

**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING NOTES  
FORMER NAVAL AIR STATION BRUNSWICK, MAINE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013  
FAIRFIELD INN AND SUITES, BRUNSWICK, MAINE**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

Paul Burgio	U.S. Navy, BRAC PMO/RAB Co-Chair
Todd Bober	U.S. Navy RPM
Robert Leclerc	U.S. Navy
Tom Brubaker	Mid-Coast Regional Redevelopment Authority
Suzanne Johnson	Brunswick Representative to RAB/RAB Co-Chair
Chris Evans	Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Claudia Sait	Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Mike Daly	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Doug Heely	Environmental Strategies & Mgt.
David Chipman	Town of Harpswell, Maine RAB Member
Catherine Ferdinand	Bowdoin College
Gail Kezer	Senator Kings' Office
Beth Badik	Parsons
Robert Hierholzer	USA Environmental
Todd Coflin	GEI
Jeff Orient	Tetra Tech
Carolyn Lepage	Lepage Environmental Services
Carol Warren	BACSE
Ed Benedikt	BACSE
Antoinette Mercadante	BACSE

**1. Introductions**

Suzanne Johnson, Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:45 p.m. She asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves then turned the meeting over to Paul Burgio, U.S. Navy Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Coordinator for NAS Brunswick and RAB Co-Chair. Paul reviewed the topics covered during the Technical Meeting that was held yesterday, which mostly focused on the munitions sites. He then reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

o Old Business

No old business items were discussed.

o New Business

No new business items were discussed.

## **2. FOST and FOSL Update (Paul Burgio, U. S. Navy)**

There were four Findings of Suitability to Transfer (FOSTs) completed in 2013. These included 2013-1 (MRRA Building 200 parcel (old control tower), 2.67 acres); 2013-2 (Bowdoin College parcels, 8.19 acres); 2013-3 (Town of Brunswick parcels, 6.53 acres); and 2013-4 (Family Focus parcel, 2.38 acres). In total, the Navy has transferred 2,715 acres of land, which accounts for 84 percent of the main base. This total does not include any of the leased parcels. Also this year, the Navy completed a Finding of Suitability to Lease (FOSL) for Building 250.

Ed Benedikt asked about property north of the runway near Jordan Avenue and whether that land has been transferred. Robert Leclerc does not believe that any land in that area, other than the one parcel that has already been transferred, is owned by the Navy.

FOST 2013-5 was planned to be completed this year, but finalization is delayed until early 2014. This FOST includes Mid-Coast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA) Airport parcels and MRRA EDC parcels totaling about 60 acres.

## **3. Recent Activities Update**

### **o Building 250/Hangar 4 Vapor Intrusion Investigation (Paul Burgio, U.S. Navy)**

Paul said that a draft Technical Memorandum was issued in August to present the results of Rounds 1 and 2 of the groundwater and vapor intrusion (VI) investigation conducted in and around Building 250. Two volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were found in groundwater, but no source area was identified. A comparison of VOCs in soil gas to VOCs in indoor air indicates that vapors are attenuating. There does not appear to be a complete pathway from soil gas to indoor air; therefore, remedial actions are not necessary. The final Technical Memorandum was issued in November 2013. This memorandum included a risk analysis that compared VOC concentrations in indoor air to EPA screening levels for industrial workers.

Despite the lack of a complete VI pathway, the Navy permanently sealed 19 floor drains within Building 250 to prevent future vapor intrusion concerns and unauthorized use of floor drains. Several active drains in the building were left open for future use (bathrooms, mechanical room, etc.).

Ed Benedikt asked about the difference between industrial standards and business standards for indoor air. Both standards are based on an 8-hour work day. Ed asked about future uses of this building that may not be industrial. Paul said that use restrictions are contained in the FOSL for this building. He also said there is likely a source of VOCs inside the building and that MRRA and MEDEP are working to develop a protocol for future indoor air sampling. This building will continue to be leased rather than transferred due to concentrations of VOCs in groundwater exceeding MCLs. Mike Daly said that the nature and extent of VOCs in groundwater still needs to be determined. The VI investigation was triggered due to VOCs in groundwater, and although there is no complete VI pathway, further investigation of groundwater is needed. Ed asked if upgradient sources were being investigated. Paul said there are several different areas with low

VOC concentrations in groundwater that will be investigated, but nothing significant has been found yet.

Suzanne Johnson asked about the land use controls and the overall vision for the cleanup of groundwater. Paul said the Navy will likely never release the groundwater restrictions because groundwater beneath the base is not used for drinking water. Most of the groundwater across the base is clean, but it would be cost prohibitive to prove it. In some cases, impacted groundwater is in the deep aquifer, and it will not be practical to clean up to stringent drinking water standards. At the Eastern Plume for example, the Navy is pumping 1 million gallons of groundwater a month and is only recovering a small amount of contaminants.

Ed Benedikt asked if a Record of Decision is needed for groundwater. Paul said that is not something that has been discussed. Carol Warren asked if a restrictive covenant should be considered. Claudia Sait said that restrictions have been addressed through the FOST process. Restrictions can be lifted or modified in the future if the Navy and DEP elect to do so. Suzanne Johnson said there is no public involvement process if a restriction were to be lifted in the future. Paul said the Navy has been very conservative and has implemented groundwater restrictions widely. Paul said that a public involvement process for modifying restrictions could be discussed, but he does not know what the process would be.

Claudia Sait asked if the Town could implement groundwater controls via zoning. Suzanne said the Town is in the process of revamping its zoning laws, and the base is an appendix to these laws right now. She said this is a good time for the Navy, DEP, and the Town to further discuss this. Mike Daly said the delineation of contaminants in groundwater is generally very far along and that mostly only low levels have been found. Suzanne emphasized that she is asking for a process to involve the public if restrictions are going to be lifted or modified in the future. The group agreed that further discussion with the Town on this matter was appropriate.

Carol Warren asked how notifications are made in advance of construction projects that involve digging. The notification requirements in advance of excavation are contained in the deeds. The Navy has applied very broad restrictions on all transfers to avoid groundwater use that may impact areas of contamination. The group needs to consider how these notifications will be made in the future after parcels are bought and sold several times.

- VSI/AOPI Investigation (Paul Burgio, U.S. Navy)

Seven Areas of Potential Interest (AOPIs) were identified during a Visual Site Inspection conducted in 2012. Six of the AOPIs have been investigated, and the investigation of the seventh (Western Drum Area) has not been completed due to the discovery of suspected ordnance. This item was later found to be safe.

Field work at the other six AOPIs was completed this year and included completion of soil borings and test pits and installation of temporary wells. Soil, sediment, and groundwater samples were collected. A photoionization detector (PID) was used to field screen soil samples for VOCs; however, no significant PID readings or other indications of contamination were found. In addition, no other munitions-related items were found. A draft Technical Memorandum is

anticipated by the end of this year to outline the next steps in this process. The Western Drum Area will be investigated next year.

No trespassing signs were posted in these areas, but they have apparently been taken down by persons unknown.

- Old Navy Fuel Farm Update (Jeff Orient, Tetra Tech)

The Old Navy Fuel Farm (ONFF) was located in the northeastern portion of base, near some current ball fields. Originally, there were two bulk storage tank farms containing nine tanks that stored gas, JP-5, and deicing fluids. The tank farms operated from the 1950s to 1993. Over 14,000 tons of petroleum-impacted soils were removed in 2000. Additional investigations were conducted in 2011 and 2013 to determine the source of groundwater exceedances. The 2013 investigation included excavation of test pits around three of the 2011 borings where petroleum impacts were found (SB-6, SB-7, and SB-20). The 2013 work also included investigation of two former oil/water separators and the storm sewer system. The storm sewer investigation was conducted to determine the source of vapors in the storm sewer near former Building 586. The results of the 2013 investigation are pending, and a Technical Memorandum is expected in early 2014.

Suzanne Johnson asked if there is a base-wide map of the storm sewer system. There is a map; however, it appears to be out of date because several catch basins apparently no longer exist. Jeff thought that some of the structures that are labeled as catch basins may actually be manholes.

Some alterations to the investigation work plan were made to reflect field conditions encountered. There is an abandoned fuel line (formerly connecting the off-loading area in Harpswell to the fuel farm) near the storm sewer system. This pipeline was abandoned in place on the base but was removed elsewhere.

Paul Burgio said that multiple soil removal actions have been completed in the past. The Navy is waiting for the results of this latest investigation to determine the path forward, although Paul believes that additional soil removal is likely.

Ed Benedikt asked how planes are currently fueled. There are currently two above-ground tanks near the airfield that store jet fuel and aviation gas.

Although there is little pressure for redevelopment of the ONFF, Paul said that he wants to complete the investigation and cleanup process. This area was going to be the new gateway into the former base, but that plan has been deferred. MRRA is looking at a new access point close to the new fuel farm near Bath Road and across from Merrymeeting Plaza.

Claudia Sait said that this area will eventually be transferred rather than leased because petroleum is non-hazardous and not subject to CERCLA. If new petroleum contamination is found, it would be the responsibility of new owner.

#### **4. 2013 Accomplishments (Todd Bober, U. S. Navy)**

Todd said that a significant amount of work was completed this year and that funding for the next 2 to 3 years has been secured. Several different consultants have been involved working at the base, including Tetra Tech, Parsons, and USA Environmental. The list of accomplishments for this year includes:

- Building 21/26 investigation and cleanup;
- Eastern Plume long-term monitoring optimization and sampling, including sampling for perfluorinated compounds (PFCs);
- Building 250/Hangar 4 VI investigation and floor drain sealing;
- Visual Site Inspection and AOPI investigations;
- Investigations at Buildings 44, NMBC-27, 223, 233, 288, 586, and 611;
- Partial RCRA closure for Buildings 227/280, 231, and 646 and RCRA Closure Summary Report for the Main Base;
- Site 12 and Quarry investigations;
- Orion Street Skeet Range soil removal;
- Fitch Avenue Skeet Range hot spot sampling and removal; and
- FOSTs 2013-1 through 2013-5.

Todd said the RCRA closure work is almost complete, and a summary report will be issued in about 1 month. The process was delayed because the FAA originally wanted some of the buildings but later decided they did not. Because MRRA does want these buildings, the buildings needed to undergo RCRA investigation.

Suzanne Johnson asked Todd and Paul if they have spoken nationally about the BRAC experience for NAS Brunswick, which has been recognized as a model of success. Mike Daly said that the cleanup program here was very far along before the BRAC program came about. The RCRA process has also helped to further the land transfer process. Todd said that aggressive goals were established by the stakeholders, and good working chemistry among the stakeholders has been the key to success.

#### **5. 2014 Planned Projects (Todd Bober, U. S. Navy)**

The list of projects planned for next year is very lengthy and includes:

- Five-year review;
- Additional groundwater investigation around Building 250/Hangar 4;
- Land use control remedial designs;
- Picnic Pond investigation;
- Additional investigation of Fitch Avenue Skeet Range hot spot area;
- Groundwater extraction and treatment in the Eastern Plume and additional PFC sampling;
- LTM sampling and land use control inspections;
- Soil characterization and development of remedial options at the Quarry site;
- Further investigation and berm/pond remediation at Site 12;

- Soil risk assessment and Record of Decision at Orion Street Skeet Range;
- Characterization and cleanup of Topsham Skeet Range and debris area;
- Further characterization of ONFF;
- Capping of Sites 1/3 and soil excavation at Site 7;
- Groundwater remediation at Buildings 7/10;
- Radiological surveys of areas identified in the HRA; and
- Completion of FOST 2014-1.

In addition, the computer system that controls the groundwater extraction and treatment system (GWETS) plant is being upgraded. The O&M manual has been delayed because of this and other system modifications that have been made in the past few years. The system is still being improved, and there are no plans to deactivate it anytime soon. David Chipman expressed concern that the O&M manual has not been issued because it is important for the successful operation of the system.

Claudia Sait said the GWETS is also apparently treating PFCs. A treatment study is planned to further document how well the HiPOx and carbon systems treat these chemicals.

Regarding PFCs, areas where firefighting chemicals were used will be targeted for further sampling. When Hanger 1 burned, only water was used and not firefighting foam. A work plan is being prepared that will include a discussion of where PFCs may have been used.

At Site 12, the pond will be drained to determine if a removal action is needed. The removal action in Topsham will occur next summer during school recess.

At Sites 1/3, an impermeable cap will be completed per the ROD. Cadmium-contaminated soils from Site 7 will be placed under the cap. This portion of Sites 1/3 was formerly part of the weapons compound and was therefore not accessible until the base closed.

Carolyn Lepage asked about the Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for Sites 1/3 and the Eastern Plume. Paul said that the munitions sites took precedence over the ESD process but that it is now being discussed again.

The group discussed how money earmarked for NAS Brunswick is spent. Most of the money they have received must be spent or it will be taken back. It is important for the Navy to make progress, or additional funds will be more difficult to secure. They still have money from 1 to 2 years ago that must be spent.

Suzanne recognized Carolyn Lepage, who is retiring. Carolyn has been the consultant to the Brunswick Area Citizens for Safe Environment (BACSE) and has been involved with NAS Brunswick since 1991. The group recognized her for her great contributions and thanked her for her service.

## **6. Questions**

It is not clear where future RAB meetings will take place. The municipal room at Brunswick

Station has been useful because of the television coverage; however, this room may not be available for some time.

The next RAB meeting will likely be on March 13, 2014. The location of this meeting will be announced later. The early meeting time was developed to allow commuters to get home in good time and appears to work well.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:30**