

**Galena Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting
SUMMARY**

**October 10, 2012
Galena, Alaska**

1. Attendees:

Larry Amskold, Jacobs
Tim Bodony, RAB Member
Alfred Evans
Fred Huntington
Tom Johnson
Phil Koontz, Louden Tribal Council
Donna Kozak, Booz Allen Hamilton (AFCEC Contractor)
Adam Mastro, BEM
Sam Myers, Alaska Department of Transportation
Chris Reitan, Superintendent, Galena School District
Dennis Shepard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Donovan Walker, Accu-Type Depositions
AL Weilbacher, Air Force Civil Engineer Center

2. Introduction. Mr. AL Weilbacher of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. Mr. Weilbacher stated three Air Force Civil Engineering Agencies, the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE), the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA), and the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency (AFCESA) have merged to become the Air Force Civil Engineer Center based in San Antonio, Texas.

3. Public Involvement Update. Mr. Weilbacher encouraged the local community to keep informed of the Air Force's cleanup progress at Galena by attending RAB meetings and reading the environmental newsletter. He emphasized they are disseminated in alternating quarters to ensure the community is receiving a steady stream of information from the Air Force. Mr. Weilbacher also reminded the attendees of the vote that took place last meeting to hold the next two RAB meetings on April 17, 2013 and October 16, 2013. He encouraged the attendees to let the Air Force know of any potential conflicts as soon as possible.

4. Landfarm Update. Mr. Weilbacher provided an update of the landfarm constructed this summer at the former Champion runway. The landfarm was filled with approximately 2,100 cubic feet of contaminated soil and treatment began at the end of the season. Mr. Weilbacher indicated the Air Force contractor tilled and fertilized the soil weekly and showed the attendees several photos of the progress. The contractor prepared the landfarm for winter in October. Mr. Weilbacher also discussed the progress made toward road reconstruction near the Birchwood and Airport Way intersection where the Air Force's contractor completed a dig and haul operation in 2011. Mr. Phil Koontz, Louden Tribal Council, asked how many years it would take

for the landfarm to completely treat the contaminated soil. Mr. Weilbacher indicated the Air Force would need to first examine the results of soil tests taken in September before identifying a timeline. Mr. Tim Bodony, RAB Member, asked what kinds of seeds were used when reseeding the area near the landfarm. His concern was invasive species. Mr. Dennis Shepard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, indicated the seed mix was compatible with the naturally occurring Alaskan Environment. Mr. Shepard also agreed to provide more specific information about the seed mix to Mr. Bodony. Mr. Koontz asked if it was correct that state and federal agencies could make recommendations about appropriateness of using a landfill for disposal of treated soil but that the city had discretion to accept or reject it. Mr. Weilbacher said yes, and when asked if the Air Force pays the city for landfill disposal, he said the city has tipping fees.

- 5. MMRP Update.** Mr. Weilbacher spoke about the Military Munitions Response Program's goal of obtaining site closure for seven MMRP sites at Galena. Mr. Weilbacher showed the attendees the seven sites on a map. He indicated a 95 percent confidence level in identifying unexploded ordnances in the Parcel D area by using 100x100 grids. The Air Force's contractor conducted a geophysical investigation this summer and will complete any remaining investigation of anomalies next summer. Mr. Weilbacher showed a series of photos showing the process. He indicated the plan for 2013 was to dispose of rocket shipping canisters and identify and dispose of munitions if found. Mr. Alfred Evans noted he didn't recall seeing ammunitions storage on the south ramp. Mr. Weilbacher indicated there is a map dating back to the 1950s that identified a small building as "Army Storage, Army Ammunition Storage". Mr. Tom Johnson asked if the geophysical work had been completed on the areas mentioned in the briefing and if the sites were clearly marked for the Air Force to return to them when needed. Mr. Weilbacher said he believed it was but the plan was to revisit in summer 2013 to further identify the anomalies found. He also indicated the sites were clearly marked.
- 6. Performance Based Contract Update.** Mr. Weilbacher informed the attendees the deadline to submit proposals for the Performance Based Contract came and went without receiving any. The problem may have been high risk to the contractors because they didn't know enough about Galena. He indicated the new plan is to continue work at sites where work plans have been approved and to conduct additional sampling to eliminate data gaps so that more information will be available for the next PBR. Mr. Weilbacher explained the various contract mechanisms (WERC, DBR2, 4PAE and ECOS) with the latter needed for service contracts.
- 7. Remarks from ADEC.** Mr. Shepard discussed ADEC's role in providing regulatory oversight to the contaminated sites in Alaska. He provided an overview of ADEC's responsibilities including developing regulations and guidance and maintaining a public database of information about contaminated sites. Mr. Shepard further discussed potential exposure pathways in soil and groundwater. He also provided a timeline of events for the state of Alaska from statehood to the CERCLA process to the Valdez oil spill, outlining how the regulatory requirements have evolved over the

years. Mr. Shepard also provided information which indicated the number of private and commercial contaminated sites is about equal in number to military and federal agency sites in Alaska. He indicated the risk to receptors from commercial and private sites is often greater than risk associated with military sites such as Galena, due to proximity and number of receptors associated with residential settings of many private and commercial contaminated sites. There was discussion about the levels of contamination specifically at Galena. Mr. Sam Myers, Alaska Department of Transportation, asked if any progress had been made regarding the landfill monitoring wells and sampling. Mr. Shepard indicated the Request for Proposal (RFP) had not yet been awarded.

- 8. Campion Update.** Mr. Adam Mastro, BEM, and Mr. Larry Amskold, Jacobs, discussed the progress made at Campion on the excavation of petroleum contaminated soil and treatment in an on-site landfarm. BEM completed the excavation and is currently working on operations and maintenance of the landfarm. Mr. Mastro indicated sampling was anticipated in the near future to determine the effectiveness of the landfarm treatment this summer, with winterization occurring in mid-October.
- 9. RAB Comments.** Mr. Bodony sought clarification on the scope of work for the Performance-Based Remediation contract to ensure there was a plan to conduct dig and haul operations near the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Weilbacher clarified that the BLM excavation would be a separate contract. He also verified a second contract would be let for support to fill data gaps. Both of these contracts will be for work in 2013 before the Air Force begins work on a new PBR. Mr. Weilbacher indicated contracting officers are currently soliciting feedback from contractors to find out why they did not bid on the work. Ms. Donna Kozak, Booz Allen Hamilton, provided additional information as to why contractors may not have bid, including how expensive preparing a proposal may be and how many other PBRs there are in the Air Force portfolio to choose from. Mr. Weilbacher let the RAB know the Air Force would brief the results once available. Mr. Bodony also inquired about the “L” labels located around town. The consensus was it was marking locations for aerial surveys. Marvin Thurmond is the person to ask.
- 10. Louden Tribal Council Comments.** None
- 11. Galena School District Comments.** None
- 12. ADOT Comments.** ADOT worked with the Air Force to refine the permitting process, allowing both parties to work together easier.
- 13. Questions from the Audience.** A member of the audience asked who was responsible for an old hangar with a roof nearing collapse (Larry’s Flying Service). Mr. Myers, ADOT, indicated they were checking on asbestos and lead-based paint which is required prior to demolition. Mr. Bodony asked for a brief update on the bioreactor. Mr. Weilbacher discussed the pilot study and the use of sodium lactate in

lieu of the vegetable oil used in the past. The Air Force's contractor took samples before the bioreactor was shut down for winter and they plan to take new samples in the spring to compare. Mr. Bodony also expressed concern that samples were taken at a munitions site near the civilian shooting range when residents were siting their guns for moose season against the RAB's request. Mr. Weilbacher indicated the Air Force would work to make sure that doesn't happen next year.

14. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

15. Next RAB Meeting. The next RAB meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2013 in Galena.