

**Former Pease Air Force Base (AFB)
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)**

June 27, 2018 - 6:30-9:00 p.m.

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Building
222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Meeting Summary

RAB members present: Andrea Amico (community member), Susan Chamberlin (community member), Ted Connors (community member), Mike Daly (appointed member: USEPA), Brian Goetz (appointed member: City of Portsmouth), Scott Hilton (appointed member: NHDES), Peggy Lamson (community member), Dennis Malloy (community member), Mindi Messmer (community member), Kim McNamara (appointed member: City of Portsmouth), Jameson Paine (community member and Community Co-Chair), Lulu Pickering (community member), Gene Schrage (community member), Andrew Smith (community member), Maria Stowell (appointed member: Pease Redevelopment Authority), Roger Walton (appointed member: AFCEC, DoD Chair).

Meeting support staff present: Ona Ferguson (Consensus Building Institute, RAB Facilitator), Linda Geissinger (AFCEC, Public Affairs), Scott Johnston (AFCEC, Public Affairs), Mark McPeak (Consensus Building Institute), Rob Singer (Wood).

Others attending: Bob Albrightson, Joanne Albrightson, Libby Bowen (Wood), Peter Clark (Senator Shaheen's office), Mike Decotean (Wood), Michael Donahue, Kelsey Dumville (USEPA Boston), Kerry Holmes (Senator Hassan's office), Robin Mongeon (NHDES Concord), Al Pratt (City of Portsmouth), Mike Quinlin (APTIMS), Michael Self (AFCEC).

Next meeting: [October 10, 2018 – *date selected after the June meeting*]. Participants suggested the following topics for future RAB meetings: an update on risk assessment planning and implementation, a presentation on the issue of landowner privacy and data.

Action items:

- Ona will circulate the updated RAB member contact list.
- Scott Hilton will attempt to expedite blood testing for Newington residents.
- Roger Walton will investigate if privacy waivers can be used to allow for the release of private well quality data.
- Roger Walton will share the risk-assessment workplan with the RAB.
- Mike Daly will provide a link to the Macintyre Brook study to Ona Ferguson as an example of a remedial investigation and risk assessment and how the RI/FS led to effective remediation.
- EPA's Kelsey Dumville to send link to slides from the EPA PFAS forum in Exeter to Ona Ferguson to circulate to the RAB.
- Scott Hilton will look into blood testing criteria and share any findings with the RAB.

Welcome, Introductions and RAB Administrative Items

The facilitator welcomed everyone to the Pease Restoration Advisory Board. RAB members approved the March meeting summary as revised in advance of the meeting. Mindi Messmer was welcomed as a new RAB member following reconsideration by the Air Force and a revised application. The facilitator indicated that RAB member email addresses will be made public so members of the public know how to

contact them, and asked anyone with a concern about that to let her know. The project team considered a request from the last RAB meeting to videotape meetings and determined it is not feasible at this time. All RAB meeting materials are online at <http://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Pease>

Site 8 Visit Follow Up

See attached presentation slides, available at <http://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Pease-Archives/>

Roger Walton (Air Force Civil Engineer Center, RAB co-chair) gave a presentation summarizing the visit that many RAB members and others made earlier that afternoon to see the new groundwater treatment facility at Site 8. Key questions and major themes from the visit included:

- A desire to better understand what it means that the Site 8 treatment is “interim” and how long it takes to get to a final treatment decision.
- Concerns about the broader aquifer. As the new treatment plant removes PFAS from the flow of water in one direction, what does that mean for the contamination of the broader aquifer? A desire for clarity on the goal of the Site 8 treatment system.
- Questions about where the concentrated PFAS sludge will go and how it will be disposed of. *It will go to an incinerator, location to be determined.*
- Questions about the concentration of PFAS along the treatment process - when the water enters, at various points in treatment, and at re-injection.

In the discussion following Mr. Walton’s presentation, significant frustration was expressed about the inability to obtain blood testing for people in Newington. Questions were raised about hunting and about local brooks, where PFAS has been detected, and requests were made to consider locating suitable signage in those locations. The issue of sharing data about testing of private wells was discussed. These data cannot presently be shared because of Air Force privacy regulations. Roger Walton offered to check with Air Force legal staff to find out if data could be released if local property owners waived their right to privacy.

Pease PFAS Risk Screening

Amy Quintin (Wood, Air Force contractor) summarized the CERCLA risk screening process and then specifically how the process will be completed at Pease. She also reviewed the upcoming risk screening work, particularly related to PFAS; see attached slides, <http://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Pease-Archives/>

RAB members asked several questions to clarify technical aspects of Ms. Quinton’s presentation. RAB members offered to help identify additional suitable data-collection locations. Members asked if there was a plan to install signage by surface water bodies warning of potential risks associated with PFAS while the risk assessment is underway. The Air Force is not planning to take this action at this time. Members wondered if similar risk screenings on PFAS had been done elsewhere that people can look at as examples. *Ms. Quinton replied that there is now significant activity on this topic, but not by USEPA. She mentioned results from PFAS screening done in Australia that is available on their defense website.*

PFAS Resources

Roger Walton provided a summary of PFAS information on the internet (RAB website, USEPA website, etc.). See attached slides, available at <http://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Pease-Archives/>

Portsmouth Water Treatment

Brian Goetz provided an update on work at the City of Portsmouth Grafton Road treatment plant. See attached presentation slides, also available at <http://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Pease-Archives/>

Someone asked about the possible flow of PFAS-contaminated water from Site 8 towards the Haven Well. *Roger Walton said the AIMS system is designed to cut off any PFAS flows towards the Haven Well.*

Public Comments

Members of the public had the opportunity to share thoughts with the RAB. One person shared comments, summarized here.

Michael Donahue:

- The Air Force's application of the privacy regulation regarding the disclosure of data on private wells is frustrating. Has any consideration been given to requesting a waiver from Air Force legal? Could this be as easy as inviting homeowners to complete consent form for informed disclosure?
- Regarding the risk assessment, why haven't people in Newington and local authorities been consulted about where the exposure points are likely to be? The team should consult now with Newington residents who have deep local knowledge.
- Regarding blood testing, even though it might not be the Air Force's role, the inability of Newington residents to get their blood tested and get a response from various public agencies is frustrating and distracts from the RAB. This issue must be resolved and should be easy to solve. The distinction allowing people who worked at Pease but not those who live in Newington and drink the same water to be tested is illogical.

Open Discussion

Following a request at the last meeting that time be left open for discussion of other topics, the facilitator opened the floor to RAB members for that purpose:

- Someone suggested that it might be necessary to meet more frequently to thoroughly discuss all the things people want to talk about and requested that RAB members receive an email asking for suggested agenda topics before the agenda is finalized.
- Participants discussed the PFAS EPA forum held in Exeter earlier in the week. RAB members who attended said it was a helpful, informative meeting about PFAS and that EPA listened and took lots of notes. Other communities are having similar issues with PFAS. An EPA staff member said that all presentation slides will be available online and that the proceedings will be on YouTube.
- A RAB member reiterated some of what Mr. Donahue said: let's find somebody who can help people with blood testing. Scott Hilton offered to call Dr. Chan and see what can be done and to learn what the criteria is for testing. He will share whatever answer he receives with the RAB.
- Several RAB members discussed concerns that people are eating shellfish from nearby bodies of water without any warning that something might be wrong.
- A RAB member asked if the Air Force has a plan to talk to the public about ATSDR's new recommendations.
- A RAB member asked to see the Air Force policy that is preventing the release of individual well data.