



U.S. AIR FORCE

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Former Galena Forward Operating Location (FOL)

17 December 2025

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. AKDT

Virtual and In-Person at the Louden Tribe Building, Galena, Alaska

Working Copy Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Organization	Name	Title
Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC)	Christiana Hewitt	BRAC Environmental Coordinator (BEC)
AFCEC	Christine Wong	Contracting Officer's Representative (COR)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Josh Turnbow	BLM Fire Management Officer
BLM	Tom O'Brien	BLM Fire Service
BLM	John Poe	BLM Fire Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Caroline Kreiser	USFWS Airport Site Development Support
USFWS	Troy Civitillo	USFWS Facilities Operations Manager
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)	Tim Sharp	Project Manager (PM)
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF)	Diane Osborne	Northern Region Leasing Chief
AKDOT&PF	Erik Widman	Galena Airport Leasing Specialist
Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH)	Constance Crossley	AFCEC Support
BAH	Angela Sederquist	AFCEC Support
Ageiss Inc.	Dante Gulle	AFCEC Public Affairs (PA) Support
Brice Integrated (Brice)	Corey Schwabenlander	Program Manager
Brice	Monte Garrouette	Project Manager (PM)
Brice	Chris Holt	Deputy PM
Brice	Kristi Duff	NEPA Specialist
Brice	Denise King	Project Chemist
Jacobs	Win Westervelt	PM
Parsons	Brian Blicher	PM
Parsons	Jennifer Benning	Deputy PM
Parsons	Ed Heyse	Senior Technical Consultant
RAB/Community Member	Tirzah Bryant	
RAB/Community Member	Karen Bodony	
RAB/Community Member	Brooke Sanderson	
RAB/Community Member	Shirley Cleaver	
Unaffiliated	Kim Hubbard	



U.S. AIR FORCE

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

### 13:00 Welcome, Introductions, RAB Business – *Christiana Hewitt (Air Force)*

- Action Items from last RAB meeting
- General Discussion
- Introductions and announcement of Christiana Hewitt’s (Christiana) retirement. Joe Reyna will be the interim BEC until her replacement is identified.

### April RAB Action Items

Action Item	Notes/Comments
Non-native vegetation	Christiana reached out to AFCEC staff but a program is not available to address non-native species. AFCEC recommended some grants to look into further. Karen Bodony (Karen) stated that the school district was recently awarded a grant to address non-native vegetation.
New RAB co-chair	Christiana asked community members to volunteer for the open co-chair position. She will share Joe Reyna’s contact information (interim BEC) for interested parties who want to co-chair the RAB.
Local Hire/Community Investment	Christiana addressed local hire options via contractors as AFCEC is unable to directly hire local workers. Contractors will continue to seek local hire opportunities when they are able.

### 13:30 Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS) for Per -and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) – *Brian Blicker (Parsons)*

#### Agenda Items

- What are PFAS?
- AFFF use and Release Areas
- CERCLA Process
- Risk Assessment Updates
- Future PFAS Investigations at Galena
- Feasibility Study
- Future Actions: Data Gap Investigation
- PFAS at the Landfarm

**Presentation #1 Summary** – Brian Blicker (Brian) of Parsons presented on an AFCEC project for a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) RI for PFAS compounds at the Former Galena FOL, Alaska (Attachment 3). He began by explaining what PFAS compounds are, highlighting their widespread use since the 1940s in products such as nonstick cookware, food wrappers, stain-resistant fabrics, personal care products, and Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), which the Air Force has used since the early 1970s for firefighting purposes [Slide 2].

Brian described how AFFF was used at Galena, identifying potential release areas, including the firefighter training area at the east end of the runway, a crash site where AFFF was used in 2003, storage locations at the old and new fire stations, the fire suppression system in the Vehicle



U.S. AIR FORCE

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

---

Maintenance Facility, and runoff discharged to the sewage treatment system [Slide 3]. He provided an overview of the AFFF release areas and their locations across the sites [Slide 4].

Brian discussed the ongoing PFAS investigations at Galena, explaining that the work follows the CERCLA process [Slide 5]. The current phase for the Galena project is the FS phase, however, there will also be a Data Gap Investigation (DGI) to gather more information on the nature and extent of the PFAS (i.e., the Remedial Investigation phase).

Brian noted that risk assessments conducted for Sites FT001 and CG109 used EPA toxicity values from November 2023 and identified areas of unacceptable risk to human health from exposure to surface soil, subsurface soil, and groundwater (GW). He explained that the risk will be further evaluated following the collection of additional data during the DGI and using updated toxicity values from November 2024 [Slide 6].

Brian outlined future PFAS investigations at Galena, which include a DGI and FS. He explained that the DGI is necessary due to regulatory changes that lowered screening levels for PFAS, requiring additional soil and GW sampling to better define the extent of contamination. The FS will evaluate potential remedies to address the risks identified in the RI and risk assessments. There will also be a pilot study for possible treatment options [Slide 7]. He described the FS process, which involves analyzing remedies based on their protectiveness of human health and the environment, reduction of contaminant toxicity, mobility, or volume, short- and long-term effectiveness, implementability, cost, and community and state acceptance [Slide 8].

Brian provided details on the planned DGI activities, which includes collecting 85 grab GW samples, advancing 20 soil borings with seven samples per boring, collecting 20 surface/stormwater samples, and installing 18 new monitoring wells at six locations with three wells of varying depths at each location. GW sampling will occur in 2026 and 2027, with samples collected from existing and new monitoring wells, as well as public and private supply wells [Slide 9]. He explained that sample locations were selected based on recommendations from the RI and risk assessments, the need to delineate contamination to lower screening levels, and the need to evaluate additional potential source areas [Slide 10].

Brian reviewed the current delineation status for Site FT001, noting that surface soil (0–2 feet) was delineated to the north, south, and east based on prior screening levels but is not fully delineated under current screening levels. He outlined next steps, including collecting step-out surface soil samples and establishing local background concentrations of PFAS in surface soil [Slides 11-12]. For subsurface soil (2–15 feet), PFAS was previously delineated in all directions, but additional step-out borings will be drilled and sampled to refine delineation [Slides 13-14]. GW at FT001 has been delineated to the east and southwest, but a separate source area appears to exist to the west. Next steps include collecting GW grab samples to refine delineation [Slide 15].

For Site CG109, Brian explained that surface soil, subsurface soil, sediment, and GW investigations will focus on delineating source areas and refining the extent of contamination. He



U.S. AIR FORCE

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

---

noted that GW delineation has identified possible separate sources within and at the west end of the airfield, and additional grab samples and permanent wells will be installed to refine delineation [Slides 16-19].

Karen Bodony (Karen), RAB member, mentioned that an area west of the dike that runs along the runway, receives runoff water that seeps into the subsurface could be a potential pathway to consider.

Brian also discussed PFAS contamination at the landfarm, where samples collected in 2025 from windrows and stockpiles showed PFOS concentrations exceeding both ADEC and Department of Defense (DoD) screening levels. He explained that the contamination likely originated from 2011 excavations at Sites SS014 and SS017, and possibly other sites. Landfarm operations are currently on hold while the Air Force and ADEC discuss the path forward, which may include treatability studies and evaluating remedies through the CERCLA process if landfarm soils present an unacceptable risk [Slides 20-23].

Brian concluded the presentation by emphasizing the importance of public participation in the remediation process. He provided contact information for the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Command (AFIMSC) PA office and noted that final project documents are available through the Administrative Record (AR) website [Slide 24].

### **Presentation #1 Comments, Questions & Answers (Q&A):**

- Q: Tim Sharp (Tim) with ADEC asked Brian to explain an area marked by a red polygon on one of the DGI figures.
  - A: Brian stated that the area represents potential sampling locations.
- Q: Karen stated there is community concern about an area on the other side of the road near the ball field and asked if sampling would occur in that area.
  - A: Brian said there have been discussions of sampling in that area.
- Karen mentioned an area on the west end of the runway where floodwaters sometimes seep in past the dike. Brian noted this for the DGI.
- Q: Tim asked whether the landfarm would be added to an existing site for investigation, and if so, which site would it be added to or if it would become a new contaminated site.
  - A: Christiana replied that AFCEC would like to add it to an existing site for efficiency and to avoid restarting the CERCLA process (e.g., redoing a Preliminary Assessment, going through the site opening process with AFCEC, etc.).
- Q: Tim asked for clarification about drinking water well sampling.
  - A: Brian confirmed it is in the DGI scope of work through 2027 to test public wells and three private wells.
- Q: Tim asked how the screening levels for GW relate to drinking water screening levels.
  - A: Brian said they will use EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) standards for drinking water. Christiana confirmed that DoD will respond to any circumstances that exceed current MCLs even if the screening criteria changes for EPA. DoD's



U.S. AIR FORCE

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

---

current policy is that if a drinking well has concentrations three times the MCL, then it will be addressed under a Time-Critical Removal Action (TCRA) or Non-Time-Critical Removal Action (NTCRA). This summer (2026), AFCEC has a contract to add a Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system at one of the homes that had been found to have an exceedance of over three times the MCL.

- Q: Diane Osborne with AKDOT&PF asked what the various screening thresholds are.
  - A: Christiana and Brian answered by giving examples but stated that they needed to confirm those levels.
    - <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>.
- Q: Karen asked about tar along a 4-wheeler trail in the grass near the south end of the runway.
  - A: Win Westervelt (Win) asked Brian to show a figure with the airfield as he was the lead for tar investigations and worked with the former airport manager to identify tar patches and drums circa 2010. The original investigations concluded that tar around the airfield was associated with an asphalt plant and flooding from the 1940s. Soil and GW sampling occurred in approximately half dozen patches. The results indicated that no contaminants of concern were leaching from the tar, the petroleum levels were not a risk, and the results were below cleanup levels. The State of Alaska issued a Complete Cleanup.
    - A small cleanup of crushed drums along the shoreline occurred more recently.
- Q: Win asked if Karen thinks this is a new release or associated with the 1940s floods.
  - A: Karen thinks it might be old. She stated that the patches are liquid when it's warm about the size of a frying pan in diameter.
    - Win said the tar patches are likely attributable to the old asphalt plant and are not considered a risk based on past investigations.
- Comment: Brooke Sanderson, RAB member, said that she had noted drums along the river and there are pictures of tar leaking along riverbank. Win discussed an area along the river that was identified roughly two years ago. In August 2025, a drum, all soil around it, and tar were removed and shipped off by barge for disposal. Some crushed drums were also identified. Win said that the work in August 2025 included excavation of 31 crushed drums that were then disposed of in the Galena landfill.
- Comment: Karen said there is another drum downriver of town near a slough. Barrels upriver have been identified. Christiana replied that former Campion Air Force Station is responsible for that area but that she is seeking funding opportunities to help address drums/barrels.
- Comment: Tim recommended that Karen provide him with photos of the drums/barrels. He is the ADEC PM for Campion cleanup activities and will forward the information to Campion personnel.



U.S. AIR FORCE

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

---

- Comment: Christiana also recommended that community members with additional questions about PFAS review the recent newsletter, contact AFIMSC PA, or reach out to the interim BEC, Joe Reyna.

### **14:00 Site CS001 and Remedial Process Optimization Evaluation (RPO) - Monte Garroutte (Brice) and Brian Blicher (Parsons)**

#### Agenda Items

- RPO and Site CS001 Remedy Overview
- Site CS001 Location, Background, and Remedy – 2025 Progress and 2026 Planning
- Remedial Process Optimization – Hot Spot Excavations Drilling and Planned Excavations
- Mobilization and Planning for 2026

**Presentation Summary #2** – Monte Garroutte (Monte) with Brice Integrated (Brice) explained that Brice is supporting two separate projects and began by discussing the RPO and Site CS001 contract first. The project includes hot spot excavations and sampling to verify cleanup actions have been successful. Monte summarized the history of Site CS001 (former 1-million-gallon underground storage tank (UST) on Million Gallon Hill) and work that has occurred at the site since the late 1990s. An environmental remedy was selected as the Record of Decision was finalized in 2020. Land Use Controls (LUCs) were established as well as operations and maintenance activities. The remedy was implemented during summer 2025. During field efforts, alternative actions were necessary to dewater the tank but it could not be dewatered completely (51,000 gallons were dewatered in 2025). Soil samples were collected, vent wells and piping, irrigation piping, and a cover were all installed. Dewatering will continue for 2026 with enhanced technology. Monte outlined plans to complete dewatering using vacuum-enhanced pumping, potentially installing additional dewatering wells, finalizing the installation of soil covers, electrical systems, and piping. Startup of the bioventing system and injecting sulfate solution into the tank's bottom layers will also be done.

Hot spot excavations are at the edges of sites SS016, SS018, and CST011 that have been subject to previous remediation activities. These areas have been sampled including areas near concrete that require disposal. The sampling results will determine handling and disposal options. Monte later presented the 2026 and 2027 field mobilizations planned for both projects. He also discussed pre-sampling activities for PFAS where five soil borings were advanced in hot spot excavation areas. Soil samples were analyzed for PFAS and the results are pending. Concrete in the area was analyzed for proper disposal. Approximately 810 cubic yards will be excavated.

#### **Presentation #2 Comments, Q&A:**

- Q: Karen asked if the soil samples indicate pesticide contamination migration within the tank. She asked if the water in the tank is compromising treatment of the bottom layer.
  - A: Brian stated that 2017 sampling showed pesticide levels in the shallow soil within the tank were low and below cleanup levels. Migration is not expected.



U.S. AIR FORCE

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

---

- Q: Troy Civitillo with USFWS asked Monte what monitoring is happening and what cleanup is planned for Site CS011 Area 1 near the old Combat Alert Cell (CAC) Hangar.
  - A: Monte stated excavations won't undercut the building and that agency coordination with USFWS will be needed closer to operations. Win added that the site used to have a UST and excavations occurred during previous operations. Excavations did not extend to the east to avoid undercutting the concrete beneath the hangar door. This resulted in contamination remaining in the area but this will be removed during the next phase of the project.

### **14:20 Remedial Action Operations (RA-O) and Landfarm Operations - Monte Garrouette (Brice), Brian Blicher (Parsons), and Win Westervelt (Jacobs)**

#### Agenda Items

- RA-O and Landfarm Operations Overview
- RA-O System Monitoring Status Fall 2025
- Monthly Operations and Maintenance Activities
- GW Sampling
- Landfarm Operations
- Summary of Mobilizations, Reporting Schedule

**Presentation Summary #3** – Monte provided a list of the activities conducted under the Remedial Action Operations (RA-O) and Landfarm Operations contract which includes the operation, monitoring, and maintenance of active remediation systems such as bioventing, air sparging, and soil vapor extraction (SVE). He emphasized the importance of monitoring performance through GW sampling, soil vapor monitoring, SVE effluent sampling, ambient air monitoring, and sampling of public and private wells. Monte reviewed the 2025 monitoring activities such as air sampling, ambient air monitoring, systems performance evaluations, and repairs. Monthly monitoring occurs although some systems have already been turned off where sampling has confirmed that the remedial approach has been effective.

Landfarm activities included berm repairs, sign repairs, fencing inspections, and irrigation system installation. Soil samples were collected in June and July 2025 by EA/Parsons under a separate contract to test for PFAS. Landfarm tilling was paused pending sample results, as results could impact landfarm procedures. Furthermore, after sampling results identified PFAS in the landfarm, ADEC requested that soil not be moved in or out of the landfarm without additional planning and coordination. Soil samples were collected from the landfarm in August 2025 to test for petroleum compounds prior to winterization. The water treatment system was set up to treat and discharge excess water. The landfarm has been winterized and is separated into different stockpiles based on the presence of petroleum. Monte noted that the Brown Bear tiller recently experienced a mechanical issue during its transport to the winter storage area. Monte acknowledged this as an inconvenience to the community and assured meeting attendees that Brice is working to move it as soon as possible.



U.S. AIR FORCE

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Monte outlined upcoming mobilizations for RA-O and landfarm operations, which include monthly bioventing and SVE operations from October through April, annual system performance monitoring in April, annual groundwater sampling events in late summer, summer remediation system repairs, and landfarm maintenance. Finally, Monte emphasized the importance of public participation in the remediation process. He provided contact information for Christiana, the BEC, and noted that final project documents are available through the AR website.

### Presentation #3 Comments, Q&A:

- Q: Tim asked if drinking water sampling under the RA-O contract is separate from sampling assigned to Parsons.
  - A: Monte said that Christiana would be able to distinguish how the responsibilities are assigned to the two contractors. Christiana answered that Brice will take over sampling after the Parsons' contract ends.
- Q: Shirley Cleaver (Shirley), RAB member, asked where the tiller will be parked permanently.
  - A: Monte replied that the tiller will be in a building that is leased from the city and near the biomass heating plant. It will be moved carefully from its current location and repairs will be made if required.
- Comment: Shirley cautioned that the road could be damaged when weather conditions are cold.
- Comment: Karen said that spring field activities on the south side of the runway have had an impact on the roads and trails. She asked if contractors can be aware of that or find alternate methods of access to minimize adverse effects. Monte said alternate access routes will be evaluated and operation methods and/or timing will be adjusted to reduce impacts as much as possible.

### 14:50 General Discussion and Closing Remarks

- Win presented a slide with additional information about the tar site cleanup including the number of drums, location, and disposal methods.
- Shirley thanked Christiana for her work in the community.
- Christiana asked again if anyone would like to be the RAB co-chair and offered options for learning about the position.

### Action Items

Name/Organization	Action Item	Notes/Comments
Monte/Brice	Evaluate alternate access routes south of the runway during April sampling event to reduce impact on trails/paths used by the community	
Christiana/AFCEC	Share Joe Reyna's contact information with community members	Community can contact Joe or PA for information about becoming the RAB co-chair



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

## **Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting**

---

<b>Name/Organization</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
AFCEC	Continue to consider options for dealing with any drums discovered in the future and communicate options to the community	

**15:05 Adjourn**