

**GALENA
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
Final Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 26, 2005**



ATTENDEES:

Theresa Clark, Yukaana Development Corporation, RAB Member
Colin Craven, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Chuck Fedler, Chugach Support Services (CSS), RAB Member
David Hertzog, Galena Military Co-Chair, 611 Civil Engineer Squadron, U.S. Air Force
Tom Johnson, Department of Transportation/City of Galena, RAB Member
Phil Koontz, Louden Tribal Council (LTC), RAB Member
Suzette LaPine-Rosecrans
John Mackey, Chugach Support Services (CSS)
Ragine Pilot, Louden Tribal Council (LTC), RAB Member
Eleanor Yatlin, Louden Tribal Council (LTC), RAB Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Tom Johnson requested Ragine Pilot conduct the meeting. The meeting attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations, if any.

There were no changes to the agenda.

There were no changes to the minutes of October 21, 2005. The minutes were approved and accepted.

AIR FORCE

Field Work

Mr. Hertzog stated he, Mr. Craven, Oasis, Earth Tech, a host of contractors, along with several others, attended a week long meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The purpose was to discuss the compilation of studies conducted at the Galena base facility/Campion and the RI/FS. This was an informational meeting to see if we were on the right track or if any new circumstances out of the ordinary were apparent and needed to be addressed. The meeting was not intended to make any decisions but designed to give direction to the contractor. The Yukaana contract was awarded in October 2004 and they have completed the groundwater monitoring – a one-time event – and now are operating the GAVTC facility and the bio-vent inspections.

Mr. Hertzog gave a slide presentation that will also be presented at the TPT technical meeting January 27, 2005. Following are his comments and others as noted.

Galena Airport IRP Sites: Slide 1 was an area wide aerial photograph showing the facilities around the base that were discussed at the meeting in San Antonio.

SS006 TCE Plume: The contaminant of concern at this site is TCE, and the source of the TCE has not been established. A soil gas survey was conducted and Building 1845 was eliminated as the TCE source. The survey results also indicated that the sewer lines were not a source of TCE contamination. An investigation to determine if there was a TCE source was prompted by Eleanor's explanation that there were areas formerly used for dumping.

2002 Soil Gas Survey Map: Slide 2 was a map showing the sample locations of the 2002 Soil Gas Survey. Mr. Hertzog pointed out the locations on the slide.

SS006 Groundwater: Based on review of the data at the San Antonio meeting, the conclusion was that the drinking water on base is safe to drink and sampling is no longer recommended. Mr. Hertzog stated this conclusion is preliminary and will be brought out in the RI/FS. Mr. Hertzog stated if more wells are needed to investigate this site more wells can be added, but as far as we can tell, the base drinking water is not being contaminated.

SS006 Field Work: Slide 3 shows the groundwater water levels and the analytical information.

Mr. Craven stated that Mr. Hertzog gave a good summary of what was going on with Building 1845. In San Antonio they went over this information and not all the information has been presented that will become a part of the RI/FS. Currently, there is not a defined TCE source area in the soil, but it has to come from somewhere and needs to be reviewed closely. If there is a residual source, it will continue to feed into the groundwater contamination and needs to be stopped as quickly as possible. It is not clear that the TCE is attenuating. Phil Koontz asked Dave Hertzog if there was evidence that it was attenuating. Response: I know there is evidence that is but it needs to be formally presented as a part of the RPO documentation. The drinking water well has been sampled and had only one result with a low concentration detected. The biodegradation of TCE is pretty complex and needs to be tracked as well. It has a lot to do with what you do in the future to treat the groundwater. The use of the air stripper is a good protective measure. Mr. Hertzog noted in the future they may decide to shut off the air stripper, but it does not cost a lot to keep it running. This will be presented in the RI and backed up with documentation.

FT001 Site Map: Mr. Hertzog shows the location of the Fire Protection Training Area on the area wide aerial photograph slide.

FT001 – Fire Protection Training Area: In reference to the proposed new sentry wells near the runway, Mr. Mackey may want to address their location. There is the possibility of using some down gradient wells to see where the plume is going. This needs to be worked through. We will be conducting a Focused Feasibility Study. Ms. Yatlin had previously noted there was a low lying area that accumulates water and ducks land on the standing water. Mr. Hertzog indicated the Air Force is considering placement of topsoil at the site to eliminate the indentation and intermittent pond. The Air Force has not made a final decision but something will be done to address this issue.

Conclusions: The decision may be to continue monitoring of FT001. Mr. Johnson interjected that the benzene may have come from the old burn pit where they used to stock barrels to burn.

Mr. Hertzog stated hundreds of slides were reviewed and discussed in San Antonio.

RI Recommendations for Groundwater and Soil: The Air Force is considering annual spring monitoring of four wells at the site. Requirements of the state need to be met and groundwater will be sampled annually for the next three years. Based on the results and trends, if any, from the three years of monitoring, it will be determined if it is necessary to sample more frequently. A feasibility study is not required at this site because the area will either be capped to prevent exposure or the source will be removed to the extent practicable, followed by the installation of groundwater monitoring wells. There will be a Monitored Natural Attenuation Decision Document (MNA DD) developed.

SERFS Site Map: Mr. Hertzog points out the location of the Southeast Runway Fuel Spill on the area wide aerial photograph slide.

Southeast Runway Fuel Spill: The recommendation may be not to do anything further or to conduct monitoring. A final decision has not been made. Mr. Craven said this is the site where there are drastic groundwater fluctuations depending on the time of year. In San Antonio, there were discussions about sampling this site in the summer, however, they are waiting to review the October 2004 groundwater data before making a decision.

ST009 Site Map: Mr. Hertzog pointed out the JP-4 Fill Stands area on the area wide aerial photograph slide.

ST009 JP-4 Fill Stands: There is still contamination on the site. The Air Force discussed the possibility of taking all the contaminated soil to Campion and the land farm area with ADEC. This option has not been verified as the remedy.

There may be a contamination source at Building 1428 or the contamination may be migrating there from other locations. This area needs to be investigated further. Mr. Craven noted that one of the details of the groundwater sampling that brought up this concern is that the plume extended a little bit further SW than before and some of the cluster wells showed a higher amount of benzene than previously documented.

ST005 POL Tanks: Mr. Hertzog pointed out the POL Tank Farm area on the area wide aerial photograph slide.

ST005 POL Tank Farm: This is a major plume area with active treatment. There is a radius of influence as much as 140 feet in diameter around each air injection well, however, from a design aspect, the Air Force may put in five or six air injection wells and inject at a low rate, rather than install one well to treat soil in a 140 foot diameter area.

This area has free phase product and studies have been done to determine if there is a practical method to remove free phase product. Based on results of the studies so far, bioventing is more effective for removing contamination in the subsurface than free product recovery. There will be additional graphs and charts submitted as part of the RI/FS to support these findings.

Picture of Bioventing System at GAVTC. Mr. Hertzog showed a slide of the GAVTC soil vapor extraction system.

CB001 GAVTC: The vapor depressurization system has been working for twenty-seven months and appears to be working well. Sampling is done on a weekly, monthly, and quarterly system. Benzene was found in the August indoor air samples above risk exposure criteria in five of eight locations. Mr. Craven stated in general it seems to be performing pretty well despite the last indoor air sampling in August of 2004, that exceeded some of the health based screening levels for benzene. OSHA levels for the workplace are much higher than the levels we are using. The state toxicologists have questions and we need to review sampling over time and look for a pattern. This site is an ongoing concern. Mr. Hertzog asked if any one else had questions and no one responded.

CG001and CG002 Million Gallon Hill: Mr. Hertzog pointed out the location of Million Gallon Hill and Missile Storage Area on the area wide aerial photograph slide.

CG001 AND CG002 Million Gallon Hill and Missile Storage Area: CG definition – contaminated groundwater. Mr. Hertzog indicated they are obtaining biodegradation data and there is free phase product, however, there is very little fuel recovered from the wells.

Wilderness Hall: Mr. Hertzog pointed out the location of Wilderness Hall on the area wide aerial photograph slide.

SS005 Wilderness Hall: There was a biovent system installed at one time, however, there was concern the vapors may infiltrate into the dorm facility. The Air Force reviewed soil gas data and found there is benzene contamination but not a high volume of contamination. Due to the concern of potential infiltration into the dorm facility from air injection, it was agreed to convert the system to a soil vapor extraction system. This system will run for a year and then shut down for respiration tests. A decision will be made to turn the system off or to continue to operate it based on results of the respiration testing.

Campion Air Station Site: Mr. Hertzog pointed to the Campion Air Station site on the area wide photograph slide.

ST007 Campion POL Storage Area: This area is currently used for subsistence harvest and camps. In 2002, the Air Force conducted site investigations at Campion to determine the extent of DRO contamination. The 2004 activities included sampling and analysis from the surface water “wash” or creek that flows toward the Yukon River. The Air Force also attempted free product recovery but recovery of free phase product was not very effective and a low volume of product was recovered even when product recovery was done during low water levels when it would have most product. Campion does not appear to be heavily contaminated. Additional

work needs to be conducted to determine risk to people using the area for recreation and camping.

2004 Soil Sampling Results Along the Biopile: Mr. Hertzog pointed out the location of the biopile at Campion on the area wide aerial slide.

Mr. Craven pointed out back where the tanks are, you can see a lot of historical releases where people said there used to be free product recovery. The diesel range soil samples have found results higher than standard cleanup levels in the biopiles. Analysis of diesel in organic soil is complicated because natural organics in the soil will be detected and added to the results of the petroleum organics, therefore the high analytical results may include a combination of natural and petroleum organics. The data from these samples need to be compiled and reviewed to determine if natural organics are contributing to the high analytical results. Part of this will be addressed by Risk Assessment.

Campion Soil Biopile: Mr. Hertzog requested Earth Tech look at the soil piles that we have in the area on the old runway. Mr. Hertzog indicated soil from the biopiles at the former runway were apparently assumed to be clean after approximately 2 years of treatment and was removed without collection and analysis of confirmation samples. Contamination was found related to those soils. One option is to use land farming as a remedy to treat the soil.

Upcoming Activities: Ms. Clark questioned the RI report preparation date of 2004. This should read 2005.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Galena and Campion Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study Initiative Project Schedule

Receipt of Validated October Sampling from Yukaana	Feb 25, 2005
Draft RIFS Preparation	Feb 28-Mar 31, 2005
Draft RIFS	April 1, 2005
Public Comments	April 4-May13, 2005
Finalize Comments	May 16-June 30, 2005
Submit Final RIFS	July 1, 2005
Draft Proposed Plans & Preparation	June 20-July 21, 2005
Review to Air Force, ADEC, Tech Project Team, Air Staff, PACAF	July 22 – Sept 2, 2005
Finalize Proposal	Sept 5 – 29, 2005
Proposed Plans	Sept 30, 2005
Public Comment Period	Oct 1 – 30, 2005
Front End Loading – Draft Record of Decision	Oct 15 – Nov 24, 2005
Finalize Documents RODS	Jan 27 – Feb 26, 2006
Submit Final RODS	March 1, 2006

Phil Koontz Report on Galena Technical Project Team

The most important topic for the TPT is Indoor Air Quality sampling results from August 2004 that exceeded the risk exposure criteria of 23 ppmv. Another sampling event was conducted in December by YDC/BSI and all of the benzene results were 15 ppmv or less. The higher results in August 2005 may have been caused by smoke from the surrounding wild fires that were burning during the August 2004 sample event.

There still remains the concern of long term effects from benzene vapors even though the building is safe according to the latest air samples. We need to determine the acute and chronic risks of exposure over a long period of time to benzene. Mr. Craven stated the toxicologist for the State wants to see more data before commenting.

Mr. Hertzog stated at the TPT meeting in late October there was a preliminary review of their data. At the TPT meeting tomorrow the updated information will be reviewed. Mr. Craven will discuss having a contingency plan in place on how to remove the students and teachers if the benzene levels become a threat.

Mr. Hertzog asked about the outstanding health risk issues. Specifically, what is the human health risk and the risk for the community.

Oasis has written a human health risk assessment and submitted approximately sixty concerns. Most of the concerns can be readily dealt with. The Human Health Risk Assessment has not progressed since Earth Tech no longer has the money to continue that effort. Mr. Hertzog stated that the Risk Assessment document needs to be finalized.

Future Meetings

Mr. Hertzog would like to schedule quarterly meetings at a minimum and that the meetings should be held on a night that would avail more community members to attend and to bring in outside speakers.

Action item for the next meeting: What constitutes a quorum? Mr. Hertzog will send members a copy of the charter to review procedural issues and update the charter.

Next scheduled meeting: April 26, 2005.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.