Final Meeting Minutes Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Former Galena Forward Operating Location (FOL), Alaska Galena, Alaska 27 April 2022

Time/Place: Larsen Charlie Community Hall, Galena, Alaska at 7:00 pm

Attendees:

Twenty-three (23) people attended the RAB meeting including representatives from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC), the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT), the City of Galena, Louden Tribal Council, community members, and Air Force remediation contractors. The following is a list of those attending the meeting.

Christiana Hewitt, AFCEC Donna Kozak, Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) Connie Crossley (BAH) Bruce Henry, Parsons Ed Heyse, Parsons John Jones, EA Engineering Win Westervelt, Jacobs Sam Myers, ADOT Jeremy Miner, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - Leidos Shanda Huntington, City of Galena Manager Carolyn Sam, City of Galena Bob Rebarchik, US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) David Zabriskie, US FWS Tim Bodony, Community member, RAB Co-chair Brooke Sanderson, Louden Tribal Council Randy Mattzela, FPM Ranch Burgett, Community member Larry Hausman, Community member Ben Blyce, Community member Courtney Pijanowski, EA Engineering Kylan Hopper, EA Engineering Ming Stephens, Jacobs Karlin Swearingen, Jacobs

Agenda: See Attachment 1

Introduction:

Christiana Hewitt (AFCEC) opened the RAB meeting by thanking everyone for attending the first RAB meeting to be held in Galena since October 2019. The attendees were asked to identify themselves and their affiliation. Christiana Hewitt began the meeting with an update on the BECOS contract.

BRAC Environmental Construction and Optimization Services (BECOS) Contract

Work in 2021 included operation of the Galena landfarm. Operation of the remedial systems will be transferred to the BECOS contractor this coming fall.

Presentation

Remedial Process Optimization (RPO) Evaluation Contracts

Bruce Henry and Win Westervelt gave a presentation (**Attachment 2**) with an update on the RPO contracts. Thirteen (13) of 32 sites were closed under the previous Performance-Based Remediation (PBR) contract and 19 sites remain open. RPO evaluations are being conducted at 18 sites with a remedy in place. The objective of the RPO effort is to evaluate and optimize remediation systems and monitoring programs to ensure they are efficient and effective at meeting remediation goals. The location of the RPO sites is shown on Slide 4 in **Attachment 2**.

All remediation systems will be turned over to the BRAC BECOS contractor to operate by 01 October 2022. The SVE system at Sites SS006 has both summer and winter operating configurations and will be operated by Parsons this summer.

The RPO evaluation includes evaluating sample methodologies for diesel-range organics (DRO) in groundwater; evaluating dissolved manganese in groundwater; evaluating the progress of bioventing, SVE, and air sparge systems to meet cleanup goals; and evaluating petroleum hydrocarbon weathering (from treatment). The RPO will also provide recommendations to optimize bioventing, SVE, and air sparge system operations; optimize injection remedies; optimize bioventing, SVE, and air sparge system performance monitoring programs; and optimize groundwater monitoring.

Sites SS018 and CST011 Area 1 do not have remediation systems but Supplemental Site Characterizations were performed in 2021 to evaluate the extent of remaining petroleum hydrocarbon contamination.

2022 Field Activities for Parsons include the following:

- April/May 2022: Bioventing/SVE Performance Monitoring
- July/August 2022: Site SS006 SVE Summer Operations; Annual Groundwater Monitoring: Supplemental RPO Groundwater and Soil Sampling

2022 Field Activities for Jacobs are similar and include the following:

- April 2022: Air Sparge/SVE Performance Monitoring
- July/August 2022: Annual Groundwater Monitoring

Recommendations for optimizing SVE, bioventing, and air sparging systems will be proposed in a forthcoming RPO Report. Several systems can be shut down because they have met performance objectives. Supplemental soil and groundwater sampling will be performed in summer 2022. The period of performance for the RPO contracts has been extended to September 2023 to complete the 2022 annual performance monitoring report.

A supplemental site characterization was performed at Site SS018 in 2021 (Attachment 2, Slide 7), which was a waste accumulation area south of the power plant. A fuel pipeline leak impacted approximately 1,000 cubic yards of soil. Fuel-contaminated soil was excavated in 2019 and treated at the landfarm. Soil samples were collected in 2021 to determine extent of remaining contamination. Contaminants remain above cleanup levels in soil to the east underneath the concrete pad, and to the south of the concrete pad.

A supplemental site characterization was also performed at Site CST011 Area 1 in 2021 (**Attachment 2**, Slide 8). Approximately 380 cubic yards of fuel-contaminated soil from a former underground storage tank release was excavated in 2019 at the northwest corner of the former Combat Alert Cell (CAC) hangar. Additional soil borings were sampled in 2021 to delineate the extent of the remaining soil contamination. The sampling results showed that a small area of

gasoline-contaminated soil extends less than 5 feet east of the excavation sidewall beneath the pavement in front of the northwest hangar door.

Bob Rebarchik (US FWS) asked Win if they will have to excavate under the concrete pavement in front of the CAC building hangar door. Win responded that excavation would require removing the concrete pavement to access the contaminated soil. The excavation would then be backfilled with clean soil and the pavement could be replaced.

Tar Sites Investigation at Sites SS107 and SS108

Win Westervelt presented a summary of a planned investigation for two tar sites at the former Galena FOL. Sites SS107 and SS108 are areas within and north of the airfield where asphalt tar and tar barrels were dispersed during a flood in 1945 when the runway was under construction. The tar is generally within 3 inches of the ground surface and 6 to 12 inches thick. The investigation by Jacobs will evaluate whether there is contamination from the tar to the underlying soil and groundwater. Based on the findings, potential remedial options will be evaluated.

Presentation

<u>Remedial Investigation (RI) for PFAS Compounds at the Former Galena Forward Operating</u> <u>Location, Alaska</u>

Bruce Henry presented an Air Force project for a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) RI for two Air Force sites at the Former Galena FOL (**Attachment 3**). The objective of the RI is to determine the nature and extent of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in the environment and to evaluate the risk that PFAS pose to human health and ecological receptors.

The two PFAS sites at Galena are Site CG109 (Aqueous Film Forming Foam [AFFF] Release Areas) in the "Triangle" area (shown on **Attachment 3** Slide 3) and Site FT001 (former Fire Protection Training Area) at the east end of the airfield (shown on Slide 4). The source areas for Site CG109 include the former Fire Station (Area 3), Building 1556 Fire Station (Area 4), and the Vehicle Maintenance Facility (Area 5). The sanitary sewer system outfall (Area 9) to the west will also be evaluated.

Two field mobilizations are planned for the 2022 field season. The spring 2022 activities include:

- An initial round of groundwater sampling in May 2022 to bound the extent of PFAS in groundwater (approximately 73 monitoring wells).
- Surface Soil and Sediment Sampling
 - 5 surface soil samples at Site FT001
 - 15 surface soil samples in Airfield Drainage Features
 - 15 surface soil samples in Triangle Area Drainage Features
 - 10 sediment samples near Sanitary Sewer Outfall AFFF Area 9

The summer 2022 activities (pending approval of the RI work plan) include:

- Install up to 10 new monitoring wells with locations based on spring 2022 sampling event.
- A second round of groundwater sampling in August/September 2022 to confirm the extent of PFAS in groundwater.
- Sample approximately 35 soil borings to delineate extent of PFAS in soil at the AFFF Area 1, 3, 4 and 5 source areas.

- Surface soil and sediment soil sampling step out locations as needed.
- Surface water sampling (locations to be determined).
- Sampling for ecological risk (locations and media to be determined).

Bob Rebarchik asked a question regarding the soil borings for PFAS RI, whether the 35 borings is per site or the total number of borings. Bruce replied that it is the total number of planned soil borings.

Bruce then reviewed the proposed sampling locations for the spring 2022 sampling event. The five surface soil sampling locations for Site FT001 are shown on **Attachment 3** Slide 7. The locations were selected to determine if there is surface soil contamination outside of the immediate fire training pit.

The 15 groundwater sample locations for Site FT001 are shown on **Attachment 3**, Slide 8. Nine monitoring wells will be sampled at Site FT001. The three background wells to the west of Site FT001 that were installed as part of the RPO study and three downgradient wells at Site ST010 will also be sampled.

Surface soil sampling at CG109 will help determine whether storm water drainages are a migration pathway for PFAS. In the airfield area there are two primary drainage features: one on the north side of the runway and one south of the runway (**Attachment 3**, Slide 9). A total of 15 surface soil samples along the north and south drainage areas.

In the Triangle Area (**Attachment 3**, Slide 10), approximately 14 samples will be collected along surface water drainages. The goal is to determine if the drainage features are a pathway for PFAS migration. One additional location is located to the north near the sewer system treatment lagoon (location not shown).

Sediment samples will also be collected by the sanitary sewer outfall (**Attachment 3**, Slide 11). The outfall is circled in red. Based on surface topography, the area to the north of the outfall is a low spot and has been observed to be very wet. Sediment samples will be collected in this wetlands area to evaluate ecological risk. Shanda Huntington (City of Galena) mentioned that the sewer piping from the lagoon to the outfall is wood stave piping that has deteriorated and leaked.

Up to 55 groundwater monitoring wells will be sampled at Site CG109 (**Attachment 3**, Slide 12). Based on the spring sampling data, sampling in summer/fall of 2022 will be optimized to get better delineation on the Site CG109 groundwater plume.

Field work for the PFAS RI will be completed in September 2022. The data will be evaluated over the winter and an RI report will be submitted for ADEC review in April 2023. In addition to evaluating the extent of PFAS in soil and groundwater, the RI report will include baseline human health and screening level ecological risk assessments.

Bruce opened the floor to questions. Tim Bodony (RAB Co-chair) asked if drinking water supply wells would be sampled and if so, which ones. Bruce answered that the three water supply wells

in the Triangle area (known as wells No. 1, 3, and 7) would be sampled during both the spring and summer sampling events.

Tim asked for further clarification about how deep the monitoring wells are in comparison to the water supply wells. Bruce responded that the deepest monitoring wells are about 70 to 80 feet deep. The drinking water supply wells are screened starting at about 180 feet deep.

Tim also asked whether ADEC has set cleanup levels for PFAS and will the Air Force be following them. Bruce responded that ADEC has set cleanup levels for some PFAS compounds and they will be used during the PFAS RI.

Larry Hausman (resident) asked what illnesses are caused by PFAS. Christiana Hewitt responded that current studies are showing impacts to include low birth weights, reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infection, and interference with the body's natural hormones. Health impacts are being addressed under a different program than the environmental restoration program.

Shanda Huntington asked if the Air Force was going to do any investigation at the locations of the New Town Galena fires that were extinguished using AFFF given to the City of Galena by the Air Force. Bruce responded that it was not part of the Galena PFAS RI scope of work. Donna Kozak and Tim Bodony recalled that ADEC may have done some sampling in New Town due to the proximity of the Fire Station fire to the public drinking water well. Christiana Hewitt said that she would follow up with ADEC and get back to Shanda.

Additional information on Air Force remediation at Galena can be obtained from the Galena Administrative Record (<u>https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/</u>), and questions submitted to Air Force Installation and Mission Support Central (AFIMSC) Public Affairs office (<u>afimsc.pa.workflow@us.af.mil</u>). Comments can also be provided directly to Christiana Hewitt at <u>christiana.hewitt.1@us.af.mil</u>.

Closing Remarks

Sam Myers commented that there has been great progress made in Galena over the years and has enjoyed working with the Air Force. He is glad to see that PFAS are being investigated at Galena and that PFAS are an issue at other ADOT airfields.

Christiana Hewitt announced that the Air Force has achieved Whole Base Transfer for the Former Galena FOL. This is a significant milestone for the Air Force BRAC team and one of the primary missions of BRAC along with environmental cleanup. She thanked Bob Rebarchik with the US FWS for his support on the transfer of the RAPCON yard, which was the last parcel transferred. ADOT and the City were also acknowledged for their support in the transfer of Air Force leases and reserves.

Christiana Hewitt thanked the Galena community for attending and contributing to the meeting, and to contact her or Public Affairs if they have any questions. Christiana asked if there were any additional questions (there were none) and closed the RAB meeting.

Attachments:

- 1. Final RAB Meeting Agenda
- 2. Presentation: Remedial Process Optimization (RPO) at the Former Galena Forward Operating Location (FOL), Alaska (also includes Tar Site Investigation)
- 3. Presentation: Remedial Investigation (RI) for PFAS Compounds at the Former Galena Forward Operating Location, Alaska

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Attachment 1 RAB Meeting Agenda

<u>Final</u> <u>Galena RAB Meeting Agenda</u> April 27, 2022 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm AKT Charlie Larsen Hall Galena, Alaska

Welcome

Christiana Hewitt, AFCEC

Introductions

Overview of Environmental Restoration

- BRAC Environmental Construction and Optimization Services (BECOS) Contract (Christiana Hewitt, AFCEC)
 - Activities Planned for 2022 Field Season
- Remedial Process Optimization Evaluation (RPO) Contracts (Bruce Henry, Parsons and Win Westervelt, Jacobs)
 - Summary of 2021 Field Operations
 - Activities Planned for 2022 Field Season
- > Tar Sites Investigation (Win Westervelt, Jacobs)
 - Activities Planned for 2022 Field Season
- Remedial Investigation for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) (Bruce Henry, Parsons)
 - Activities Planned for 2022 Field Season

Remarks from ADEC	TBD
Remarks from ADOT	Sam Myers, ADOT
Questions from the Public	Christiana Hewitt (Facilitator)
Schedule for Next RAB and Closing Remarks	Christiana Hewitt

For more information about the Galena Environmental Cleanup Program, please contact the AFCEC Public Affairs hotline at 1-866-725-7617 or via email at afimsc.pa.workflow@us.af.mil Attachment 2

Remedial Process Optimization (RPO) at the Former Galena Forward Operating Location (FOL), Alaska



























Attachment 3

Remedial Investigation (RI) for PFAS Compounds at the Former Galena Forward Operating Location, Alaska



























