

**GALENA  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)**



**Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 2004**

---

**ATTENDEES:**

Margie Attla, RAB Member  
Ragine Attla, RAB Member, Louden Tribal Council (LTC)  
Wendy Dickemore, 611 Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), U.S. Air Force (Air Force)  
Ann Farris, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)  
Maureen K. Green, Accu-Type Depositions  
David Hertzog, Galena Military Co-Chair, 611 CES, Air Force  
TygJules Skywatcher, LTC  
Phyllis Walters, Chugach Support Services  
Eleanor Yatlin, LTC

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. The meeting attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations, if any.

**LAND USE CONTROLS**

Ms. Wendy Dickemore introduced herself saying she was with the Air Force's Environmental Restoration Department and that she was tasked to inventory the Galena information repository for accuracy and completeness.

Mr. David Hertzog added that the Galena Information Repository is located at the school and it contains all of the documents pertaining to the Galena IRP sites. It is also available on the Internet. The Land Use Controls (LUC's) include signs and restrictions on digging in certain places. The Air Force is becoming very specific about LUCs, which emphasizes the importance of establishing and maintaining a complete inventory.

Ms. Phyllis Walters asked if this would be a Geographic Information System (GIS) based record. Additional concerns were brought up if they would be working in conjunction with Chugach Electric to issue dig permits.

Mr. Hertzog said yes, as it will document all of the utilities, wells, and areas of contamination, so that if someone requests a dig permit, they will be alerted to the LUCs. As Decision Documents are written for the sites, and as information becomes available, the Base General Plan for Galena will be updated. This Base General Plan should be consulted prior to conducting any work in the area. The Air Force (additional information: The 611 CES will not specifically issue dig

permits but the AF contractor Chugach Support Services will have the information to issue dig permits) will not be involved in any dig permits, but they will make the data available to anyone who is working in the area. The information in the Base General Plan will be transferred along with any Air Force land so that the same information will be available in the future.

Ms. Walters asked what would happen if they did want to dig in an area that was restricted.

Mr. Hertzog replied that it depends on the specific site. If there is a lot of contamination, no one would be able to dig there. If there is minimal contamination, then any site workers would have to wear proper protective equipment.

Ms. Walters said that this could interfere with utility installation, and might require further removal and stockpiling of contaminated soil in the future.

Mr. Hertzog replied that this could be the case, but right now they are still formulating what the LUCs would be so that in the future, the information is available to everyone who needs it. Any urgent issues will be handled on a case-by-case basis and if anyone has questions, they can contact him or Ms. Ann Farris.

Ms. Farris agreed saying that dealing with contaminated soil is not particularly difficult, but other intrusive activities that might require dewatering of an excavation, will require specific controls on these activities. Once the LUCs are in place, and the Decision Documents written, this will be more clear, but for now, anyone wishing to dig in the area should contact her or Mr. Hertzog.

Mr. Hertzog gave the example of a radar site where there were polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in a landfill that was capped. The cap was in good shape and was containing the PCBs, but then someone installed a walkway that could have compromised the effectiveness of the cap. This is the type of situation that the LUCs would prevent from happening.

Ms. Ragine. Attla agreed that this was a good idea. She said there were some orphan monitoring wells that no one had claimed and LUCs would be able to clear up some of these things.

Mr. Hertzog stated that the wells were found to belong to the Air Force's Compliance section, but he might still be responsible for them in the end. (Note: these wells are out past Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property old AF building 2540)

## **RAB CHARTER**

Ms. Margie Attla joined the meeting at this time. She said she had been a RAB Member in the past and was interested in checking up on their progress.

Ms. Margie Attla's entrance reminded Mr. Hertzog that he had checked the RABs charter to see what constituted a quorum. The charter did not specify what constituted a quorum, so it is up to the RAB to determine how many members are needed for an official vote. The Charter also did not specify terms for RAB members, so Ms. Margie Attla is technically still a member, and Mr. Hertzog invited her to join their meeting as a RAB member.

Ms. Farris said that with some RABs, a percentage of members make a quorum, and in others, it is a specific number of members. Either way, the Galena RAB should figure out what makes a quorum for their RAB.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Ms. Ragine Attla asked if anyone had any changes to the agenda. She suggested changing the Technical Project Team (TPT) update from Phil Koontz, who is absent, to Ann Farris.

Mr. Hertzog also suggested that the RAB change Tom Johnson's name to Ms. Ragine Attla's name, in regards to calling the meeting to order, etc.

The agenda was approved as amended.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 2004**

Mr. Hertzog said he would like to add some comments made by Greg Light to the minutes.

Ms. Ragine Attla agreed and added that her name was spelled Ragine, not Regine. She also said that Fred Huntington, Sr. works for the Tanana Chiefs Conference, not Louden.

Ms. Farris said on Page 5, Darren Mulcahey should be Darren Mulkey, and on Page 6, BLM should be changed to ADOT and PDC.

Mr. Hertzog also suggested changing DOT to ADOT.

Ms. Farris said there appeared to be some confusion regarding the runway work, whether it was the BLM or the ADOT doing the work and where it was being done.

Mr. Hertzog said that the BLM did not receive any funding for the runway work, so the discussion should only be about ADOT.

Ms. Farris agreed. She said that PDC Engineering would be doing all the work for the ADOT and they have an environmental plan in place to deal with any contaminated soil they might encounter. Darren Mulkey is the contact at the ADOT for environmental issues. She also said that in the third paragraph, last sentence, the word "specific" should be changed to "significant".

Mr. Hertzog said that if the minutes were transcribed directly from the tapes, then maybe they should be left as they are. Ms. Farris replied she was just forwarding a comment from Greg Light.

Mr. Hertzog said that GAVTEC (Galena Aviation Vocational Technical Center GAVTC) is consistently misspelled, and he asked that it be spelled as it is here from now on. He said that from now on, the minutes would be sent to him and Ms. Farris for comments, then they would be sent out in draft form with his letter and the agenda.

Ms. Margie Attla moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Air Force Project Update**

#### **Galena Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Final Work**

Mr. Hertzog said that the (Galena Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study) Final Work Plan was complete and the comments of the TPT have been addressed. After Ms. Farris approves the Work Plan they will begin their work around June 1. The drillers will be on-site at that time and they will soon be ready to begin groundwater monitoring. The GAVTEC (GAVTC) Building will also be sampled. He thanked everyone for their efforts in getting the Work Plan completed and said they would be doing a lot of good for their community.

#### **Draft Decision Document for Six Sites**

There is also a draft Decision Document for six sites that has been discussed at the TPT meetings that have included Ragine Attla, Eleanor Yatlin, Steve Wicks, Marvin Yoder, Phil Koontz, and some contractor personnel. They (TPT) have met nine times over the past year to discuss the sites and whether they need more work or could the sites possibly be closed. Some of the sites that would be candidates for closure are the Control Tower Drum Storage Area, Tank 49, and the petroleum, oil, and lubricant (POL) Fuel Line and Road Oiling Leaks. The draft Decision Document is scheduled for review by the TPT at their June 2-3 meeting. Since developing the Decision Document, Air Force policy says that they must first issue a Proposed Plan including a 30-day comment period, so the time frame for the Decision Document has been moved back. Another topic on the agenda for the June meeting will be the response to comments to the 1996 Baseline Risk Assessment.

### **ADEC Update**

#### **Galena Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Final Work**

Ms. Farris said she will review the Work Plan and make sure all of the comments have been addressed, then she will write the approval and the work can move forward.

#### **Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**

She will also be reviewing the ATSDR report and a fish study that was performed. ADEC is also conducting a statewide fish study and she will forward details on that to Ms. Yatlin. (Note added: AF has reviewed and commented on the pre-publication draft document also)

### **Campion Landfills**

Another issue is Campion Landfills One and Two. The landfills are apparently covered under an existing permit and the Solid Waste Program at ADEC should be able to handle the landfill closure.

Mr. Hertzog cautioned that this might not happen for a while because they are planning on conducting a thorough records search, which might involve some other entities, to find out when the last waste was placed there. It will probably cost a million dollars to close the landfill, which the Compliance Group might not be able to come up with for some time.

Ms. Farris said that Jim Fife with the Air Force Solid Waste Program, will be conducting the records search, and Ken Monroe with ADEC Solid Waste Program, will be looking at the permit requirements. Mr. Fife and Mr. Monroe will work together, but because of funding issues, the final closure might not be worked out for some time.

Mr. Hertzog said that he was initially concerned because the Air Force did not have any record of the Landfill Permits and it took awhile to get everyone together to look over the aerial photos and determine what the status of the landfills were. Everyone is basically on the same page now, so they can start working on it.

#### **Technical Project Team Update (RI/FS workplan-Biovents, groundwater sampling)**

Ms. Farris said the last TPT meeting was on April 19. During the meeting, they resolved some of the issues brought up in the comments on the Work Plan. There were a lot of comments and it took the whole meeting to get through them all, but the Work Plan is now final. Activities planned for this summer include starting up the treatment system at the GAVTEC (GAVTC) Building, continued indoor air sampling, and groundwater monitoring at several sites. The bioventing system at Million Gallon Hill will also be checked out. Ms. Farris said the bulk of the work would be focused on groundwater investigation in an attempt to understand the extent of groundwater contamination and whether it is moving. This will provide data to insure the current treatment systems are working and to design treatment systems for the future. The data collected this summer will also be used to update the Risk Assessment then the Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS) should be completed in draft form by January or February of 2005.

Mr. Hertzog said that he was going to try to get the sampling from October 2004 into the RI/FS report, so the January/February timeframe sounded about right.

Mr. TygJules Skywatcher noted that this would be about the same time as the Alaska Forum on the Environment and perhaps the report could be presented there.

Ms. Farris said that after the RI/FS, they should be able to make some decisions, establish LUCs, and get the treatment systems operating.

#### **RI Activities Free Product Recovery**

Mr. Hertzog said that this past winter the Air Force performed free product recovery tests on 10 monitoring wells where free product had been found in the past. The test involves bailing the free product out of the well and timing how long it takes for the free product to return to its previous level in the well. Data from this test is used to determine if there is enough free product

to install a free product recovery system. Of the 10 wells they tested, only one had recoverable amounts of free product.

#### Open discussion RI/FS-Landfills-Decision Documents

Ms. Ragine Attla said it has been a tedious process with all the back and forth between the community and the Air Force, but they are pleased to see a Work Plan in place that will allow them to focus on the most contaminated sites. She felt uncomfortable exposing the kids to contamination, but now she can see how much work goes into the investigation and remediation process and she thanked Mr. Hertzog, Ms. Farris, and the rest of team for their hard work.

#### **Campion Landfills**

Ms. Yatlin asked about the potential for containerized waste in the landfills.

Ms. Farris replied that the records for the landfills are somewhat confusing and there are some remaining questions. They are certainly not done investigating the landfills and there is still work to be done. The asbestos landfill has better records and the landfill has been capped. The landfill is not considered closed, even though they are no longer putting waste there. It is operating under a permit from ADEC, and will be closed in accordance with ADEC regulations when the time comes. There will still be questions to answer on the other landfills even after the records search is complete, but it is on the radar screen now, so any future activities will be conducted appropriately.

#### **Decision Documents**

Ms. Yatlin asked about the comment period for the draft Decision Documents. Mr. Hertzog said that they want input from the TPT to see if there is anything lacking in the documents. The comment period is part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as SUPERFUND. This process involves a preliminary assessment and a site investigation, where they ask knowledgeable people about the site and determine if there is any contamination present in the area. Then they collect samples to evaluate the extent of the contamination and come up with cleanup options to address the contamination. After the site is characterized, the information is put into a Proposed Plan, which details the Air Force's plans for the site and this is distributed for public comment. Previously Air Staff said that if there is not a risk at the site, the Decision Documents could be signed by the State and by the Commander of the 611<sup>th</sup>. Now however, Air Staff wants to see all of the Decision Documents before they are signed by anyone, so the whole process will take more time.

Ms. Yatlin said she is familiar with the CERCLA process.

Mr. Hertzog stated that most of the new procedures are a result of politics between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Defense (DoD). There was some question as to who has the authority to enforce a Decision Document. They used a site in Langley, Virginia, as an example and there were some bad feelings between the agencies and they could not agree on who was in charge. It eventually made its way up to the head of the DoD and the EPA and they went into dispute resolution and the result was that each agency had some good points. Each project is now being reviewed to make sure they are following the

CERCLA process, and all of the Decision Documents are reviewed at the federal level to make sure they agree with the decisions made at the project manager level.

Mr. Skywatcher asked who Air Staff was. Mr. Hertzog replied that they are Air Force personnel and attorneys in Washington, D.C.

#### Louden Tribal Council Yukon Fish Study

Ms. Yatlin asked who was conducting the fish studies. Ms. Farris said she would find out, but it is possible that the funding had been cut, and the fish study would not happen as planned.

Mr. Hertzog asked if the fish study was related to the other State impaired water bodies' study. Ms. Farris said they were separate studies.

#### **TPT and RAB length discussion**

Mr. Hertzog stated that he had looked into Ms. Ragine Atlas's question about the longevity of the RAB and the TPT. The TPT will probably end after some of the decisions are made, but the RAB is mandated and will continue to meet, likely absorbing the TPT after they disband.

Ms. Farris said that when they formed the TPT, they agreed that they would decide themselves when they were no longer necessary. She would like to see it continue at least until the Decision Documents are completed.

Ms. Yatlin said that the TPT requires a lot more preparation because you have to be familiar with all of the documents and you have to know a lot more about the remediation process. It definitely helps to have this knowledge when it comes time for the RAB meetings.

#### Munitions Response Future Investigations

Mr. Hertzog said that another issue that will come up in the near future is munitions response. The Air Force is not sure what is out there, but there were ranges identified in Galena and Campion.

Mr. Skywatcher said that he had heard of the Air Force dropping bombs or some other type of munitions into the river, specifically to break up ice dams.

Mr. Hertzog said that the ranges are next on his list for preliminary assessment and RI/FS work, but typically this type of work becomes very expensive because they have to use munitions specialists. Currently they are programming this work for 2009 or 2010 for the ranges at Galena and Campion. That is the next big thing in the future for the Air Force at Galena and there will be a lot of new information for the RAB to discuss.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Ragine Attla said the first item under old business was the RAB charter. It does not say anything about a quorum, but she asked if it need to be updated.

Mr. Hertzog said there was a new rule that came out saying that the RAB is mandated and if the community did not want a RAB, there were certain legal ramifications. CERCLA is clear that community input is a key component; otherwise they are just operating in a vacuum. He said he would speak to Mr. Steve Wilhelmi about whether or not they need to update the RAB charter.

#### **SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Ms. Yatlin asked if they had been meeting monthly. Mr. Hertzog replied they had been meeting quarterly.

Ms. R. Attla suggested the end of July or beginning of September because she will be busy for most of August.

Mr. Hertzog noted that there would not really be a whole lot of new information to discuss until later in the year, so he suggested they wait until October.

The RAB agreed that October 5 was a good tentative date.

Mr. Hertzog suggested the RAB meet for dinner prior to the meeting and perhaps come up with a way to recognize the participation of Mr. Gordy Kruger, who will be leaving in November.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.



GALENA  
Draft Agenda  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)  
October 21, 2004

---



- I. Call to Order  
Tom Johnson  
Community Co-Chairs
  - a. Roll Call (all participants please sign Sign-In Sheet) Co-Chair
  - b. Introduce Guests Co-Chair & David Hertzog
  - c. Changes to Agenda Co-Chair
  - d. Approval of the 18 May 2004 meeting minutes RAB
  
- II. New Business
  - a. Air Force Project Updates David Hertzog
  - b. ADEC Project Updates Colin Craven
  - c. Galena Technical Project Team Updates Phil Koontz
  
- III. Old Business
  - a. RAB charter
  
- IV. Set Date and Tentative Topics for Next Meeting Co-chairs
  
- IV. Meeting Adjourned