



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

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

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 – 4:30-8:00 p.m.

In person meeting with virtual option

### **Meeting Summary**

## **Meeting in Brief**

This RAB meeting focused on an update on the Remedial Investigation (RI) from the Air Force and WSP. It had a virtual and in-person option with a mix of RAB members and members of the public choosing one or the other. Six RAB members, including those representing the EPA and Air Force, attended in person, two RAB members attended virtually, six RAB members were absent. The video presentations and slide set were shared with members in advance. Following a viewing of the recorded presentations, RAB members had an open discussion with the technical team. There was a brief presentation on water treatment progress from the City of Portsmouth and the meeting closed with a public comment period. The next RAB meeting date has not yet been scheduled.

This summary was produced by the facilitation team from the Consensus Building Institute. Meeting participants are listed at the bottom of this document along with timings of the meeting recording (Appendix A):

**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**

In a pre-recorded presentation, Chris King (Air Force), and Hank Andolsek, Grant Austin, Madi Dinsmore, and Amy Quintin (WSP), 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 an update on section 345 (a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). One note, to start the in-person/live portion of the meeting, Mr. King updated a slide shown in the pre-recorded video that well sampling results can be shared, but cannot share private property data related to those wells. A representative from Senator Shaheen's office added that they are working with the Air Force to find a resolution to this challenge.

- Grant Austin, WSP, gave an update on the recent injection trench replacements. Chris King gave an overview of the RI timeline. The RI is scheduled to be completed and available in fall 2023. A feasibility study is expected to follow shortly after and should be done by the end of 2024. The field work is nearly complete. Hank Andolsek, WSP, discussed the updates on groundwater contamination by showing new digital models of elevation contours ([See presentation and slides for further details](#)). Amy Quintin, WSP, presented a summary of the sampling done in 2022 related to human health exposure related to pool water and produce. The results of the sampling showed no detection of regulated Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in

produce; regulated PFAS concentrations below swimming risk screening levels in pool water; and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) detected in eggs in 2021. The 2022 data is not available yet. Madi Dinsmore, WSP, with Amy Quintin added more detail about the sampling process.

Chris King closed the presentation by explaining that the final report and the risk assessment will be ready by fall 2023. The Air Force will continue to work with regulators through the remainder of the process.

## Key Takeaways from the Open Discussion

Following the viewing of the presentations, RAB members had the opportunity to discuss the RI data and any other project activities on their minds. Key takeaways from the discussion include:

- **Data Sharing** – Many RAB members expressed their continued frustration with the DoD guidance that prevents Air Force staff from sharing data in detail. Key themes from their comments and questions included the following.
  - Members expressed that this guidance from the DoD inhibits public understanding of the issue. Members said there needs to be a balance of sharing information with the community so they can meaningfully engage with the process while recognizing privacy concerns. Members expressed appreciation for Air Force and legislative members' efforts to resolve these issues and said that there is movement in the right direction.
  - Chris King said his team is producing a data information graphic which will show groundwater data for the whole peninsula.
  - Members asked NHDES how this is affecting their work. Peter Sandin, DES, said this issue remains unclear. DES staff will need to see the graphic to make a better determination of this issue. Peter asked whether it would be possible for the Air Force to have individual state agreements on data sharing with the state of New Hampshire. Cristina Harvey, AFCEC, said that the Air Force is looking into state specific agreements as well as other opportunities to make it possible to share important information. She expressed that the Air Force wants to provide as much information as necessary so that regulators and partners have confidence in said data.
  - Members asked if monitoring of wells would continue. Chris King said residential wells will be monitored semi-annually or annually.
  - Members asked if residents would be updated regarding exceedances on their land. Chris King said letters are sent to the residents. DES receives private well data, but without the ownership and address information. Chris fields any calls from private owners who receive and would like to discuss those letters.
- **Technical Assistance** – Andrea Amico, RAB Community Co-Chair, said she is working with Mike Daly, EPA, to explore the potential to bring on a technical advisor for the RAB. They are having a meeting on January 31 to discuss these details further and community and other RAB members are welcome to join.
  - Mike Daly mentioned that there are two different types of technical advisors that might work for the RAB: Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) and Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC). The TASC process is more streamlined and easier to start, while TAG requires more oversight by the non-profit that receives the funding. RAB members can learn more at the meeting on January 31.

- *The RI Process* – Members had various questions about the RI Process and the data in the presentations:
  - Did the drought cause any problems in collecting data? Amy Quintin said that WSP has not done a full analysis of the effects of the drought or what caused slight increases, but the team is comfortable with the data results.
  - Regarding the information on trenches at Site 8, members asked how many trenches are currently being used. Grant Austin, WSP, said that four trenches were decommissioned with one remaining trench from the old structures. There are five new active trenches.
  - Members asked about the RI timeline and if there were opportunities for public comment. Chris King said that after the initial report is created, the Air Force would review first in a 45-day review period. The Air Force and regulators anticipate getting the report on June 1. Community members will likely see the report (and regulator comments about it) in the Fall. Mike Daly said the initial 45-day review period will probably be not enough and there will be an extension. Mr. Daly said he wanted to set realistic expectations for when people would see the report.
  - Members asked if the new EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) in development would impact the RI. Mike Daly, EPA, said that they are not sure what the impact would be, as the screening levels used are very low. He mentioned that EPA’s draft MCLs will need to go for public comment before they are officially published. He is not sure how long that will take. Chris King said that, if needed, the team will adjust the project once the MCLs come out.
  - Members asked if there would be more sampling. Amy Quintin said there isn’t going to be more sampling in the near term. The project team is going to focus on report writing. If something needs to be analyzed more, that information can be collected later.
  - Members asked how PFAS collected on site are being disposed of and incineration is a possibility. Chris said that they are still being landfilled. Incineration would go against Air Force policies per the NDAA. There is currently a moratorium on waste incineration. Class C Landfills are a precautionary measure during the moratorium. The EPA will come out with a ruling regarding what PFAS can be destroyed. PFAS cannot be extracted from the landfill once it is disposed of for incineration.
  - Members asked what effect the improvements described in the presentation had on Site 8. Grant Austin said the trenches don’t necessarily affect the flows in the plant currently. Members said they hope to see more efficiency coming from Site 8 and Chris King said that there are more projects to come to increase efficiency of that area.
- *Communication* – Members expressed frustration with the communication from AFCEC and asked for members to be involved in the process more. They would like to have more technical presentations on the detail on these maps and to better understand the data. Right now, some RAB members don’t feel they’re getting enough information to be able to communicate with the public. They said they feel that the RAB becomes ineffective when it isn’t provided sufficient information.

## Municipal Water Update

Brian Goetz, City of Portsmouth, announced that he is stepping down from the RAB. Al Pratt will be taking his place. Al Pratt delivered the municipal water update. He said the water plant is still working well. 376 million gallons of water flow through the plant which gets sampled monthly. The city has not seen any long-change compounds break through. They are going to start changing out the carbon vessels and the granular activated carbon (GAC). These are normal maintenance and will put the plant on a solid operational cycle every two years. The pilot study discussed during the RAB tour is still ongoing. The resin is looking good from what they have seen thus far.

Key discussion questions included:

- What short- or long-chain compounds are breaking through? Al Pratt said they are seeing PFBA be stopped at 30 parts per trillion and PFPPA are coming through the resin, which matches with what they've seen in the pilot study. PFBA is breaking through at 30 parts per trillion.
- What happens to the resin after it goes through its lifecycle? All resin goes to a Class C Landfill. Regarding the carbon that is being changed out, what happens to that material? Al explained that the carbon will be reactivated at Calgon Carbon where the carbon will be heated to extreme temperatures to eliminate any PFAS material. This is a common practice and as the carbon is hardly used, city staff agree this is a safe method.

## Public Comment

There were not any members of the public who wanted to make public comment.

## 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 members that have stepped down from the RAB: Mindi Messmer, Joan Hamlett, Ted Connors, Brian Goetz, and Gene Schrage.
- Several members of the RAB thanked the Air Force and Senator Shaheen's staff for working to resolve the data sharing issues. They hope to see that resolved soon.
- Members are looking forward to seeing new RAB members be brought on board and hope to hear an update on those applications soon.
- Members hope to hear about the RI Report soon and look forward to being able to deliver comments as those can be useful.
- Members appreciated all the effort going into the clean-up.

## 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), Christopher King (appointed member: Air

Force Civil Engineer Center, DoD Chair), Kim McNamara (community member) Peter Sandin (appointed member: NHDES), and Jared Sheehan (appointed member: Pease Development Authority).

**Meeting Support Staff Present:** Hank Andolsek (WSP), Grant Austin (WSP), Madi Dinsmore (WSP), Ona Ferguson (Consensus Building Institute, RAB Meeting Facilitator), Dante Gulle, (AGEISS, Public Affairs Support), Cameron Hager (Consensus Building Institute Support), Cristina Harvey (US Air Force), Amy Quintin (WSP), Rob Singer (WSP), Sharon Vriesenga (US Air Force).

**Others Present:** Komlan Akou, Doris Brock, Chris Brown (US Air Force), Michelle Brown (US Air Force), Patrick Carroll (Congressman Chris Pappas), James Conrad (US Air Force), Val de la Fuente (US Air Force), Kelsey Dumville (US EPA), Edgard Flores, Greg Gangnuss, Frank Getchell, Nate Giffard (Dartmouth College), Tim Green (City of Portsmouth), Kathryn Gross (WSP), Steven Guzman (US Air Force), Brian Havens (WSP), Heidi Hulst, Andrew Hoffman, Kerry Holmes-Zack (Senator Maggie Hassan), Brian Howard (US Air Force), Karen Johnson, Larisa Lawrence (US Air Force), Arnie Leriche (Wurtsmith RAB Member), Lee Major (Cherokee Nation), Elizabeth McKenna (Senator Jeanne Shaheen), Andrew McNary (US Air Force), Mike Medina, Albert Pratt (City of Portsmouth), Kathryn Sarsfield (WSP), Brandon Shaw (WSP), Jared Sheehan (WSP), Ieshia Spears (US Air Force) Joe Tellez (AFCEC), Allen Tevyaw (Cherokee Nation), Lauren Tierney (WSP), Danna Truslow, Christina Villanueva (US Air Force)

## Appendix A- Meeting Timings

Video recording can be found here- <https://youtu.be/-w7UVJAADnU>

### 4:00 Arrival

People who attend in person are welcome to arrive and spend a little time visiting.

### 4:20 Tech Check

Anyone is welcome to join the webinar early to check their video and audio.

### 4:30 Technical Recorded Presentation – *Air Force and WSP* – pre-recorded presentation

- Air Force will share the overall cleanup update and WSP (formerly Wood) will share the update on the Remedial Investigation
- Pre-recorded presentation begins (0:00)
  - [1.24.2023 Pease Restoration Advisory Board Presentation - YouTube](#)
- RAB meeting agenda (0:45)
- Private well update (1:16)
- NDAA update (2:15)
- WSP - Site 8 IMS effluent injection trenching updates (3:35)
- Remedial Investigation update (5:24)
- WSP - Summary of the extent of groundwater contamination and potential impact on public supply wells (7:12)
- WSP – Pool water sampling update (19:04)
- WSP - PFAS data analysis explanation (25:54)
- WSP - Backyard produce sampling update (27:47)
- WSP - Poultry egg sampling update (35:47)
- Timeline for Remedial Investigation (38:00)

### 5:30 Break

### 6:00 Welcome, Introductions, RAB Business – *Consensus Building Institute*

- Meeting recording begins (0:00)
  - [1.24.2023 Pease Restoration Advisory Board - YouTube](#)
- Review technology, meeting agenda
- Introductions
- Approve meeting summary from 17 May 2022 meeting
- RAB membership updates
- Christopher King discusses NDAA update (9:38)

### 6:13 Open Discussion – *RAB members* – Begins at 13:00

- Opportunity for RAB members to share thoughts, questions and concerns related to the cleanup.

- Discussion around NDAA update and public disclosure (13:17)
- Air Force displayed example of graphic of overburden groundwater data in and around the site that adheres to NDAA guidelines (15:04)
- NDAA guideline effects on NHDES discussed (16:58)
- Continued discussion around how data will be displayed to the public under NDAA guidelines (22:00)
- Frequency of residential well monitoring and future well monitoring under the remedial investigation (22:46)
- More discussion around NDAA guidelines and public disclosure (23:50)
- Clarifying discussion around NDAA public disclosure guidelines in relation to residential wells and potential new EPA advisories around PFOA and PFOS (27:38)
- Outline Technical Assistance Grant and Technical Assistance for Superfund Communities (30:55)
- Discussion around backyard produce data and how it will be reported to homeowners (36:55)
- Request for more data to be shared with the public (39:30)
- Discussion around new Site 8 trenching (40:25)
- Timeline of the RI Report (42:58)
- New EPA PFAS health advisories and effects on RI report (48:57)
- PFAS background concentrations in the environment (55:52)
- Source areas for PFAS plume moving through the Haven well (58:20)
- Migration pathways for contamination over time (1:03:43)
- Site 8 plant optimization (1:09:03)
- Future RI sampling in 2023 (1:13:26)
- Fate of investigation derived waste (1:14:50)

**7:16 City of Portsmouth Update** – *City of Portsmouth Public Works* – begins at 1:16:33

- Update on treatment plant operations and sampling – schedule for the change out of GAC and resin filters, results of sampling, fate of treatment plant waste

**7:20 Public Comments** – begins at 1:20:39

- Members of the public may request up to 3 minutes to speak
- No comments from the public. Reopen the floor for RAB members. (1:22:15)
- Discussion about how to best present results for conveyance to the Town of Newington (1:22:25)

**7:27 Meeting Recap and Next Steps** – *Consensus Building Institute* – begins at 1:27:10

- Closing remarks from RAB members (1:27:15)

**7:35 Adjourn**