



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

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

Wednesday August 5, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

Via webinar only, no in person meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

**RAB members present:** Andrea Amico (community member and co-chair), James Belanger (community member), Matt Casey (ANG standing in for Col. John Pogorek), Ted Connors (community member), Mike Daly (appointed member: USEPA), Mike Donahue (community member), Brian Goetz (appointed member: City of Portsmouth), Dennis Malloy (community member), Mark Mattson (community member), Mindi Messmer (community member), Peggy Lamson (community member), Jamie Paine (community member), Lulu Pickering (community member), Peter Sandin (appointed member: NHDES), Maria Stowell (appointed member: Pease Development Authority), Roger Walton (appointed member: AFCEC, DoD Chair)

**Meeting support staff present:** Ona Ferguson (Consensus Building Institute – RAB Facilitator), Linda Geissinger (AFCEC Public Affairs), Dante Gulle (Public Affairs Contractor - AGEISS), Maggie Osthues (Consensus Building Institute – Support), Rob Singer (Wood), Lauren Tierney (Wood)

**Others present:** Doris Brock (community), Madeline Bruno, Cliff Chase, Peter Clark (Sen. Shaheen’s office), Shawna Couplin, Tige Cunningham, Geoff Daly, Val de la Fuente (AFCEC), Madison Dinsmore, Frank Getchell, Tim Green, Kerry Holmes (Sen. Hassan’s office), Erica Hruslinski, Ed Lawson, Arnie Leriche, Jeff McMenemy (Seacoastonline.com Reporter), David Meuse, Robin Mongeon (NHDES), Mike Neller, Al Pratt (City of Portsmouth), Michael Quinlan (APTIM), Julie Ricardi, Brandon Shaw, Linda Shosie, Stephen TerMaath (AFCEC)

**Next meeting:** December 2, 2020 - 4:00-6:00pm via webinar, no in person meeting.

**Meeting Materials:** Pease RAB meeting presentation slides are available at:  
<https://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Pease-Archives/>

**Video:** The virtual meeting was recorded and posted to the City of Portsmouth YouTube page and can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EY3ai86BoBo>

**Welcome, Introductions, RAB Business – Ona Ferguson (Consensus Building Institute)**

- Welcomed new members - Jamie Belanger (Newington resident) and Mike Donahue (Newington resident) - and introduced RAB members
- Approved summary from December 2019 RAB meeting
- Ona Ferguson reminded the group that the focus of this meeting is the cleanup of groundwater and the purpose of the RAB is to act as an advisory group, to represent and give voice to different stakeholder groups in the community.
- Andrea Amico was introduced as the new Co-Chair, replacing Jamie Paine, the previous co-chair

**Project and Other Updates**

- Air Force project update – Roger Walton (Air Force) presented slides

- Site 39 (building 227, Former Pan Am Hangar) soil vapor extraction began operations on 13 July 2020
- A question was asked if PFAS was looked for below Pan Am when horizontal piping was drilled in June. Roger Walton replied that PFAS was not looked for in this effort, but other investigations have looked for PFAS in this area.
- Jamie Paine asked demolition of the building could be a cost effective alternative to soil vapor extraction. Roger Walton replied that the building now belongs to PDA so the Air Force does not have the power to make that decision. The intention is to clean out the sub slab so that there is no future vapor intrusion and the building could be repurposed. The cost of treatment is far lower than the cost of demolition.
- Mindi Messmer asked if the vapor extraction system effluent has been tested for PFAS. Roger Walton replied that the system has only been operational for 2 weeks and they are still working on calibrating system flow. Mindi Messmer asked about historical PFAS foam storage or usage in the building and Mike Daly replied that the building only ever had a deluge system and that the building does not represent a significant PFAS source area.
- Roger Walton provided an update on PFOS/PFOA treatment plants at Site 8 and AIMS
  - Site 8 Iron removal system is now in place and they are working with balancing chemical dosages to optimize the system. The Site 8 IMW is currently pumping 40-45 gpm and has treated ~31 million gallons to date.
  - The AIMS is operating ~600 gpm and has treated 262 million gallons to date. The next performance monitoring sampling will be in September.
- Roger Walton relayed to the RAB that the PFAS Remedial Investigation (RI) contract was awarded to Wood on 20 July 2020 and has a period of performance through December 2022 which will be when the report is finalized. The RI contract cannot be released to the public. The scope of the RI has a focus on *sampling of any environmental media*. The contract is designed to be as flexible as possible and didn't predetermine types of media, locations, or quantities of samples. Roger Walton stated that the Air Force is neither ruling anything out nor committing to any particular issue at this time.
- Roger Walton discussed the "Relative Risk Site Evaluation" (RRSE), a process used to evaluate the relative priority of cleanup sites. Standardized scorings of high, medium or low can be assigned to a Site. Both Pease sites (Site 8 and Airfield Area) scored High. The score is determined by the Air Force and screened against the EPA 40 ppt standard. This didn't alter the schedule for the Pease RI scoping because Pease was already in that process. RRSE scores will be released to the public sometime in August and will then go through a 30-day public comment period. Other sites are also being scored but Roger Walton is unaware of their schedules. Pease was in the first wave of PFAS sites to be scored.

#### **Updates relevant to the RAB – RAB members**

- Mindi Messmer asked Roger Walton if the Air Force would comply with the NH MCLs for PFAS now that the state legislator and Governor have passed the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Roger Walton replied that, as in December 2019, all state laws get reviewed by the office of the Secretary of Defense. At this time the Air Force is still operating under responding only to the EPA lifetime Health Advisory.
- Mindi Messmer asked Mike Daly and Peter Sandin what the status was for the private homes in Newington that are now over the new NH MCL. Peter Sandin replied that the DES notified 5 private supply well owners in Newington that they exceed the new standards in September 2019. Peter Sandin stated that at this point the DES anticipates that the Air Force will abide by the NH MCLs. Mike Daly replied that he had no response just yet and that the EPA is reviewing the case to decide if the NH MCLs will be an ARAR to the Executive Order. Mindi Messmer asked Peter Sandin if these private well owners have been notified

that their MCLs have been approved. Peter Sandin replied that they were notified in early October, that bottled water has not been provided by the DES or the Air Force, and he is unaware of what decisions the private well owners have made.

- Andrea Amico asked Peter Sandin if the DES will provide potable water if the Air Force does not comply with the NH MCLs. Peter Sandin responded that the DES protocol is that bottled water is to be supplied by the responsible party.
- James Belanger stated that it should be obvious to meet or exceed the strictest standard.
- Jamie Paine and Andrea Amico asked what authority the State and EPA have to compel the Air Force to provide bottled water to these private well owners that now exceed the NH MCLs. Mike Daly responded that the EPA has the Order, which targets public water supply not private water supply, and the EPA is looking at the NH MCLs and how it may affect the Order, but he has no further update at this time.
- Mindi Messmer requested that a notification be sent to residents that the MCLs are in affect and requests that the DES provide potable water to the five residents exceeding the MCLs and back-bill the Air Force as the responsible party.
- Mark Mattson initiated a discussion on how the members of the RAB can send a formal request to the DES. Ona Ferguson replied that as a body the RAB can't issue a formal request but as individuals they can submit a letter/request and have in the past.
- Lulu Pickering and Peggy Lamson agreed with the arguments made by Mindi Messmer, Andrea Amico, and Jamie Paine endorsed a collective letter signed by interested RAB members. Mike Donahue commented that with no mention of any timeline by DES or EPA citizens are suffering. Ted Connors replied that Town of Newington officials will get behind this discussed letter of movement.

### **Overview of the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study Process & Public Input Opportunities –**

*Roger Walton*

- Roger Walton provided a high-level overview of the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) cleanup process with slide deck and graphics. Roger Walton reviewed the lifecycle of remediation programs and how Pease has stepped out of a typical linear CERCLA process.
  - Mindi Messmer asked if shellfish risk will have to be reevaluated or recollected in light of the new NH MCLs. Peter Sandin replied that in fall 2019 the DES had the New Hampshire Environmental Health Program review the shellfish data with respect to the MCLs. Results of that evaluation were included in the DES's comments on the ESI report and concurred with the findings of the ESI that there were no unacceptable risks.
- Roger Walton discussed how the current focus of the RI Scoping Process is on analyzing existing data by looking at the conceptual site model (CSM) and identifying data needs. Roger Walton presented several slides recapping what a CSM is and how it is used in investigation. Pease is in a relatively unique position in that there is a robust list of data that has been collected. The initial focus of the CSM was on groundwater and potable drinking water, but the future focus will include other media. Previously identified pathways and receptors will be included, other potential AFFF release areas will be looked at, and other conditions include pumping wells for non-contact cooling water. Sampling will not be completed in one round of collection, there will be iterations, field alterations, seasonal components, and work plans may be altered. The data will guide the investigation and the process will require lots of coordination with private property owners.
  - Andrea Amico asked if the media outlined in the presentation were all definitely going to be tested or if it was an example of potential media that could be tested. Roger Walton replied that the data will lead the investigation and provided the example that if someone is irrigating crops with groundwater near the Base they

would first test the irrigations water before testing the crops. The Air Force is not committing to all of the media listed but also not counting anything out and there may be more media that haven't been considered yet.

- Andrea Amico asked if there is an end date to when the community can provide input to the scoping process. Roger Walton replied that scoping will be concluded by the end of this calendar year for sampling to begin in spring 2021.
- Jamie Paine asked if there will be a consideration of manufacturing facilities and synthetic compounds as receptors. Roger Walton replied that that the sort of research will be included in the scoping and we are not ruling anything in or out.
- Mark Mattson asked if the scoping and work plans will follow guidance documents for how pathways are selected and how samples are collected. Roger Walton replied that it will follow EPA RI/FS guidance that generally all CERCLA processes follow. Mike Daly agreed with Mark Mattson that sampling design will be very important, and that each media will have its own considerations.
- Roger Walton asked the RAB for help in soliciting specific community input on pathways and receptors, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when alternate means of collecting information will mean eliminating face-to face contact or entry into residents. All efforts must maximize homeowner/resident privacy. Roger Walton reviewed potential forms of data collection such as mail surveys, a hotline, email, and phone interviews.
- Roger Walton reviewed the next steps and 4 month plan to develop the RI Work Plan and QAPP with DES and EPA review. The QAPP will establish data quality objectives and present quality control and assurance procedures. Field Sampling Plans will append to the Work Plan for phased or iterative sampling
  - Mark Mattson asked if the RAB will have the opportunity to review the Work Plan, QAPP, and Field Sampling Plans. Roger Walton replied that these documents are not for public review, however if the RAB has specific questions they can be discussed.
  - Andrea Amico asked if testing will only include the Pease specific 13 PFAS compounds or if that might be expanded. Roger Walton replied that that decision has not been made yet. Andrea Amico supported expanding the compound list and Jamie Paine asked if the EPA could request that the compound list be expanded.
  - Mindi Messmer asked if the Air Force has investigated for 1-4 Dioxane at any Pease sites. Roger Walton replied that yes, there was a separate emergent contaminant investigation for 1-4 Dioxane. Peter Sandin responded that they looked into which sites were most likely to contain it, and then sampled several sites. It was detected at Site 39 and one other site at the single parts per billion level. Mike Daly responded that when an emergent contaminant comes up the EPA tries to be proactive and follow technical documents to look for it at a site. 1-4 Dioxane is not a prominent contaminant of concern in comparison to other solvents at Pease.

### **Public Comments**

- Doris Brock asked when the Relative Risk Site Evaluation would be completed and available for public comments and how it could be obtained. Roger Walton replied that it is posted on a public notice like the RAB notices and said that he would alert the RAB and interested parties list when it is posted. It will be on the Administrative Record during the entire 30-day public comment period, then posted to the Administrative Record again once final.
- Ona shared her email for any who would like to receive RAB related emails [oferguson@cbi.org](mailto:oferguson@cbi.org)
- Geoff Daly asked several specific questions related to the Site 39 soil vapor removal system, the AIMS, and the Site 8 IMS. Roger Walton replied that these specific detail oriented questions would need to be answered offline and that he will follow up.

### **Meeting Recap and Next Steps – Ona Ferguson**

- The next RAB meeting is scheduled as another virtual meeting on 2 December 2020
- There will be an evaluation form circulated for feedback on this virtual meeting
- Roger Walton addressed the RAB stating that he understands the RAB's frustration in waiting for the DoD to issue a response in regard to the NH MCLs and stated that he is doing all he can to get an answer, and will communicate with the RAB as soon as he knows anything new.
- Andrea Amico said the top concern of the group is the supply of clean water to the residents above the MCLs and that she is excited that we're moving into the RI phase and for community input and shaping. If there is an opportunity for a short meeting between now and 2 December 2020 the RAB would appreciate staying in touch, getting updated, and sharing input.
- Mindi Messmer agreed with Andrea and said she would like to know that the Newington Residents have been notified by the reinforcement of the MCLs.
- Jamie Paine requested monthly updates and opportunity to provide input.
- Ona Ferguson reminded participants that she would send out a revised list of action items and meeting summary and that the meeting recording will be available on the City of Portsmouth YouTube Channel.