

**GALENA
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
Final Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 12, 2005**



ATTENDEES:

Colin Craven, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Mike Ayers, Chugach Support Services, (CSS)
David Hertzog, Galena Military Co-Chair, 611 Civil Engineer Squadron, U.S. Air Force
Tim Bodony, KIYU Radio
Phil Koontz, Louden Tribal Council (LTC), RAB Member
Jim Smith, Galena School superintendent
Harry White, Galena School
Marvin Yoder, Galena City Manager

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The attendees of the meeting introduced themselves and stated their affiliations if any.

The agenda was shown on a slide by David Hertzog. At Mr. Hertzog's suggestion, Phil Koontz was selected as a temporary chair person in the absence of Co-chair Tom Johnson, and the meeting proceeded without a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was held about the RAB charter and membership, but the issues were tabled due to the lack of a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS

Air Force and DEC project updates

Mr. Hertzog described the contracts the Air Force has in effect for producing a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study report in approximately December 2005, and another contract for routine Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring of the base remedial systems until October 2005. Contractual issues appear to leave a gap in the OM&M schedule. The Air Force has proposed the continued work on the Galena RI/FS and remedial systems be awarded as a Performance Based Contract, which may cause some problems with implementation and continuity of the work at the Galena Air Station. He described performance based contracting as a system that shifts some of the risk and reward for successful cleanups from the Air Force to the contractors, but indicated that it may not be desirable for the Galena and Campion projects.

One reason performance based contracting has been proposed for Galena and Campion is the administrative record shows a Remedial Investigation began in 1995 and remains officially incomplete in spite of the extensive work completed during that time.

Mr. Hertzog also indicated he and Colin Craven, of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, have been discussing administrative closure of four sub sites at Galena, including the Control Tower Drum Storage Area; the POL Fuel Line Leak, the Road Oiling Site; and the Power Plant Tank Number 49. Based upon analysis of the contamination at the sites - the impacts or the lack of impacts, the amount of sampling and remediation systems put in place, the Air Force proposes that the sites be closed with no further action.

Mr. Craven supported the proposal and indicated the community and other entities will have opportunities to review the decision, presumably beginning in about November or December of 2005, when documents will be out for agency review and public comment.

Mike Ayers of CSS asked about a website for public review, which Mr. Hertzog indicated was www.adminrec.com. Mr. Craven also mentioned a state web site at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/csp/sites/galena.htm>.

Mr. Hertzog summarized some of the history of the remedial investigations at the Galena Air Station, beginning with ground water quality in the area of the base public supply wells. In the past, an air stripper and a monitoring program were used to ensure the safety of the public water supply from the TCE contamination discovered nearby. The RI/FS document would address future needs for operating the air stripper system; for any continued monitoring; and similar issues. Other sub sites would be subjected to similar review and recommendations in the RI/FS document.

Jim Smith, Galena School Superintendent asked Mr. Hertzog how much water the base well could produce and was informed the pumping rate was relatively high, in the range of several hundred gallons per minute.

Some possible future expansions of the water system were discussed briefly. Mr. Hertzog continued his historical review with a discussion of indoor air quality issues at the GAVTC hangar describing a sampling program that has monitored the air quality for the past year or more, and installation of a vacuum slab depressurization/extraction system to prevent fuel vapors from entering the building, and a soil vapor extraction system in the vicinity of the building to remove the fuel from the ground underlying the building.

Mr. Craven mentioned the source of the contamination in the GAVTC hangar was leaks from an old tank farm located north of the building and elaborated on the vacuum systems.

Mr. Hertzog indicated the monitoring indicates the vacuum systems are safe and protective of occupants in the building, although high water levels last spring required that some of the wells be shut down for several weeks due to flooded screens.

Mr. Yoder asked if an estimate can be provided for the time that will be required to remediate the fuel spills.

Mr. Hertzog indicated those estimates will be part of the RI/FS to the extent it can be determined based on the data available. He went on to describe the Feasibility Study portion of the RI/FS report, which considers possible remedial technologies in terms of effectiveness, cost, and other factors.

ATSDR Report

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry visited Galena at the request of the Loudon Tribal Council. Although the ATSDR acts independently of the parties at the RAB meeting, Mr. Hertzog described their investigation and report on possible health issues in the Galena area, and the agency's recent community comment sessions. He indicated the report and related documents would be posted on the Administrative Record web site.

Both Mr. Hertzog and Mr. Craven commented on the ATSDR report concerning the aesthetic quality of the water in the Old Town Galena wells because the ATSDR report does not provide any recommendations about use or treatment of the water from the wells. Mr. Hertzog mentioned that he also provided the authors with some additional information about environmental issues at the Kalakaket Site.

TPT Report

The next Technical Project Team meeting is planned for October 20, 2005, and will include training about risk assessments to assist the TPT members with evaluation of the anticipated RI/FS report and recommendations. Risk assessments will be used to help derive goals for closing the various remedial sub sites based on expected future uses and exposure potentials for the sites.

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process concerning the Galena Air Station will also be discussed at the meeting.

The discussion of the TPT meeting also raised some questions about the future role and relationships between the TPT, which is expected to expire after approval of the RI/FS reports, the RAB, a potential Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA), and the BRAC processes, all of which have overlapping membership and issues to address.

EOD

Mr. Hertzog briefly discussed the planned investigation of Explosive Ordnance Disposal sites in the Galena vicinity, including a preliminary assessment for a number of sites in Alaska underway by an Air Force contractor (Weston). The contractors will be in Galena on February 16 and 17, 2006 for a community meeting regarding unexploded ordnance at the Galena Campion sites.

Next Meeting Agenda and Time

The next RAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of January 23, 2006, and will include public comments on the anticipated RI/FS report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.