

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

**April 26, 2012
Galena, Alaska**

1. Attendees:

Ray Baker, Accu-Type Depositions
Tommie Baker, United States Air Force
Ernesto Bent, Air Force Real Property Agency
Tim Bodony, RAB Member
Shirley Cleaver
Susan Erben, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Greg Gangnuss, Air Force Real Property Agency
Betty Huntington, Gana-A'Yoo Limited
Tom Johnson
Phil Koontz, Louden Tribal Council
Donna Kozak, Booz Allen Hamilton (AFCEE Contractor)
John Korta
Peter Lawson, CH2MHill (AFCEE Contractor)
Greg Moyer, City Manager Galena
Sam Myers, Alaska Department of Transportations
Charley Peyton, United States Air Force
Chris Reitan, Superintendent Galena School District
Angela Sederquist, Booz Allen Hamilton (AFCEE Contractor)
Dennis Shepard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
John Stam, RAB Member
Cherie Sullivan, Gana-A'Yoo Limited
Robert Thompson, CH2MHill (AFCEE Contractor)
Fred Vreeman, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Al Weilbacher, United States Air Force
Win Westervelt, CH2MHill (AFCEE Contractor)
Jay Wilburn, CH2MHill (AFCEE Contractor)
Erica (Unidentified Last Name)
Sydney (Unidentified Last Name)

2. Introduction. Mr. Greg Gangnuss of the Air Force Real Property Agency called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

3. Overview of Environmental Restoration. Mr. Al Weilbacher, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator at former Galena Forwarding Operating Location (FOL) gave a brief overview of the five areas of focus the Air Force will target this summer, including the old building 1400, an old ammo storage and a firing range. He announced that preliminary assessments are complete. Mr. Weilbacher indicated there are two CDs with documents from the Administrative

Record; one is available for checkout. Mr. Chris Reitan, school superintendent, has the disks. Mr. Tim Bodony, RAB Community Co-Chair, asked a question regarding the procedure for dealing with an explosive ordinance if found. Mr. Weilbacher and Mr. Gangnuss explained the Air Force would have to call in the Safety Center at Kirkland Air Force Base to handle the ordinance or potential ordinance. Mr. Weilbacher also answered a question regarding the timeframe for cutting down the trees near the firing range. He indicated the plan was to begin around July 15. There was discussion regarding when hunting season and Mr. Weilbacher assured the community that the Air Force would communicate community concerns to the contractor.

- 4. Landfarm Overview and Road Reconstruction.** Mr. Westervelt introduced Mr. Robert Thompson, Project Manager for the landfarm construction at CH2M Hill, the Air Force's contractor. Mr. Thompson gave an overview of the landfarm including where it's located, how the landfarm is constructed, and an overview of road reconstruction. He indicated the landfarm is approximately 800 feet long and 90 feet wide. Construction activity is scheduled to begin in early July and conclude by the end of the month. The Air Force will use sand from their nearby stockpile and contract the purchase of the gravel. Mr. John Korta expressed concern that digging may disrupt the school's ski trail and agreed to let the Air Force know how far back it reached to ensure no disruption. Mr. Johnson raised concern that the landfarm would not be covered at all times due to the possibility of rain washing contaminated soil into clean soil. Mr. Fred Vreeman indicated the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation was pretty comfortable that the soil would not leach. He also indicated that landfarm monitoring would be conducted during the operation of the landfarm and confirmation sampling would be required after completion of landfarm activities. Mr. Thompson indicated that landfarm would be operational for about seven years in order to clean all of the soil up. Community members wanted to ensure the new City Manager was kept up to speed on the landfill progress. Mr. Thomson spoke about road reconstruction and indicated where road closures would take place on a map. He indicated the Air Force would continue excavations that began last summer. The road closures will take place in July to avoid disrupting school traffic and will consist of the same roads as last summer. Excavation depth will be between six inches to 3.5 feet.
- 5. Campion Landfarm Overview.** Mr. Charlie Peyton from the 611th provided an update on the projects they manage, including Campion. He indicated that there is a small landfarm project going on at Campion but that it would not be possible to remove all of the contamination as it is located in wetlands. They will, however, remove the heaviest concentrations of contamination. The landfarm is expected to have a lifespan of about five years. Mr. Peyton indicated the excavation and initial landfarming may be complete by the end of the calendar year. The contractor will be BEM Systems.

6. **2010/2011 Soil Investigation.** Mr. Jay Wilburn from CH2M Hill provided an overview of soil investigation. There were 52 sites investigated. Of those sites,

- 20 sites will be recommended for no further action
- 19 sites are considered “non-qualifying sites” because they are designated as cleanup complete
- 1 site will be considered cleanup complete following soil removal
- 32 sites will require some form of cleanup

Mr. Wilburn indicated these sites could be petroleum and solvent mixed sites or various chemical sites which will dictate the cleanup method to be used. All sites are in draft form. Each of the sites will be examined based on type of contamination and depth before identifying the cleanup method. Sample contaminants include trichloroethylene, diesel and benzene. Mr. Johnson raised concern that groundwater sampling was not conducted when the water table was both at the lowest and highest of the season.

7. **Summary of Groundwater Investigation:** Mr. Peter Lawson, a hydrologist with CH2M Hill, provided an overview of the 2010-2011 work of groundwater studies. Over 100 wells were installed to better define the extent of the groundwater plumes and to better understand the hydraulics and trends of the groundwater system (i.e. how the groundwater flows, etc.). Mr. Lawson indicated the biggest influence on groundwater is the Yukon River. Seasonal data indicates that concentrations of contaminants fluctuate (increase fall-spring, decrease spring-fall). CH2M Hill built a conceptual model based on this data. They would start with current conditions and input data to determine how the plumes could potentially change in the future, as far as 10 years into the future. Several of the models are “Worst case scenarios” because they don’t always take into account the existing remediation technologies in place, i.e. the bioreactor, since it has not been in operation long. Mr. Johnson expressed concern that the plumes could reach the Yukon River. Mr. Lawson stated that: while the plume trends remain uncertain, the current model shows the plumes are relatively stable; with mass movement toward the river balanced by natural degradation.

8. **Bioreactor Update.** Mr. Win Westervelt, project manager at CH2M Hill, provided an overview of the bioreactor. He explained how the bioreactor operates and how a solar panel is used to keep the groundwater pump operational at a low cost. The solar pump was a success. It was operational 100% of the time from May to October 2011. Mr. Westervelt explained the difference between tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) which is based on the number of chlorine atoms. The bioreactor is meant to break down the chlorine atoms into harmless carbon dioxide, chloride and water. Both PCE and TCE concentrations decreased in the monitoring wells closest to the bioreactor. Going forward, the plan is to restart pumping in May 2012 and operate it through the summer. Mr. Thompson raised a question regarding

pesticide testing at Million Gallon Hill. Mr. Westervelt confirmed that testing had been done there as well as in all parts of the base where pesticide contamination was possible.

- 9. Performance-Based Remediation Contract Update.** Ms. Donna Kozak, AFCEE contractor with Booz Allen Hamilton, provided an overview of the Performance-Based Remediation contract timeline. The contract will have a period of performance of eight years. The contractors who visited Galena last summer attended a meeting in San Antonio to be briefed on new data. The proposal will be released this summer and is expected to be awarded in the November timeframe. Ms. Kozak emphasized that the Air Force does not tell the contractor how to cleanup contamination, but rather allows them to utilize effective methods. Contractors are paid for results not necessarily actions. There is an incentive for contractors to perform. Ms. Kozak emphasized that the team will not change, and that the Air Force and regulators will still very much be a part of the process. She also indicated that Galena was one of the last BRAC bases to have a PBR contract in place, and that the contractor will draw on past successes at other bases.
- 10. Remarks from ADEC.** Mr. Fred Vreeman and Mr. Dennis Shepard of ADEC provided remarks. Mr. Vreeman mentioned that in his 3.5 years he has seen tremendous progress made toward cleanup. He emphasized that this has been a team effort. There is active cleanup taking place in both Galena and Campion. Mr. Vreeman said ADEC is very happy with the effort at Galena. Mr. Shepard mentioned that the groundwater modeling presentation was helpful in visualizing the extent of known contaminant impacts at Galena FOL.
- 11. Real Estate Update.** Mr. Ernesto Bent, Base Transition Coordinator from the Air Force Real Property Agency, provided the real estate update. Mr. Bent emphasized the important of keeping AL in the know of community concerns first and foremost.
- 12. Public Involvement Update.** Mr. Gregory Gangnuss, Chief of the Strategic Communications Branch, Air Force Real Property Agency, provided the Public Affairs and Public Involvement update. Mr. Gangnuss emphasized the Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF) and how Public Affairs' job is to communicate the bottom line to the stakeholders. Sample products include factsheets and newsletters. He provided a recap of the stakeholder interviews that were conducted in November 2011 to help address community concerns and build the Community Relations Plan. The consensus is that the Air Force is making good progress toward cleanup. He also emphasized that the Air Force was partnering with the Loudon Tribal Council to get information published in their newsletter as well as working with the radio station to provide updates to the community in ways they want to receive information. Mr. Gangnuss directed attendees to pick up a hard copy of the Community Relations Plan and let AFRPA know of any questions or concerns. He also proposed setting a schedule for all future RAB meetings to take place on the third Wednesday of April

second Wednesday in October. Mr. Gangnuss introduced Ms. Susan Erben, Public Involvement Coordinator with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to provide an overview of where to find information on the ADEC website. The site contains RAB charter as well as agendas from previous RAB meetings. It also includes documents that may be of interest to the community concerning the Air Force's cleanup project.

13. Future RAB Agenda Topics. Mr. Gangnuss asked that future topics be emails to Mr. Weilbacher.

14. Attendee Comments and Closing Remarks. Mr. Bodony raised a question regarding the dumpsite west of the airport and the need for the Alaska Department of Transportation to monitor the groundwater. Mr. Vreeman indicated there was a Request for Proposals currently out for that work. Mr. Greg Moyer, City of Galena City Manager, thanked everyone for coming to Galena.

15. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.