

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Restoration Advisory Board**  
**Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area**  
**May 24, 2006**  
**Lynnwood Reformed Church**  
**Schenectady, New York**

**Restoration Advisory Board Members and Project Staff Attendees:**

Ted Ausfeld, Alternate Acting Community Co-Chairman  
Charlotte Bethony, New York State Department of Health  
Heather Bishop, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Angelo Bracco  
Joan Burns  
Gregory J. Goepfert, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Army Co-Chair  
Joan Kappel  
George Moreau, Parsons  
F. Kevin Reilly, DLA/DNSC  
Charles Rielly, Acting Community Co-Chair  
Dennis Wesolowski, Defense National Stockpile (DNSC)  
Deb Volkmer, Weston

**Other Attendees**

Jarrett Carroll, Altamont “Enterprise” newspaper  
Bruce Donovan, New York State Department of Health  
Sue Green  
Ronald Groves, Albany County Department of Health  
William James, Jr.

**Introductions**

G. Goepfert called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. After the pledge G. Goepfert 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.

**Area of Concern (AOC) #3 Groundwater Monitoring**

G. Goepfert provided an overview of AOC groundwater monitoring as presented in two pages of the handout. He added that with the interim cleanup of the burn pits the Corps agreed to two years of groundwater monitoring for TCE (trichloroethylene) contamination. He said the burn pit area is now cleaned up. He said before the burn pit cleanup action the Corps cleaned up the Guilderland School bus garage area. He said packaging material found at the bus garage area was hazardous — contained lead. One groundwater sample was just above criteria for TCE and other samples detected lead. Therefore, the State of New York may consider placing restrictions on groundwater use in that area. He said the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)

and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) asked the Corps to continue monitoring for lead. He said the Corps is willing to do two sample events over a year for lead and TCE, at wells previously sampled, but would add monitoring well (MW) #9 to the battery of wells to be sampled.

C. Rielly asked what will be the criteria for levels of contamination. What results will satisfy the state?

G. Goepfert said he had the same questions.

H. Bishop said the state will want to see the levels below the limit and until then will ask the groundwater monitoring to continue.

T. Ausfeld asked if the school system was requested to sample their irrigation water.

R. Groves said that was not under county authority.

A. Bracco said the turbidity numbers on monitoring well #5 were high and asked if testing included both filtered and unfiltered.

C. Bethony and G. Goepfert said NYSDOH and Corps, respectively, needed that information too.

S. Green said she was concerned about criteria and that it seemed to keep changing.

G. Goepfert responded that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set the criteria standard for lead in 1991 and other criteria established in 2001 remains the same.

J. Kappel said standards keep changing because technology and instrumentation has improved through the years — now able to detect smaller amounts. She asked what were the health impacts of TCE. She added that her husband worked with TCE at Cornell.

G. Goepfert said TCE is a carcinogen.

A. Bracco said monitoring well #5 statistically has not dropped and he found it interesting that there were no daughter products.

## **Completed and Planned Cleanup of AOC #2**

G. Goepfert provided an overview of AOC #2 progress, as presented in four pages of the handout. He thanked the State of New York and Albany County for participation. He added that work on Area F has not yet finished. Work is needed to be completed on the north side of Area F. The area was too wet the end of December 2005 and the work will be finished under dry conditions. He said a magnetometer identified two areas of interest.

C. Rielly said a magnetometer survey was conducted before and asked why the areas of interest did not appear then.

G. Moreau responded the magnetometer could not access the specific areas at that time, due to interferences of overhead power lines and inaccessibility due to heavy vegetation cover.

J. Kappel said an iridescent fluid was appearing in the Bear Hill area and asked if the substance had been identified. She said the substance looked oily.

G. Goepfert said that is one of the two areas of interest for investigation.

T. Ausfeld asked if the 61 drums were sealed.

G. Goepfert said the drums were overpacked and sealed in larger drums. He added that the substance in the 61 drums was solid.

G. Goepfert said the Corps will return in July 2006 to finish the northern part of Area F and to look at the two areas of interest.

T. Ausfeld asked how many test wells will the Corps leave.

G. Goepfert said the number has not been determined; there will be a minimum of three wells to triangulate the area and that the Corps will discuss with the State for placement.

T. Ausfeld asked if that is federally designated wetland area.

H. Bishop said it is a state wetland.

## **Remedial Investigation Report – Remaining Work**

G. Goepfert provided an overview of AOC groundwater monitoring as presented in one page of the handout. He said he received funding to complete the remedial investigation (RI) and feasibility study (FS) for three areas/locations. He added that Parsons was awarded the contract to complete the remedial investigation report, and the feasibility studies.

G. Moreau said work has already started on the feasibility study.

G. Goepfert said the feasibility study will cover the gamut of alternatives, the FS report will be available for public review, and there will be a meeting to discuss the FS.

S. Green said that the village of Watervliet was interested in the results of the sampling. She asked if there was any sampling done at the dam.

G. Goepfert responded the Corps sampled at 146.

C. Rielly said he wanted sampling done in the delta.

T. Ausfeld asked how much time will the RAB members and the public have to review the FS report. And what is the public recourse for commenting? He added that problems still exist and need to be addressed at some time.

G. Goepfert noted that a RAB meeting could be held during the public review period to address any comments or concerns. The property owners will also have an opportunity to review and discuss the studies.

C. Bethony said the State could enforce actions to address cleanup.

C. Rielly said the Corps knows TCE is in AOC #1/Southern Landfill. He asked how sure was the Corps that there isn't something else in deep groundwater that will eventually contaminate Guilderland's public water supply and/or Black Creek.

G. Moreau said an RI had been performed in late 1990s and it included groundwater monitoring wells and test pits to find the edges of the landfill.

C. Rielly said he was concerned about the future.

G. Goepfert said in any landfill job the extent of contamination is defined.

C. Rielly responded but no one has determined what is in the landfill.

G. Goepfert said the Corps will look at technology other than digging up the landfill; technology such as iron filings to oxidize the contamination and slurry walls.

A. Bracco said monitoring will last for 20 to 30 years.

After the FS report is prepared a proposed cleanup action plan will be developed and released to the public for comment (public comment period). Following the proposed plan the process will move into the remedial design phase.

## **Discussion**

T. Ausfeld said the "Town Crier" on the local cable access station would be a good means to publicize the availability of the FS and proposed plan.

G. Goepfert volunteered to present the FS and proposed plan to the Guilderland Town Board at board meeting.

K. Reilly said all the material was removed and everything was gone from the DLA site. He is working with NYSDOH and NYSDEC. The area is zoned as industrial property. Soil sampling had two hits of contamination. The ponds are working well and the water has tested clean. He added that he will be talking to General Services Administration (GSA) permit representatives regarding future use; industrial verses residential.

T. Ausfeld asked if there was a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination (SPDES) permit on that project.

K. Reilly responded yes and the numbers are less than the SPDES permit limits. Results of monthly testing are submitted to NYSDEC. He added that the property will transfer back to GSA and he understands the city of Guilderland is interested in the property. Transfer of

property from the Defense Logistics Agency to GSA will determine permitting needs. He said he will prepare a report and present it to RAB.

J. Kappel asked if the RI/FS reports will have a summary or history of sampling and agency actions.

G. Moreau said that information is already in the Archives Search Report.

G. Goepfert said the report will include a summary in a table format.

J. Kappel clarified she wanted the summary table to include: who, what, where, agency, sampling, and contamination.

G. Goepfert said he hoped to return to the area in July 2006 to finish AOC #2. Field work will be done in September 2006 and another RAB meeting will be scheduled in October 2006.

A. Bracco asked if a toxicologist is on staff to do the risk assessment (RA).

G. Goepfert said both the Corps and Parsons have toxicologists to conduct quantitative risk assessments for each site.

T. Ausfeld asked if the general public would understand the RAs.

G. Moreau said the risk assessments are highly technical and the report section about the risk assessment will only be understood by technical readers; however, there will be a summary that most readers can understand.

C. Bethony said the State would evaluate the risk assessments and prepare a statement.

A. Bracco asked the State from where are the total coliform bacteria coming.

C. Bethony and R. Groves responded from animals.

A. Bracco asked if an additional review was needed.

C. Bethony responded no, it isn't known if it is naturally occurring from sewage; however, there isn't a problem with the numbers because no one is drinking it.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

## Handouts



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### Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

May 24, 2006

Schenectady, New York



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New York District

### Agenda

- Introductions
- Area of Concern (AOC) #3 Groundwater Monitoring
- Completed and Planned Clean up of AOC #2
- Remedial Investigation Report – Remaining Work
- Feasibility Studies for AOC #s 1, 7, and 8
- Discussion
- Adjournment



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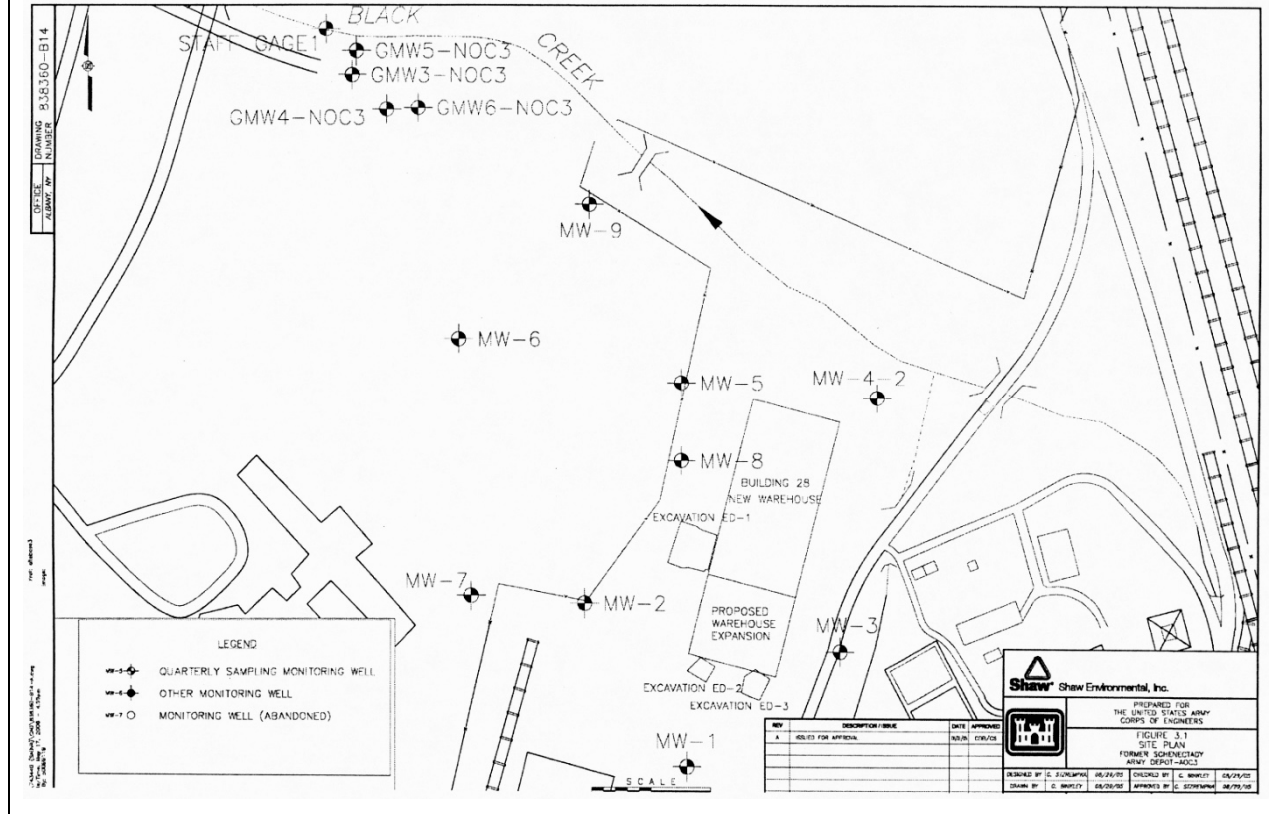
### Area of Concern #3 Groundwater Monitoring

- TCE detected in 17 of 48 samples, with no concentrations above NYSDEC Class GA criteria in monitoring wells; 1 sample above criteria in disconnected Guilderland Central School District irrigation well
- Lead detected in 37 of 48 samples; 7 above criteria
- Laboratory artifacts evidenced in 4 analysis results
- We will confer with property owners (Guilderland School and Northeastern Industrial Park), NYSDEC, NYSDOH, RAB regarding necessity for groundwater use restrictions



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## AOC #3 Groundwater Monitoring



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## AOC 2 Completed Actions – Sept 19 – Dec 27, 2005

### Area B

- >5 gallon containers, tar-like substance
- Soil results-isolated mercury & lead
- Areas re-excavated with acceptable results
- Area backfilled

### Area C

- Solid, paint-like materials
- Soil results-isolated mercury, lead and chromium
- Areas re-excavated with acceptable results
- Area backfilled



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## AOC 2 Completed Actions – Sept 19 – Dec 27, 2005

### Area D

- 61 drums of waste liquid excavated (weathered fuel/solvent)
- Characteristic waste - Ignitability
- Soils contained mercury, naphthalene, benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, xylenes
- Areas re-excavated with acceptable results
- Area backfilled

### Area F

- Glass containers (orange, solvent-like liquid)
- Characteristic waste – Ignitability
- Partially backfilled, southern portion of excavation
- More work on northern end



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## AOC 2 Completed Actions – Sept 19 – Dec 27, 2005

### Geophysical Investigations

- Identified two areas of interest which will require investigations, and potential excavation/disposal work



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## AOC 2 Remaining Actions

- Complete removal of drums, northern end of Area F
- Investigate 2 areas of interest, excavate as necessary
- Post-excavation sampling of Area F and area of interest
- Final grading and site restoration
- Prepare post-response groundwater monitoring plan
- Issue Final Report
  
- Mobilize for remaining work – early July 2006





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## Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies

### Remedial Investigation – Target Completion>December 2006

- 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 Ecology Risk Assessment, site-wide

### Feasibility Studies – Target Completion>December 2006

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



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## Discussion