

# Galena Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

## Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2013

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Larsen Charlie Community Hall  
Galena, Alaska

### **Attendees:**

AL Weilbacher, Air Force Civil Engineer Center  
Gail Graban, Air Force Civil Engineer Center  
Fred Vreeman, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Dennis Shepard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Donna Kozak, Booz Allen Hamilton (AFCEC Contractor)  
Angela Sederquist, Booz Allen Hamilton (AFCEC Contractor)  
Oren Fallon, Alaska Department of Transportation  
Penny Adler, Alaska Department of Transportation  
Sam Myers, Alaska Department of Transportation  
Marvin Thurmond, Alaska Department of Transportation  
March Runner, Louden Tribal Council  
Dana Burke, Alaska Attorney General's Office  
Nino Muniz, Ahtna Engineering  
Shirley Cleaver, Galena Resident  
Fred Huntington, Louden 1<sup>st</sup> Chief

John Davis, Bethel  
Brian Blicher, Parsons  
Galena Resident  
John Korta  
Terry Pitka  
Ed Pitka, Crowley Petroleum  
Bruce Henry, Parsons  
John Stam, RAB Member  
Brent Jones, Tetra Tech  
Tim Bodony, RAB Member  
Win Westervelt, CH2M HILL

### **Welcome**

**AL Weilbacher, AFCEC**

- Introductions – See attached attendance list.

### **Public Involvement Update**

**Gail Graban, AFCEC**

- For the quarters that the Air Force does not facilitate a RAB meeting, the Air Force is publishing a newsletter. If you have any ideas about what you'd like to hear about in these newsletters, please contact AL Weilbacher or Gail Graban.
- There presently are a few open slots on the RAB for Galena residents. If you are interested in supporting your community by becoming a RAB member, please contact Gail Graban.

### **Overview of Environmental Restoration**

**AL Weilbacher, AFCEC**

Data gap sampling at the sites will be completed this summer. Two contractors, CH2M HILL and Parsons, will be performing these field activities. Also, TetraTech will be conducting an interim remedial action (soil excavation) at Site SS016 and they will be expanding the landfarm this summer. A contractor will continue the sampling and field activities under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), but that contract has yet to be awarded.

### **2013 Field Activities**

Landfarm Expansion and Interim Removal Action (IRA) at SS016

**Brent Jones, TetraTech**

- TetraTech plans to mobilize mid-June to start the landfarm expansion. The landfarm expansion will occur on the Champion Air Strip and will double the capacity of the landfarm.

- Tim Bodony, RAB member, asked why the Air Force was not using the cleared land across the road from the Campion Air Strip to expand the landfarm. AL Weilbacher responded that because the permafrost below ground surface has not thawed yet [allowing for surface water infiltration] the land is too wet to construct a landfarm cell at this time. It may take another year or two for the permafrost and surface water to recede before additional landfarm cell(s) can be built.
- Approximately 2,100 cubic yards of treated soil are going to be moved from the landfarm and transported to the Galena Landfill to be used as interim cover for the landfill.
  - Tim Bodony asked if ADEC has approved the transfer of this soil to the Galena landfill. Free Vreeman, ADEC, indicated that movement of treated soils from the landfarm would be reviewed and approved by ADEC's Solid Waste Program and Contaminated Sites Program. Fred also explained this soil can be used as interim cover, but indicated that final "clean soil" cover would be required for capping the landfill. Also, ADEC requested that the City of Galena notify them if they notice visible oily sheen on surface water when using this soil as interim cover.
- The soil excavation will be conducted in late July-mid August. Up to 8,700 cubic yards of soil will be excavated from SS016 and moved to the landfarm. The backfill material for the excavation will be provided by local contractor (Ron Burgett). Site SS016 is adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) firefighting operations. The Air Force and TetraTech will coordinate with BLM to mitigate impact on firefighting operations. The access road from the helipad to will be open for BLM traffic and the fence-line at the southern excavation boundary will allow 20-30 feet for fuel trucks to pass.
- The landfarm will be winterized around October 1, 2013.
- Refer to attached slides for additional details.

Data Gap Sampling – Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants (POL) Sites **Win Westervelt, CH2M HILL**

- CH2M HILL is going to be performing field activities for supplemental Site Characterization at POL sites. This will include drilling for soil and groundwater samples and monitoring well installation. CH2M HILL is planning to mobilize on June 3, 2013. The field crew will consist of 6-10 people. Ron McComb and one additional person (to be determined) will be the CH2M HILL field team leads and points of contact (POCs) in Galena for field activities.
- CH2M HILL will be conducting two groundwater monitoring well events in Fall 2013 and Spring 2014.
- Refer to attached slides for additional details.

Data Gap Sampling – POL and Non-POL Sites **Bruce Henry, Parsons**

- Parsons is going to be performing field activities for supplemental Remedial Investigation at non-POL sites and supplemental Site Characterization at a couple of POL sites. This will include drilling for soil and groundwater samples and monitoring

well installation. Parsons is planning to mobilize mid-June. The field crew will consist of 4-6 people. Brian Blicher will be the Parsons field team lead and POC in Galena for field activities.

- Parsons will be conducting the bioreactor pilot study at Site SS015 in the airfield. The start-up of the bioreactor is planned for mid-May (after break-up of the Yukon River) and the solar panels will be set-up at that time.
- Refer to attached slides for additional details.

#### Military Munitions Response Program

**AL Weilbacher**

- The Air Force is working with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to contract the field activities under the MMRP for this summer. The contract has not been awarded yet, but is expected to be awarded by the end of April 2013. This work will include:
  - Removing the empty rocket canisters,
  - Verify the absence of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) at the Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Area – Parcel D, Suspected Ordnance Burial Site (SOBS), Rocket Shipping Container Site, Hot Cargo Pad, Former Ammo Storage Building 1400, and Former Army Ammo Storage on South Apron;
  - Investigate for the presence of explosives residues using wipe sampling at Former Missile Storage Area Building 1488.
- Refer to attached slides for additional details.

#### SVE/Biovent System O&M and GAVTC System Evaluation

**AL Weilbacher**

- Bhate currently holds the contract to run the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE)/Biovent System Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and the Galena-Aviation-Vocational-Technical-Center (GAVTC) Sub-slab Depressurization System. This contract is up for re-compete in June 2013.

#### Coordination with Stakeholders on Field Activities

**AL Weilbacher**

- The Air Force and their contractors are actively working with ADEC, ADOT, BLM, City of Galena, and FAA for the coordination the field activities planned for this summer.

#### Air Force Oversight of Field Activities

**AL Weilbacher**

- Due to Air Force budget constraints, Air Force oversight of field activities may be limited this summer. The Air Force is working with their AFCEC Contractor, Booz Allen Hamilton, to fill in gaps to ensure adequate Air Force oversight.

#### Performance-based Remediation (PBR) Contract Update

**AL Weilbacher**

- Unfortunately, there were no bidders for the last PBR contract. The Air Force is working to fill data gaps and make a future PBR Contract more favorable to potential contractors. It is anticipated that there will be a site visit for potential contractors this summer and another PBR Contract Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued next fiscal year.

## Remarks from ADEC

Fred Vreeman and Dennis Shepard, ADEC

- Fred Vreeman indicated that Dennis Shepard is taking on more and is expected to transition to being lead for Galena once the PBR Contract has been awarded and Fred transitions out.
- Fred mentioned that the relationship between ADEC and the City of Galena to manage the land use controls (LUC) and institutional control (ICs) for construction/dig projects is working well.
- Fred emphasized the importance of stakeholder input and these meetings to keep things moving forward in an organized manner.
- Fred commended the Air Force for quickly getting contracts together and awarded for the 2013 field activities after the PBR Contract wasn't awarded. He is looking forward to finishing up the investigations, knowing where most of the contamination is, and what needs to be done in the long term to clean it up. The next step is the cleanup of the sites.

## Remarks from ADOT

Oren Fallon, Penny Adler and Sam Myers, ADOT

- Penny Adler introduced the representatives from ADOT (listed above), including Dana Burke from the Alaska Attorney General's Office, and stated that ADOT is working with the Air Force and their contractors to issue the building permits for this summer's field activities.
- ADOT has funds to demolish Larry's Flying Service hangar building adjacent to the GAVTC building. ADOT is going to be releasing the RFP for the contract shortly and it anticipated that it will awarded quick and the work would occur prior to the end of ADOT's fiscal year (June 30, 2013). It will only include demolishing the hangar.
- ADOT/ADEC currently lacks the funds to sample groundwater from the closed landfills, but will continue to seek funding to conduct this monitoring.

## Questions from the Public

AL Weilbacher (Facilitator)

- John Korta, Galena resident, asked about the future of the sand borrow source on Campion Air Force Station (Campion). AL Weilbacher responded that he thinks that sand was used for the landfarm on Campion, but that area is managed by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and he is not sure what plans (if any) there are for that area. John Korta was concerned because of the cross-country ski trail that is adjacent to that area. AL Weilbacher suggested contacting Charley Patyon.
- Tom Johnson, Galena resident, asked about the level of contamination in soil that is allowed to go to the landfill and can be used as cover. He also asked if the Air Force would be paying the City of Galena tipping fees. Fred Vreeman indicated that contamination levels would be below cleanup levels for direct contact, but above the cleanup levels for migration to groundwater. ADEC's concern for this treated soil is that it's not suitable for top cover because of the potential for fuel-contaminated surface water runoff from the landfill. AL Weilbacher indicated that the Air Force is paying tipping fees to the City of Galena.
- Tim Bodony remarked that the Air Force contractor performing field activities at the SOBS last year did not coordinate with the community about scheduling closure of the shooting range. They shut down the Galena Shooting Range during moose hunting

season, which was very inconvenient to the Galena Residents. Tim requested that AL Weilbacher inform USACE and the MMRP contractor about moose hunting season and ensure that the shooting range is open during this upcoming season.

**Closing Remarks**

**AL Weilbacher**

The Air Force thanks the stakeholders, RAB members, and the community for attending this RAB meeting. The next RAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for the third Wednesday of October (October 16, 2013). Please let the Air Force know of any conflicts with this date and the Air Force will work with the RAB members to select an alternate date, which would be published in the next newsletter.

**Adjournment**

For more information about the Galena Environmental Cleanup program, please contact the AFCEC Public Affairs hotline at 1-866-725-7616 or via email at [AFRPA.PA@us.af.mil](mailto:AFRPA.PA@us.af.mil).