VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
FORMER SCHENECTADY ARMY DEPOT – VOORHEESVILLE AREA,
GUILDERLAND, NEW YORK

Attendees (RAB Members and Project Staff)

Joan W. Burns
Joan P. Kappel
George Morgan
Kenneth R. Rivers
Peter Buttner
Charles Rielly
Victor Cardona, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
F. Kevin Reilly, Environmental Protection Specialist, Defense Logistics Agency
Dennis Wesolowski, Defense Logistics Agency, Scotia Depot
Dave Brouwer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Debra Ford, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
George Moreau, Parsons Engineering, Inc.
Joan Becker, Roy F. Weston, Inc.
Chris Carlton, Northern Ecological Associates, Inc.

Introduction and Agenda

D. Brouwer started the meeting by introducing himself and invited any other interested parties to join the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) by sitting at the table. The individuals sitting at the table then introduced themselves. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) was then briefly described. The project and site were described. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) will be working together to address any issues associated with both the inactive and active portions of the site. The agenda was reviewed and changes were solicited. None were offered.

RAB Description

D. Brouwer stated that the RAB needs to determine how it will function, and asked J. Becker to discuss proposals for the RAB's purpose and guidelines for its operation. A typical mission statement and guidelines for conducting the meetings were discussed, (Attachments 1 and 2). J. Becker stated that her role in the RAB would be to facilitate the meetings and ensure that the meetings began and ended on time and that discussions stayed focused. She stated that the minutes from the meetings would be available to the RAB members, and will be placed in the project repositories.

Election of Chair

D. Brouwer suggested that the RAB defer the decision on a Chairperson from the community until the next meeting. He described some of the responsibilities associated with the position, and suggested that the RAB make election of a Chairperson the first order of business at the next meeting.

Document Repositories

D. Brouwer stated that documents pertaining to Corps activities and investigations at the site are available in the Guilderland and the Voorheesville Public Libraries. For example, the Libraries have the final draft report of findings concerning the soil, groundwater, and Black Creek sampling that was performed last summer. A RAB member asked if there is a smaller version of the document available, and D. Brouwer responded by stating that the Draft Investigation Report – Archival Search document will soon be available, which contains a history of the site and summaries of activities involving the site. It was agreed that all RAB members would receive the chapter of that report that contains summaries of all investigations of the site.

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Activities

D. Wesolowski discussed the history and purpose of the DLA and its activities on the active portion of the Former Depot. Various materials are currently stored at the site, including lead, aluminum oxide (in drums), and ferrochrome. In response to a question regarding covering the materials, K. Reilly stated that he has found no need to cover the materials at any sites. He added that the costs associated with covering or moving the materials to indoor storage would be prohibitive. In response to another question concerning how far materials washed off of the storage piles will travel, K. Reilly stated that it does not travel far, and forms a "footprint" that varies in size. In the case of lead, the footprint extends horizontally about 2 feet from the pile and is about 18 inches deep. Lead forms a patina on the surface of the ingot, and this patina prevents the material from being easily washed off. In response to another question, K. Reilly stated that the DLA must meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards at a minimum, and must meet all relevant state standards, if they are more stringent than the EPA's standards. V. Cardona confirmed this assessment. A RAB member asked if the levels of acid in the rain could affect the solubility of the metals. K. Reilly stated that the levels of acid in the rain have not increased the solubility of ores. Metals probably would exhibit similar properties, but the effects of acid rain on the on-site metals have not been studied. In response to another question, K. Reilly stated that the DLA ponds are at a lower elevation than Black Creek, so they do not currently discharge to the Creek. The final solution to the site's flooding problem due to its low elevation has not been identified, however, and the ponds could be used as either detention or retention ponds in the future. In response to another question, K. Reilly stated that the bottom of the ponds is permeable.

Corps Activities at the Former Depot

D. Brouwer discussed the history of Corps activities at the site. He stated that the site has been studied since 1988 in order to determine whether any environmental or public health threats were present that could be associated with past Department of Defense (DoD) use of the site. The Corps has identified two general-purpose landfills, a construction and demolitions debris landfill, and two former burning areas. The Corps has focused on the two general-purpose landfills, which are referred to as the Southern Landfill and the Post Commander/Bivouac Area Landfill. In 1991, drums were removed from the surface of the landfills. In 1997, sampling revealed arsenic, copper, zinc, hydrocarbons, and some semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) in the Southern Landfill. In March 1998, the Corps was called to the site by one of the current owners, Northeastern Industrial Park. During the excavation of a new building foundation, petroleum hydrocarbon contamination was discovered from an oil/water separator of the former Depot. The NYSDEC requested that the oil/water separator be removed to avoid impacting Black Creek. The Corps subsequently sampled the area of the spill and Black Creek. Some SVOCs were found in surface soils; the groundwater did not contain any unusual levels of contaminants; and metals were discovered in surface water and sediment of Black Creek. The levels of metals in the surface water dropped as the water passed through the site. No public health or environmental concerns have been identified that require immediate cleanup, but the Corps will conduct further work in the area of Black Creek and in the areas of the landfills. The next plan for sampling activities at the site will be ready in October or November, 1999 and that field work should be performed during the spring of 2000. The work plan will address sampling needed at both the active, DLA portion of the site and the inactive portion of the site, which is the responsibility of the Corps to investigate and cleanup.

Questions and Answers Concerning Corps Activities

Are the metals in the Creek being transported to the Watervliet Reservoir?
It is unlikely.

Can the Corps collect samples from the reservoir during the next sampling effort?
The Corps will proceed in accordance DERP-FUDS program guidelines and must establish a need to conduct off-site sampling prior to sampling the reservoir and any other areas that are not within the former Depot's boundaries.

Were the decisions on what metal analyses to perform based on site experience and history, or were they based on a standard battery of tests?
They generally were selected based upon a standard battery of tests. However, at a few locations sample analyses were limited to metals of concern based upon past Depot activities.

Have wells in the area been tested for contamination, since several members of some families had been affected by cancer, and they drank the water for years?
The wells were sampled several years ago, and no site-related contamination was identified.

Who would remediate Black Creek, if it is contaminated upstream of the former Depot site?

The Corps would not remediate it, unless it was directly associated with past Depot activities. The NYSDEC could require another party to clean it up, if the source of the contamination could be identified.

New Business

It was noted that documentation should be a high priority for the RAB and that copies of the maps on display should be made available to the RAB.

It was suggested that New York State should review the classification of Black Creek, and consider changing it from a Class C to a Class A stream, which would severely limit permissible uses along the Creek. V. Cardonna agreed to obtain information concerning the current designation and the process for changing it.

The possibility of placing Depot reports on a website was discussed. D. Brouwer stated that he could not provide the RAB with a definite answer at the present time, but that he would investigate the matter and provide the RAB with a report at its next meeting.

The RAB agreed to keep membership open. D. Brouwer stated that if a new member is added later, the Corps would help them become familiar with the project. Members were encouraged to participate for at least 1 year and the RAB should be looking for commitment.

Next Meeting

The RAB agreed to meet again on Tuesday, September 28th, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. in the Voorheesville Public Library. D. Brouwer noted that the technical assistance program to make funds available to RABs to help them better understand and evaluate Corps activities involving the former Depot would be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30.

DRAFT
DESCRIPTION OF FACILITATOR AND MEETING GUIDELINES
FOR
THE FORMER SCHENECTADY ARMY DEPOT - VOORHEESVILLE
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETINGS

GUIDELINES FOR THE RAB MEETING PARTICIPANTS

To ensure productive and efficient RAB meetings we would like to establish the following guidelines:

- Begin and end meetings in the allotted timeframe.
- Individuals wishing to make presentations at RAB meetings may request being placed on the meeting agenda. They may inform the meeting facilitator of the presentation topic, the presenter's name and the length of time of the presentation at least seven days before the meeting.
- If a RAB member or attendee intends to distribute a document for discussion during a meeting, the document will be submitted to the facilitator/recorder for distribution to the participants at least seven days before the meeting.
- A standard agenda for the RAB meetings will consist of:
 - I. Review of Agenda Items
 - II. Review Meeting Notes from the previous RAB Meeting
 - III. Presentations
 - A. Discussion
 - B. Action
 - IV. Old Business
 - A. Discussion
 - B. Action
 - V. New Business
 - A. Discussion
 - B. Action
 - VI. Agenda, Date and Time for Next Meeting
- Additions, changes, and deletions to the agenda may be submitted to the facilitator two days before a RAB meeting in order to amend the agenda.

PROTOCOL FOR MEETINGS

- 1) Listen to other opinions and suggestions.
- 2) Reinforce points of agreement.

- 3) Stay on the topic being discussed.
- 4) Refrain from cross-talking.
- 5) Commit to problem solving and making a positive contribution to the discussion.
- 6) Establish approximate length of meeting.
- 7) Begin and complete meetings on time.

FACILITATOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES

The meeting facilitator will be responsible for assisting the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the RAB with meeting logistics and, if necessary, meeting facilitation. To accomplish these goals the facilitator will initially be responsible for the following duties before, during, and after the RAB meetings:

- Maintain general order at the meeting and assure that RAB members have an opportunity to speak on each item on the agenda, to raise questions, and to introduce new business at the meeting as it is relevant to the discussions.
- Provide a format for presenters and their presentations (individuals other than RAB members and the Corps).
- Ensure that members of the RAB and attendees have copies of the agenda and documents to be discussed at the meetings. The mechanism for this may be mailings to members before each RAB meeting.
- Assist the individual recording meeting notes in clarifying issues, statements and discussion that occur during the meetings. Provide the recorder with agendas and documents distributed at meetings.
- Establish RAB meeting dates and times and communicate changes as they occur.
- Review meeting notes, the agenda, and action items.

**MISSION STATEMENT STRAWMAN
FOR
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
THE FORMER SCHENECTADY ARMY DEPOT-VOORHEESVILLE**

The RAB will provide interested parties with an opportunity to discuss Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) activities at the Former Schenectady Army Depot-Voorheesville with representatives from the Corps and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The RAB will discuss the work plans for- and the results of the environmental investigations. It will make recommendations to the Corps regarding the environmental condition at the site. The RAB will participate in the evaluation of various cleanup measures that could be required at the Depot. Recommendations will be in the best interests of the community, its citizens, and the area's natural resources. The RAB will work towards building consensus on the matters related to the Depot.