

**Meeting Minutes
Restoration Advisory Board
Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area
March 29, 2007
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
Joan Burns
Bridget Callaghan, New York State Department of Health
Gregory J. Goepfert, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Army Co-Chair
Sue Green
George Moreau, Parsons
Charles Rielly, Acting Community Co-Chairman
Steve Surface, Defense National Stockpile Center/Defense Logistics Agency
Deb Volkmer, Weston

Other Attendees:

Joseph Apuzzi
Jarrett Carroll, Altamont “Enterprise” newspaper
Ronald Groves, Albany County Department of Health
F. Kevin Reilly
John Reinders, DNSC Public Affairs
John Swartwout, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Introductions

G. Goepfert called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. and welcomed everyone for coming to the meeting. Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, project staff, and other attendees introduced themselves. G. Goepfert provided a handout that is duplicated at the end of the minutes.

Ground Water Monitoring Report for Area of Concern (AOC) #3, Burn Pits

G. Goepfert provided an overview of AOC #3 groundwater monitoring as presented in two pages of the handout.

C. Rielly asked how close the monitoring wells are to the school bus garage.

G. Goepfert referred to the handout page with the map of AOC #3 groundwater monitoring. He said the old school bus garage is west of the monitoring wells and the new garage is near the location of monitoring well #6. He added the levels of contaminants at monitoring well #6 are low and the only action needed to be taken was to keep monitoring the well.

C. Rielly asked about a plume.

G. Goepfert said the TCE Class GA groundwater quality criterion is 5 parts per billion (ppb) and that the most recent levels of TCE in MW-9 were at 6.3 and 6.6 ppb and this needs to be addressed with further testing.

T. Ausfeld said the [new irrigation] wells by the school need to be tested by the State.

B. Callaghan said that the New York State Department of Health was looking into that testing.

T. Ausfeld asked for extra sampling of the newer school irrigation supply wells, located across Black Creek, to determine if something was going on.

G. Goepfert said when Dan Geraghty of the New York State Department of Health was involved with the FSADVA project the state sampled the school's irrigation well ("Supply Well"), located in the old bus garage, every April.

T. Ausfeld asked the sampling be conducted in the summer when it is dry to see if the concentrations of contamination are higher.

G. Goepfert said if something was going to show up it would be sooner rather than later.

T. Ausfeld said it needs to be looked at. He added a good time to sample would be after the irrigation wells had been in use.

G. Goepfert said the Corps would make a plan for additional sampling of MW-09.

Status of Clean Up for AOC #2, Former Bivouac Area/Post Commander's Landfill

G. Goepfert provided an overview of AOC #2 progress as presented in two pages of the handout.

J. Burns thanked the Corps for their hard work.

C. Rielly said the Corps should thank Ms. Burns for her patience.

T. Ausfeld said the Burns property looks good.

G. Goepfert said the Corps could not have done the work without the assistance from the state.

T. Ausfeld asked how deep the wells were.

G. Goepfert said 9 to 10 feet.

T. Ausfeld asked how deep the water was where the barrels were located.

G. Goepfert responded it was not deep. He said the rain in October 2005 held up work and if something was there it would be in the groundwater.

T. Ausfeld asked J. Burns if she was happy with that.

J. Burns replied she wanted a commitment from USACE to address any contamination found in the future.

J. Swartwout said contamination found in the future is always part of the program.

J. Burns said the original plan called for groundwater sampling to begin in February, but now it is April.

G. Goepfert said the sampling dates were changed. He added the soil was too soft in February and was delayed two months. The first round of samples will be collected in April 2007, and the second round will be in October 2007.

C. Rielly asked if groundwater sampling would stop in October.

G. Goepfert said the Corps would consult with the State on that, after seeing the first two rounds of results.

T. Ausfeld asked if the sampling results were good would the Corps pull the monitoring wells.

G. Goepfert said the Corps would not pull the wells without agreement from the property owner and the State and finalization of the record of decision.

C. Rielly asked if the RAB members would be given the sampling results.

G. Goepfert said the groundwater results will be on the FSADVA Web site (www.fsadva.com), as are the past sampling results, which were included in the AOC #2 clean up report.

G. Goepfert referred to the AOC #2 monitoring map and said wells #01 and #02 are new monitoring wells.

Status of Remedial Investigation Report Preparation

G. Goepfert provided an overview of AOC groundwater monitoring as presented in two pages of the handout. He said the Corps will prepare a risk assessment; however, it was not required by the State. He added the data indicated the TCE (trichloroethylene) groundwater contamination is still present in the Southern Landfill, but concentrations are decreasing over time.

C. Rielly asked what a risk assessment was.

G. Goepfert said it determines the chances of illnesses from contamination.

C. Rielly asked if the risk assessment would combine the affects of multiple chemicals if present together in the soil or water.

G. Goepfert said yes the risk assessment will combine the risks when multiple chemicals are present.

C. Rielly said two chemicals combined can be more dangerous than one chemical.

G. Goepfert said he will invite Dr. Opdyke, risk assessor, from the Corps' Louisville office to attend the next RAB meeting to discuss the risk assessment results.

B. Callaghan suggested members to refer to the ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>) and EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency <http://www.epa.gov>) web sites for more information on risk assessments.

S. Green asked if a cancer survey had been done for area residents.

B. Callaghan said the State already has performed cancer surveillance (www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/cancer/csii) where unusual patterns of disease are identified or multiple cases of the same cancer occur. She offered NYSDOH assistance to anyone who would like to contact area residents for health information.

S. Green said there are three people in the area with the same cancer/disease. She volunteered to canvas the area residents to seek health related information.

C. Rielly asked how small the canvassing area could be.

T. Ausfeld asked that the minutes reflect the State will assist if an individual will take the lead.

S. Green and B. Callaghan agreed to discuss this initiative after the meeting.

T. Ausfeld said the Town of Guilderland is looking at Black Creek for stormwater drainage and is preparing a town-wide stormwater plan, and suggested the SADVA RI data be included in the town's plan. He said for more information, contact Ed Zyniecki, Town of Guilderland Stormwater Management, at (518) 356-1980 extension 1097.

G. Goepfert said the Corps will share information with the town by putting copies of the RI data and technical reports on the FSADVA website.

G. Goepfert referred to the handout page entitled "Quantitative Human Health Risk Assessment" and the Corps will also prepare a qualitative ecological risk assessment report. He said this report will identify the risk to the species present on site. He also stated that the feasibility study being prepared for AOCs 1 and 7 combined and for AOC 8 will present remedial alternatives starting with the "no action" alternative. The feasibility study for AOCs 1 and 7 are combined because of the proximity of the areas. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the feasibility study documents and there will be a public meeting.

T. Ausfeld asked if Galesi will have a say in the cleanup.

G. Goepfert said they could comment on the documents; however, the Corps will present a proposed plan subsequent to considering input from all parties.

T. Ausfeld asked what would happen if they came back to the Corps 20 years later and said they wanted the Corps to clean up the landfill after it had been capped.

G. Goepfert said the property owner will be involved in remedial action planning, to include the possibility of future land use restrictions associated with remedial actions.

J. Swartwout said the State would require institutional controls to protect the landfill cap.

T. Ausfeld asked if the cleanup would last for 100 years.

G. Goepfert said the design specifications will identify the anticipated life of the remedial action.

J. Swartwout said the cleanup would be in perpetuity – it would be maintained to last forever.

G. Goepfert said a landfill cap could include perimeter monitoring wells and the cap is basically an underground roof. He added that monitoring wells would indicate if a landfill cap was working properly.

S. Green said therefore it would be possible to build on the cap but not through it.

J. Swartwout said yes with engineering controls.

C. Rielly asked what would happen if the cap leaked.

G. Goepfert said that landfill caps come with a warranty.

C. Rielly asked if the Corps would demolish a structure built on the cap if it fix a leak.

J. Swartwout said that is why building on caps isn't done often.

T. Ausfeld asked what if the cap was working but a residents' private well shows something.

G. Goepfert said the Corps will base the cleanup on the numbers and studies done, and the Corps would return to remedy a problem if it is associated with the Department of Defense's use of the site.

C. Rielly said a cap won't work because the landfill is so close to Black Creek.

G. Goepfert said there are a number of alternatives to consider – a whole range of possible technologies.

J. Swartwout said the feasibility study will list all alternatives and evaluate whether the alternative is applicable to the site cleanup.

T. Ausfeld asked if AOC #1 is the most difficult site.

G. Goepfert said yes.

S. Surface provided an update of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) site:

- DLA prepared a separate RI Report for AOC 5 and addressed the state's concerns and has submitted responses to the State's comments on the RI Report.
- NYSDEC terminated the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit for the retention ponds because there is no longer any activity ongoing at the site, and the past data supported terminating the permit.
- New owners of the property will have the responsibility to obtain a new permit for any potential industrial discharges.

T. Ausfeld asked if the township had that data.

H. Bishop said the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Region 4 office would have that information.

C. Rielly asked why the new owners don't have a SPDES permit.

G. Moreau said if the new owners of the property resume industrial activity, NYSDEC will likely require that a new permit be obtained.

T. Ausfeld asked if the soil is clean can the new owners do anything.

G. Moreau said future land use is presumed by DLA to remain industrial; the acceptability of the site for future use is currently under State review.

H. Bishop said the State has not completed its review of the report.

G. Moreau said the property has two issues for future industrial uses: SPDES permit and soil issues related to the future land use.

C. Rielly asked if it was not an active industrial site.

T. Ausfeld said the last thing the RAB members knew the site could not be used for anything.

H. Bishop said if the site is used for something other than industrial purposes, then contaminated soil may have to be remediated.

T. Ausfeld said if there are metals the site should be monitored before contamination goes to Black Creek.

G. Goepfert said the Corps has not made any commitment to do any monitoring.

H. Bishop said the NYSDEC Region 4 office would handle the SPDES permit.

G. Moreau said metals did not show up in groundwater sampling and the source material is gone; however, metals concentrations above the NYSDEC soil criteria are still in the soil.

S. Green said her concern is the accumulative affect that is going on – small amounts combine to create a problem. She asked about the dam in Black Creek.

G. Goepfert said the Corps had addressed that issue by sampling three to four years ago and the results showed no need to continue sampling. He added the Corps will address Black Creek from the standpoint of Department of Defense operations but not for other industrial operations.

C. Rielly said the town is not interested in sampling but will have to address that when the reservoir is dredged.

S. Green said there is a greater concern regarding what is flowing through Black Creek to the reservoir.

J. Swartwout said the reservoir quality is important. He added if contamination is found but not the source of the contamination the NYSDEC would step in to address that issue. He said the regional office and water engineer would know about that.

S. Green said the city of Watervleit wants to increase the level of water in the reservoir to sell water to other towns.

B. Callaghan said public water test results are available online.

C. Rielly said sediment contamination can be “fingerprinted” to determine where the contamination comes from.

G. Goepfert said sediment contamination fingerprints the timeframe of deposition but not where it comes from, unless it is unique contamination.

Schedule for Completion of Feasibility Studies for AOC #s 1, 7 and 8

G. Goepfert referred to the page in handout entitled “FY-08 Plan.” He said the 2008 fiscal year begins on October 1, 2007. He added the Corps has turned the corner at FSADVA by remediating the site of the new school bus garage and the burn pits (AOC #3) and AOC #2 (Burns property).

Discussion

S. Green suggested the Corps could also advertise upcoming RAB meetings in the “Spotlight” newspaper located on Adams Street in New Scotland.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Handouts



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New York District

Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

March 29, 2007

Schenectady, New York



US Army Corps
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New York District

Agenda

- Introductions
- Groundwater Monitoring Report for Area of Concern (AOC) #3, Burn Pits
- Status of Clean Up for AOC #2, Former Bivouac Area/ Post Commander's Landfill
- Status of Remedial Investigation Report Preparation
- Schedule for Completion of Feasibility Studies for AOC #s 1, 7 and 8
- Discussion
- Adjournment



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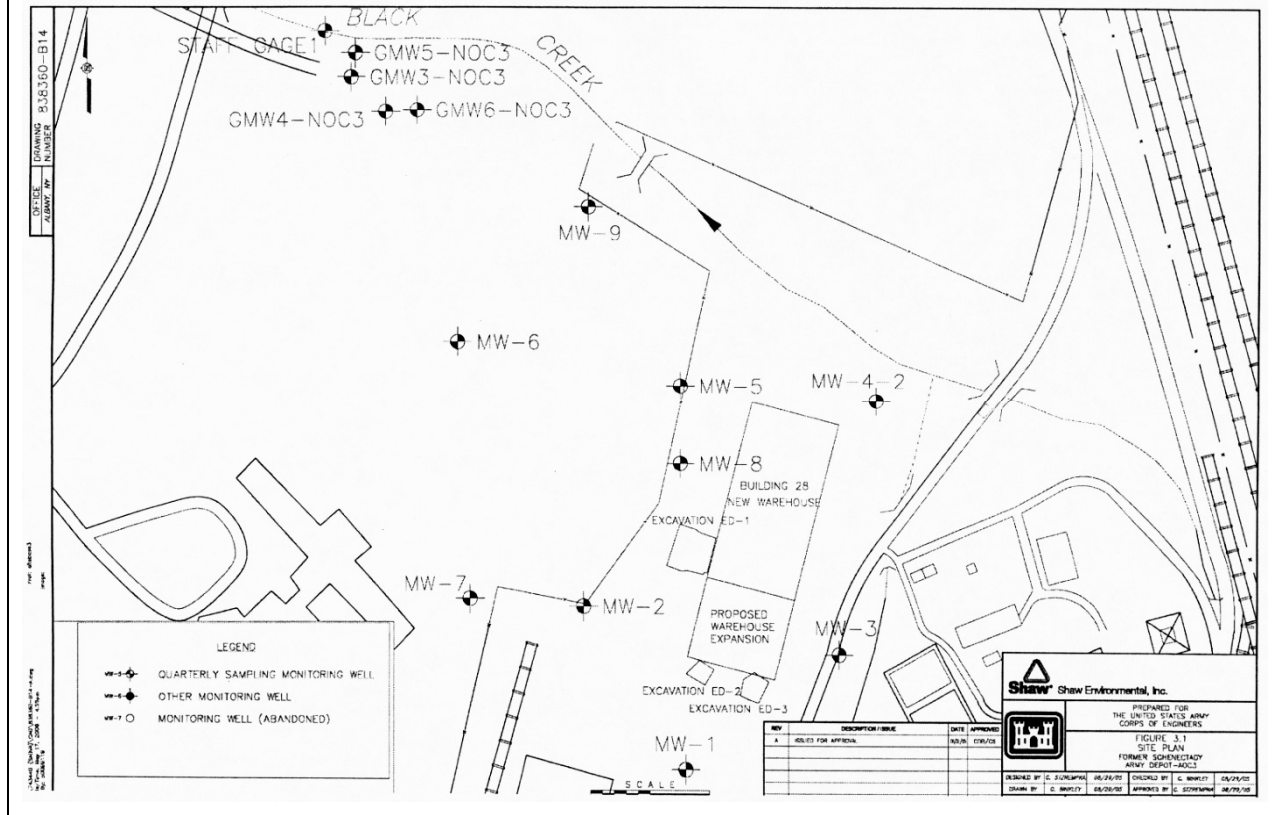
Area of Concern #3 Groundwater Monitoring

- Last two rounds of groundwater sampling on 8/31/2006 and 11/28/2006 evidenced Trichloroethylene (TCE) at 6.3 parts per billion (ppb) and 6.6 ppb, compared to the standard of 5 ppb in Monitoring Well #9.
- Proposed plan to be developed, to include additional monitoring
- We will confer with property owners (Guilderland School and Northeastern Industrial Park), NYSDEC, NYSDOH, RAB regarding details of the Proposed Plan



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AOC #3 Groundwater Monitoring



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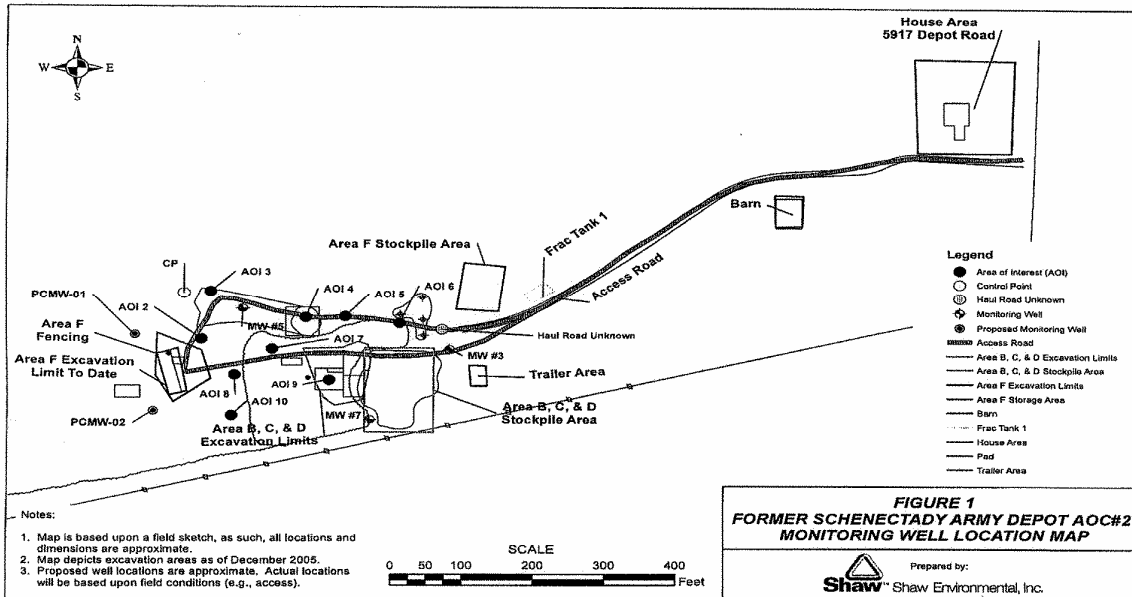
AOC 2 Remaining Actions

- Completed all excavation and disposal actions, Oct. 25, 2006
- Final Report has been issued, January 2007
- Completed final grading and site restoration
- Prepared post-response groundwater monitoring plan;
- Execute groundwater monitoring plan; two additional monitoring wells installed
- Groundwater from a total of five monitoring wells and one surface water sample will be analyzed for volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, chlorinated pesticides and metals.
- Sampling will be conducted in April and October 2007



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AOC 2 Monitoring



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Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies

Remedial Investigation – Target Completion > June 2007

- Complete Human Health Risk Assessments for AOCs 1 (Southern Landfill), 2 (Post Commander's Landfill/Bivouac Area), 3 (Burn Pits), 7 (Triangular Disposal Area) and 8 (Black Creek)
- Groundwater Sampling at AOC 1 (Southern Landfill)
- Qualitative Ecological Risk Assessment, site-wide

Feasibility Studies – Target Completion > September 2007

- Combined Feasibility Study for AOCs 1 & 7
- Feasibility Study for AOC 8



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Quantitative Human Health Risk Assessments

- Identify potential hazards
- Formulate exposure scenarios
- Present an exposure-effect relationship to predict an effect level
- Assimilates these steps to quantify the risk of an adverse effect
- Human Health Risk Assessment considered in making remedial action decisions



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FY-08 Plan*

- Issue Record of Decision / Proposed Plan for AOCs 1, 7 and 8
- Issue Records of Decision for AOCs 2, 4, 6 and 9
- Commence Remedial Design for AOC with recommended actions
- Conduct follow-up monitoring at AOC 3

* Subject to availability of funds.



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Discussion