

Meeting Minutes
Restoration Advisory Board
Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area
April 29, 2002
Guilderland Public Library
Guilderland, New York

Restoration Advisory Board Members and Project Staff Attendees:

Peter Buttner, Community Co-chair
Ted Ausfeld
Joan Burns
Joan Kappel
Steven Porter
Charles Rielly
Earl Tanis
Marion Tanis
Dave Brouwer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lori Davidson, Defense Logistics Agency
Dan Geraghty, New York State Department of Health
Gregory J. Goepfert, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Army Co-chair
Jeffrey McCullough, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
George Moreau, Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
Steve Surface, Defense Logistics Agency
Dennis Wesolowski, Defense Logistics Agency
Deb Volkmer, Weston

Other Attendees

Joan Ausfeld, Resident
Sue Green, Resident
Ronald Groves, Albany County Health Department
Todd Fabuzzi, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Nick Ostapkovich, Watervliet Water Authority
Robert St. Pierre, Resident
Valerie Thurmond, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Baltimore District
Lynn Rothenberg, Reporter, “The Altamont Enterprise” newspaper

Introductions

P. Buttner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked all Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, project staff, and other attendees to introduce themselves. The meeting was interrupted to move the participants to the larger conference room. After the move to the larger conference room P. Buttner re-called the meeting to order and the introductions were made. P. Buttner said Gregory Goepfert has assumed the role as Project Manager for the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and noted that Mr. Goepfert visited informally with the Restoration Advisory Board (Board) members last week. P. Buttner said the Board appreciates Mr. Goepfert's efforts and commitment to the project.

G. Goepfert briefly provided an overview of his professional career: worked for the government for 19 years, eight years with the Army, 11 years with the Navy, has an understanding of environmental conditions at different bases, and will work to clean up the Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area (FSADVA) facility.

D. Wesolowski introduced Steve Surface, who is working with the Defense Logistics Agency program.

Review of Minutes from the Previous Meeting – November 15, 2001

P. Buttner asked for corrections and/or revisions to the November 15, 2001, minutes. C. Rielly requested a review and responses of the questions posed in the minutes. (Attachment 1 provides a listing of questions/potential action items posed by resident and Board members requiring post-meeting follow-up responses.)

Question from page 2 of the November 15, 2001, minutes: What does the New York State Department of Health (DOH) think about the wetland?

J. McCullough, NYDEC, said he conducted a site visit on April 11, 2002, and determined there is no material in the wetlands. Any material that was there was removed. He added that there is a stockpile of wooden spools, telephone poles, and pipes temporarily stored adjacent to the wetlands that will be recycled at a later date.

C. Rielly asked about the Corps responses to the comments it has already received on the Draft Remedial Investigation Report (page 3 of the November 15, 2001, minutes).

G. Goepfert said the Corps is continuing its discussion and review of the comments submitted to date. He added that the Corps will respond to the comments at the same time upon receipt of all of the comments.

C. Rielly asked if the review of the Burns property was finished (page 3 of the November 15, 2001, minutes).

D. Geraghty said he submitted his comments.

P. Buttner said there was some Board discussion regarding water running from Black Creek into the Northeast Industrial Park last year. He asked how the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit discharges were ruled when water is low.

D. Geraghty said DOH is not involved in the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit and therefore, he could not address that issue.

P. Buttner said the discharges need to be looked into to identify if there is pollution. He added that if there is a discharge, the state agency would be there immediately and asked the state to look into the situation.

J. McCullough asked if the Board knew of any companies that are discharging.

T. Ausfeld responded that the plastics plant has a SPDES Permit to discharge.

J. McCullough said he was not aware of that.

D. Geraghty said the state's focus has been on the Remedial Investigation Report.

P. Buttner said if there is discharge then the damage could already be done.

General Issues and Concerns

P. Buttner said that the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) is a resident of the Northeast Industrial Park. A large road was built and it blocks the drainage and culverts. He said DLA is trying to handle the rainwater that flushes into the facility so it does not enter Black Creek; however, it is a no-win situation. He added that DLA is trying to address the problem.

D. Wesolowski said Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., is looking into the situation.

G. Moreau said rainwater does flood DLA. Ponds were constructed to hold the water; however, they overflow and spill into Black Creek. He added that the ponds were doing a good job of cleaning and holding the water. He said DLA is looking into retaining as much water as possible, and that only heavy rain events would cause the ponds to overflow.

T. Ausfeld said there could be a buildup of contamination in the ponds and then the overflow would spread contamination to Black Creek.

G. Moreau said he would expect it to be worse that is already is.

T. Ausfeld said there has to be a heavy concentration of lead.

G. Moreau said yes, lead has been there for three years and he does not expect it to change.

S. Surface said DLA is considering phytotechnology where plants that grow well would be cultivated and harvested.

J. McCullough said there is a need to address the contaminated ponds.

T. Ausfeld said someone should look at all the industrial discharges to Black Creek because it could affect the public's drinking water. He added that ponds do not effectively clean

water before it is discharged. He said the more there is discharge the bigger the problem becomes.

D. Geraghty asked the representatives from Watervliet Reservoir to speak to water quality.

The Watervliet Reservoir representative said materials are in the water but are removed with its treatment system.

P. Buttner asked where the sampling was conducted.

The Watervliet Reservoir representative responded at the entrance point to the distribution system. He added that everything is below federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) (i.e., testing levels).

T. Ausfeld asked if sediments from the reservoir were tested.

The Watervliet Reservoir representative said they do not test the sediments.

P. Buttner said the contaminants in the sediments could re-enter the water supply.

The Watervliet Reservoir representative said it would then be identified in the water-sampling program.

D. Geraghty said the MCLs are set very conservatively.

P. Buttner said as instrumentation is perfected the MCLs go lower. He added that a very small amount of contamination in the drinking water consumed for a long period of time could add up in a person's system.

D. Geraghty responded yes, it is chronic versus acute levels. He added that DOH has taken that into consideration and it is important to know what the public is drinking.

T. Ausfeld said one does not have to be a scientist to know that zero parts per million is better than five parts per million.

P. Buttner said even if contamination is below the MCL it could still be in the water.

D. Geraghty said records are kept over the years.

C. Rielly asked if Watervliet tests for all the contamination in which Parson's tests. Or does it limit its testing to the state's requirements?

The Watervliet Reservoir representative said it tests for organic and inorganics, volatile organic compounds, and semi-volatile organic compounds. He added that the tests are not done annually but on a rotating basis.

D. Geraghty said it is an extensive list of contaminants.

S. Green said many of us residents are not connected to the public water system. She asked if there had been an area study regarding cancer. She said she lived in her home for 26 years and in that many years the lower field flooded once. She added that in the last five years her land has been flooded seven times.

D. Geraghty said he was not aware of a cancer study in the area. He said if the public is concerned he would share their concern with DOH. He suggested interested residents could access the cancer map on the DOH Web site. [Subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Geraghty consulted with Ms. Green on this matter].

The Watervliet Reservoir representative asked S. Green if her residence had wells.

S. Green responded her residence has a private well and she uses the water on her garden and plants.

P. Buttner asked the Watervliet Reservoir representative if they test for acetone, ethylbenzene, . . . , and toluene.

The Watervliet Reservoir representative responded yes, volatiles are tested every three years.

The City of Watervliet representative said they test bi-yearly.

T. Ausfeld said concentrations of contamination remains in the soils and sediment.

P. Buttner said the Army used the area and contamination concentrations were high and could remain.

The City of Watervliet representative said they would raise the dam 8 feet rather than dredge the reservoir.

D. Brouwer said the decision to not test the reservoir was not due to budgetary purposes. The strategy is to sample on site and outward to determine the nature of extent and degree of the hazard. He added if the contamination is below the MCLs, the Corps does not address those issues. The focus of the Board needs to be on the things the Corps can do. Most of the issues discussed this evening are outside of the Corps' focus.

P. Buttner said recently a plume was discovered near Black Creek. The reservoir is an extension of Black Creek. It is the Board's interest to get it on the record that people should be concerned about the environment that the federal government contaminated. He asked if that was a fair statement.

D. Brouwer said no, the Corps has not identified contamination in water.

P. Buttner said it is not a fair assessment until someone tests the sediments and water.

D. Brouwer said it would be a difficult road. The factor to consider if contamination is found – does it present a hazard? If it does not present a hazard, then it does not pose a problem.

P. Buttner said the Corps asked the Board to select areas of contamination. The Board surveyed places. Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., looked at the samples and strangely six were not very contaminated and four were slightly contaminated. To compare the Northeast Industrial Park samples with the rest of the region, there was a need to find the background before the Army came into the area. The Board's objective was to find representative samples from the area to serve as background data before the Army arrived.

P. Buttner said the Corps would receive the Board's comments on the Draft Remedial Investigation Report in the next three weeks.

G. Goepfert said he met with P. Buttner on April 4, 2002, to discuss concerns. G. Goepfert said there were two outcomes of the meeting:

1. Regarding the background samples taken, the analysis data does not change the cleanup recommendations.
2. A description of the Corps' methodology used in making cleanup decisions will be included in the Final Remedial Investigation Report, to be completed by Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.

P. Buttner said yes, it was true and that Parsons will include the background sampling results in the report. He added that the job needs to be done right. For example, the Board is most concerned when it was told that the Burns property sampling was done in a 4-foot grid and the Board checked the area and determined it was not done as described.

G. Moreau distributed a handout entitled "Summary of Responses to NYSDEC and NYSDOH Comments on the Draft Final Remedial Investigation Report for the Former SADVA" (see Attachment 2) and provided an overview of the handout.

T. Ausfeld said it looks like Area of Concern (AOC) 7 requires additional sampling.

D. Geraghty said the well near the bus garage was tested and that data will be available at the next Board meeting.

An unidentified attendee asked if AOC 3 needs to be included in the Focused Feasibility Study area.

G. Moreau responded that AOC 3 is already in the Focused Feasibility Study area.

G. Goepfert distributed handouts with a brief history of his work experience (Attachment 3-1), shows the extent of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) for New York District

(Attachment 3-2) and regarding future plans for the Former Schenectady Army Depot (Attachment 3-3).

P. Buttner said there are 9,000 FUDS in the United States and 2,657 require remediation.

G. Goepfert said he looks forward to the participation of the area residents and to determine and resolve the environmental issues.

P. Buttner said the communications regarding the AOCs will be included in the Board minutes. Copies of a letter (see Attachment 4) from T. Ausfeld were distributed to meeting attendees.

T. Ausfeld said Black Creek is a Class C stream and should not be used as drinking water source.

P. Buttner asked if there was any other issues or comments from DLA activities.

D. Wesolowski responded that the ponds would be in place before the end of summer. He was not sure about testing the ponds.

An unidentified attendee asked if the lead identified in the sampling effort was from area farms.

P. Buttner responded that pesticides are from the farms, not lead.

D. Geraghty added that lead is a natural component of soil. Other sources are roadways and lead paint on homes.

An unidentified attendee asked if there is concern about lead coming from the site.

D. Geraghty responded no.

D. Geraghty asked T. Ausfeld for clarification of item number 3 on the letter.

T. Ausfeld responded that information should be made available to the public and that some questions posed by the Board have not been addressed in the past few years.

An unidentified attendee asked if more samples would be taken from downstream of the dam.

An unidentified attendee said a branch of the New York Department of Motor Vehicles is moving to the Northeast Industrial Park and that employees were concerned about coming into contact with contamination. S. Porter of the Galesi Group said there is no toxic waste at the Northeast Industrial Park. He added that no study has ever found any threat or harmful effect at the Northeast Industrial Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**RAB Meeting Follow-Up Activities/Responses to Questions
per Meeting Minutes – April 29, 2002**

1. Reference: minutes page 2. C. Rielly asked if the review of the Burns property was finished. D. Geraghty said he submitted his comments.

Response: Mr. Geraghty's comments on the Burns property were included in comments to the Corps on the Draft Remedial Investigation Report for Area of Concern (AOC #2).

2. Reference: minutes page 2. P. Buttner asked how the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit discharges were ruled when water is low.

Response: Issue to be addressed at next RAB meeting.

3. Reference: minutes page 5. Interested residents could access the cancer map on the DOH Web site.

Response: The New York State Department of Health's cancer mapping Web site is <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/cancer/csiweb2.htm>.

4. Reference: minutes page 6. D. Geraghty said the well near the bus garage was tested and that data will be available at the next Board meeting.

Response: Mr. Geraghty's letter report to be presented at next RAB meeting.

5. Reference: An unidentified attendee asked if more samples would be taken from downstream of the dam (minutes, page 7).

Response: There is no immediate plan to accomplish additional sampling downstream of the dam, however, additional sediment characterization in the Black Creek will be conducted in the western ditch and deeper sediments in the Creek bed.

**SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO NYSDEC AND NYSDOH COMMENTS ON
THE DRAFT FINAL REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR THE
FORMER SCHENECTADY ARMY DEPOT—VOORHEESVILLE AREA**

AOC 1 – U.S. ARMY SOUTHERN LANDFILL

- Further sediment characterization in the pond will be conducted as part of a focused feasibility study, to evaluate remedial options.

AOC 2 – FORMER POST COMMANDER’S LANDFILL

- Dioxin data will be reassessed per NYSDOH guidance.
- A focused feasibility study is the next planned step, to evaluate remedial options.

AOC 3 – FORMER BURN PIT AREA

- Final RI Report will incorporate data collected since May 2001.
- Contractor specifications for the clean up have been prepared.
- Clean up will be executed when the funding becomes available.
- Groundwater monitoring will continue for one to two years subsequent to the clean up.

AOC 5 – VOORHEESVILLE DEPOT

- USACE and Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) will continue working cooperatively.
- DNSC is moving forward with plans to improve the onsite storm water control system.

AOC 6 – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AREA

- No further action is required.

AOC 7 – TRIANGULAR DISPOSAL AREA

- Sources of the bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (BEHP) detected in groundwater at AOC 7 and at AOCs 2, 3, and 9 are not known. BEHP was detected upstream in Black Creek and during past investigations at AOC 1.
- Widespread occurrence of BEHP suggests multiple, dispersed sources may exist. A groundwater use restriction in areas where the BEHP concentrations exceed the Class GA groundwater standard will be considered as a remedy if the source is not identified.
- Resampling of existing wells and installation of new wells will be considered as future actions at AOC 7.

AOC 8 – BLACK CREEK

- Additional sediment characterization will be conducted. The focus will be on the western ditch and deeper sediments in the creek bed.

AOC 9 – BUILDING 60 AREA

- Well MW-9 will be redeveloped and resampled to further assess metals concentrations in groundwater



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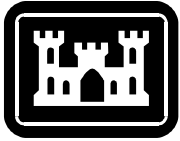
Former Schenectady Army Depot Voorheesville Area

- Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager is
Gregory J. Goepfert
- Experience

8 years with U.S. Army as Project Engineer / Program Manager
for RDX/HMX and other Expansion Programs.

11 years with U.S. Naval Weapons Station Earle as
Environmental Director and Superfund Project Manager.

B.S. Chemical Engineering, Lafayette College
M.S. Systems Management, Florida Institute of Technology
Member, Society of American Military Engineers



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Formerly Used Defense Site Program

- In Fiscal Year 2002, funds apportioned to the New York District accomplishes clean up at one site, and advances the investigation phase at eight other sites.
- Funding comes from the Defense Environmental Restoration, Army (ER,A) Account
- Only 60% of Fiscal Year 2002 Funds are Released

29 Apr 2002



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Former Schenectady Army Depot Voorheesville Area

Fiscal Year 2002 Plan of Action:

- Complete AOC 3 Interim Removal Action Specifications
- Address RAB, NYSDEC and NYSDOH comments on Remedial Investigation Report
- Prepare Work Plan for Environmental Sampling / Analysis to Finalize Remedial Investigation Report *
- Initiate Focused Feasibility Study for AOC 2*

*“Pending Availability of Funds”

29 APR 2002



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Former Schenectady Army Depot Voorheesville Area

Fiscal Year 2003 Plan of Action *:

- Remedial Action at AOC 3
- Remedial Action at AOC 2
- Prepare Focused Feasibility Study at AOC 1
- Complete Remedial Investigation Report

*“Pending Availability of Funds”

29 APR 2002

Attachment 4

1279 Old State Road East
Schenectady, NY 12303
(518) 356 - 3705

November 16, 2001

Restoration Advisory Board
David Brower, Project Manager ACOE
NYS Department of Health
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

The November meeting was very good and our minutes are much better than the past year. I have a few additional comments which I feel need written.

1. All questions in the past minutes need to be reviewed and answered by the ACOE, NYSDEC and NYSDH.
2. AOC (3), AOC (1), AOC (2), and AOC (5) should all have focused feasibility reports finalized and put on record for funding. Additionally, AOC (2) should be a priority. (Private Home Owner)
3. The New York State Departments involved with the SAD Remedial Investigation should make a written report, available to the public, involving this watershed as stated in past minutes and the Black Creek should be Class A.
4. Each year during the springtime run off period, the Black Creek should be tested for all contaminants noted in ACE Reports. Also, the Guilderland High School well water should be tested.
5. It would be appreciated if a copy of the written historical data could be given to the Guilderland Town Historian.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Thadeus W. Ausfeld (signature on original letter)

Thadeus Ausfeld
RAB Member