



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

## **Pease Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting**

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 – 6:00-8:00 p.m.

In person meeting with virtual option

### **Meeting Summary**

## **Meeting in Brief**

This RAB meeting, our first in person meeting since before covid, focused on an update on the Remedial Investigation (RI) from the Air Force and Wood. This meeting had a virtual and in-person option with a mix of RAB members and members of the public choosing one or the other. Five RAB members attended in person, eight RAB members attended virtually, seven RAB members were absent. Due to changes in Department of Defense (DoD) guidance, presentations were made in real time rather than being pre-recorded and sent out in advance. Materials such as the slide presentation and a glossary of acronyms were sent in advance. Following the presentations, RAB members had an open discussion on the RI with the technical team. The meeting closed with a public comment period. The next RAB meeting date is to be determined.

This summary was produced by the facilitation team from the Consensus Building Institute. Appendix A on pages 5 to 6 includes timestamps of certain topics for those who want to watch the recording to see exact points or back and forth among participants. Participants are listed on page 4.

**Meeting materials:** Presentation slides and meeting materials can be found at:

<https://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Pease-Archives/>

**Video:** Recordings of RAB meetings can be found at

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNWsoVwtYMQvuBBvoBKWtGoTjQzF7YHVb>

## **Air Force Cleanup and Remedial Investigation (RI) Update**

Chris King (Air Force), and Hank Andolsek, Haley Plante, and Amy Quintin (Wood), delivered presentations on the work done in recent months on the Remedial Investigation (RI). Chris shared updates on Department of Defense (DoD) guidance around private wells and PFAS waste. He also shared that due to Section 345 of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), certain data regarding private land cannot be disclosed to the RAB for the time being.

Haley Plante presented Wood's sample collection process which included examples from all types of sampling from surface water to fish/shellfish to give members of the RAB a better understanding of how the data was collected. Hank Andolsek summarized information on soil investigations and discussed surface water migration pathways. Hank highlighted the twenty areas where the soil investigations were done. He noted that five of those areas exceeded the PFOS/PFOA screening levels. Hank explained that surface water was only examined as a migration pathway and not risk exposure. However, he did state that a few areas did exceed screening levels for child swimming. Amy Quintin presented data related to eggs, shellfish, co-located surface water and sediment, and fish. The data showed that freshwater fish PFOS levels are above risk thresholds which means fishing is currently prohibited and further evaluation

is needed; there should be no concern with ingestion of shellfish; and PFOS was detected in eggs and will need further evaluation.

Chris King closed the presentation with updates on the Legacy System Demolition and Site Restoration Project. This project includes the removal of up to 8 treatment systems that were abandoned in place at closed sites previously contaminated with fuels or solvents (not PFAS). The locations will be restored upon completion and any associated buildings will be evaluated for reuse.

## Key Takeaways from the Open Discussion on the RI

Following the presentations, RAB members discussed the RI data. Key takeaways from the discussion include:

- *Data Sharing* – Many RAB members expressed their dismay at the updated DoD guidance. Key points regarding this topic are below:
  - Members described their frustrations that data sharing was an issue in the past and said they are upset that this continues to be an issue for this clean up. Andrea Amico, community co-chair of the RAB, added that this act was intended to foster transparency, but has been interpreted as requiring the opposite. Members voiced disappointment about the interpretation of the act from DoD and their hope that this will be resolved soon. Members of the RAB asked the AF to hold more meetings if necessary. The Air Force agreed to do so in either breakout sessions or longer meetings depending on the subject. AF representatives are exploring ways to work with property owners to get access agreements. A representative from Senator Shaheen’s office said Sen. Shaheen and other members of the legislature will work the Air Force to get this issue resolved, as transparency is the goal.
  - NHDES was asked how the data sharing affects their ability to participate in the RI. Peter Sandin, NHDES, stated that this could affect their ability to participate in the process if it continues for very long.
  - Members asked for clarification about the definition of private versus public land. For NDAA purposes, anything that is not governmental or tribal would be private. In New Hampshire, if a member of the public can reasonably access a stream, this would be public land which includes the coast.
  - RAB Members want presentations to be sent out in advance. Several noted that this was helpful for the last meeting and that they hope the data sharing issue can be solved for that practice to be reinstated for future meetings.
- *Sampling/Wildlife Data* – Members of the RAB had various questions and comments regarding the sampling data.
  - One person asked if wildlife data from other places is showing similar results. Wood representatives said that they are in general similar to other places.
  - Sediment, surface water, fish, and shellfish data will be made available to RAB members.
  - RAB members asked about species that have not been tested such as herring and striped bass. What is the ecological impact of the contamination to these and other species? Wood staff answered that there will be an ecological assessment to accompany the current assessment, which is only focused on impacts to human health. Wood will consider looking into striped bass due to human consumption but do not expect to find

high concentrations of PFAS. Members asked the technical team to look into local turkeys' contamination levels if there is a concern about chickens.

- Members of the RAB asked about the stream sampling and why specific locations were chosen. Representatives from Wood explained that locations were a variety and sampled all "conduit pathways". Springs, for example, could all be potentially sources, so all were sampled. Members of the RAB followed up by stating their concerns about the Fox Point area and wondering if more data could be made available to look into regarding the surface water and possible shellfish sampling expansion.
- Members of the RAB asked about the Upper Newington Peninsula and why there was detectable PFAS in the surface water. Wood representatives stated that they do not know the exact reasons why it is detected there but emphasized that it is low on the screening levels. Members would like to see any information that can be provided about wells in that area or any type of data possible.

## Public Comment

Members of the public were invited to give up to three minutes of public comment:

- Arnie Leriche asked where people can get references to the new criteria and when the Pease team started using the new criteria in the RI. Amy Quintin, Wood, responded that current DoD policy is not to adopt them yet. Pease AF team used Region 1's calculated ingestion rate that is already in the RSL calculator that was used. A new set of tables comes out every 6 months. EPA agreed that information forthcoming will come to the RSL calculator.
- Nate Giffard asked about Wood team's methodology and if the PFAS concentration would change depending upon the season. Haley Plante and Amy Quintin, Wood, responded that the RI data were collected in November and the ESI data were from August 2018. Wood will evaluate seasonal fluctuations if necessary because in past, there has been low seasonal variation in PFAS concentrations in shellfish.

## Final Thoughts

Members of the RAB were given the opportunity to share final thoughts before the close of the meeting. Comments included:

- RAB Members voiced appreciation for the hybrid meeting that allowed participants to attend in person or virtually and would like to see it going forward with improvement to sound quality for online participants.
- Several members of the RAB hoped to see a resolution on the data sharing issue and are happy to hear that there is work being done to resolve this between the Air Force and members of the legislature. In addition, a suggestion was made to have a meeting in Newington with members of the public and members of the AF and Wood team to discuss the private well issue with those residents.
- Members would like to see more data regarding impacts on human consumption as well as PFAS compounds in other wildlife. Members would like to see an expansion of shellfish sampling in the Fox Point area. Other members suggested bringing in experts from Dartmouth College to learn what they are doing in regard to PFAS and sampling data.

- Members were excited to hear about the plans for demolishing old cleanup systems.
- Members requested a schedule for RI fieldwork.
- Members acknowledged the retirement of Dr. TerMaath and voiced their appreciation as one of the early people involved in this work.

## Next Steps/Announcements

See action items list in attached spreadsheet for ongoing tracker.

## Meeting Attendees

**RAB Members Present:** Andrea Amico (community member and co-chair), Sam Beam (community member), Matt Casey (appointed member: NHANG), Mike Daly (appointed member: US EPA), Mike Donahue (community member), Brian Goetz (appointed member: City of Portsmouth), Joan Hamblet (community member, NH state representative), Christopher King (appointed member: Air Force Civil Engineer Center, DoD Chair), Mark Mattson (community member), Dennis Malloy (community member), Russell McCann (community member), Peter Sandin (appointed member: NHDES), and Maria Stowell (appointed member: Pease Development Authority).

**Meeting Support Staff Present:** Hank Andolsek (Wood), Ona Ferguson (Consensus Building Institute, RAB Meeting Facilitator), Linda Geissinger (AFCEC Public Affairs), Dante Gulle, (AGEISS, Public Affairs Support), Cameron Hager (Consensus Building Institute Support), Haley Plante (Wood), Amy Quintin (Wood), Rob Singer (Wood), Sharon Vriesenga (US Air Force).

**Others Present:** Grant Austin (Wood PLC), Jack Besse (Wood), Doris Brock, Patrick Carroll (Congressman Chris Pappas), Val de la Fuente (US Air Force), Kelsey Dumville (US EPA), Nate Giffard (Dartmouth College), Tim Green (City of Portsmouth), Kathryn Gross (Wood PLC), Brian Havens (Wood), Kerry Holmes (Senator Maggie Hassan), Arnie Leriche (Wurtsmith RAB Member), Deb Macdonald (ECC), Blake Martin, Jeffrey Marts (NHDES), Elizabeth McKenna (Senator Jeanne Shaheen), Robin Mongeon (NHDES), Jonathan Petali (NHDES), Albert Pratt (City of Portsmouth), Kathryn Sarsfield (Wood PLC), Brandon Shaw (Wood PLC), Jared Sheehan (Wood), Joe Tellez (AFCEC), Steve TerMaath (AFCEC), Lauren Tierney (Wood PLC), Justin Troiano (US Senator Maggie Hassan).

## Appendix A

### Minutes/Timestamps

- 5:00 Arrival**  
People who attend in person are welcome to arrive and spend a little time visiting.
- 5:20 Tech Check**  
Anyone is welcome to join the webinar early to check their video and audio.
- 5:35 Welcome, Introductions, RAB Business – Consensus Building Institute – recording time 0:00:00**
- Review technology, meeting agenda
  - Approve summary from February 2022 RAB Meeting
  - Introductions
- 5:44 City of Portsmouth Update - recording time 0:08:40**
- Annual reports handed out and mailed to all customers of Pease and Portsmouth systems
  - Summarized water quality sampling and highlights of last year – activation of new treatment system and reactivation of the Haven well. Likely upcoming summary without having to use supplemental water from the Portsmouth System. Portsmouth/Pease Safe Water Drinking information on City website.
- 5:46 Technical Presentations and Discussion – Air Force and Wood - recording time 0:11:15**
- Air Force will share the overall cleanup update and Wood PLC will share the update on the Remedial Investigation
  - Private well update - recording time 0:12:40
  - PFAS waste disposal update - recording time 0:15:00
  - NDAA PFAS data restriction – section 345(a)(2) - recording time 0:17:20
  - Wood – Field Sampling Methodology - recording time 0:21:20
  - Wood – Soils Source Area Results - recording time 0:32:40
  - Wood – Surface Water Migration Pathway - recording time 0:36:50
  - Wood – Surface Water Results - recording time 0:42:34
  - Wood – Fish, Shellfish, Eggs Pathway discussion and big picture results - recording time 0:47:15
  - Wood – Poultry Egg Discussions - recording time 0:51:12
  - Wood – Shellfish Screening Level and Data Review - recording time 0:54:00
  - Wood – Fish Screening Level and Data Review - recording time 0:57:33
  - Wood – Detailed overview of Shellfish/Fish distribution - recording time 1:01:00
  - Air Force – Legacy System Demolition and Site Restoration Project and Re-Evaluation of Fuel Sites - recording time 1:11:28
- 6:48 Break**
- 6:55 Open Discussion – RAB members**
- Opportunity for RAB members to share thoughts, questions and concerns related to the cleanup.
  - Discussion focused around NDAA/public disclosure - recording time 1:15:30

- Freshwater fish similar to other sites - **recording time 1:26:35**
- Freshwater streams and RSLs - **recording time 1:27:25**
- NDAA defining private property - **recording time 1:28:30**
- Marine fish sampling considerations - **recording time 1:31:35**
- NDAA reactions, questions, and requests - **recording time 1:35:55**
- Request to continue with pre-recorded video presentations, regardless of NDAA and virtual/hybrid - **recording time 1:38:45**
- Discussion on sediment/soil sampling procedures - **recording time 1:40:45**
- Discussion on sample location determination, specifically as it relates to the Fox Point area and the Northwestern section of peninsula - **recording time 1:41:35**
- Mention of turkeys in Newington - **recording time 1:53:25**

#### **7:35 Public Comments**

- Members of the general public may request up to 3 minutes to speak
- Arnie Leriche from Michigan inquired about the RSLs. A discussion was had about EPA RSL and the online RSL calculator tool. - **recording time 1:55:20**
- Nate Gifford, a lab technician at Dartmouth College, inquired about the potential seasonal variabilities in shellfish sampling. - **recording time 2:01:30**

#### **7:45 Meeting Recap and Next Steps – Consensus Building Institute - recording time 2:03:40**

- Post recording, post last meetings summary, AF will be sharing public data after this RAB with the group
- CBI looking for feedback for how the meeting worked and what could make it better
- RAB members provide their final thoughts - **recording time 2:0510**
- Request for Dartmouth college shellfish presentation to RAB
- Request for more information on schedule of the RAB field work and draft report

#### **8:01 Adjourn**