



Pease Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 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 virtual and in-person options, with most RAB members and members of the public attending in-person. Fourteen RAB members, including those representing the EPA and Air Force, attended in person. 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.

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 Haley Plante, Grant Austin, Madi Dinsmore, and Amy Quintin (WSP), delivered presentations on the work done in recent months on the Remedial Investigation (RI).

Grant Austin, WSP, gave an update on Site 8 and the optimization efforts associated with the mitigation system. Chris King gave said the RI investigation timeline has been extended with additional funding from the federal government. The extension gives up to an additional three years and provides additional flexibility to complete the investigation. ([See presentation and slides for further details](#)). Haley Plante, WSP, said WSP and the Air Force are working with the EPA and New Hampshire DES to develop the scope of work for the next field mobilization that will address remaining data gaps. Madi Dinsmore presented a new analytical method for PFAS. Finally, Amy Quintin presented updates focused on the human health risk assessment, specifically the final work plan for the human health risk assessment.

Updates from RAB Community Co-Chair

Andrea Amico, RAB Community Co-Chair, delivered several updates to the RAB:

- *Technical Assistance Opportunities* – The RAB has decided to move forward with the TASC (Technical Assistance Services for Communities) to get more technical support. The goal is to

help educate the community and help the RAB better relay information to neighbors and those not at the table.

- *Department of Defense Community Outreach Program* – The Department of Defense is doing an outreach program to interview communities affected by PFAS, especially those with RABs. Andrea reached out to their program to request that Pease RAB members be interviewed about their experience on the RAB. The Department of Defense is finalizing their site selection, and will at a minimum send Pease RAB members a questionnaire.
- *Testing Foam at Pease* – A researcher at the University of Florida requested foam samples from Pease. Andrea gathered samples and sent them to the researcher. More details to come at a later date. The researcher is testing over 100 sites.
- *Update on the NDAA* – Andrea has been working with Congressional staff from New Hampshire on the language issue around the NDAA. There is no major update, but congressional staff are aware and are working on the issue.

Open Discussion

RAB members were invited to discuss the RI data and any other project activities. Key themes from the discussion include:

- *Maximum Containment Levels (MCLs)* – Members had several questions relating to the MCLs and how they affect private well data. In addition, members requested that homeowners be alerted to new levels that would mean their wells would be above the safe level. The Department of Defense is preparing for the new MCLs, but will discuss the suggestion that they alert homeowners who would be affected in advance. If information about which wells would be impacted were provided to DES, DES staff would be glad to do that outreach.
 - NHDES is no longer copied on private well data. Data letters delivered to homeowners include a statement to this effect and include NHDES contact information
- *Data Gap and Testing* – RAB members asked if any other sampling will be done. Amy Quintin, WSP, answered that the project will focus on a couple of pathways, not focusing on shellfish (as that is a comprehensive dataset).
 - RAB members requested that the project test foam.
 - RAB members shared concerns about how the potentially lower MCLs will be incorporated into the risk assessment, including around shellfish.
 - Other areas of focus for additional data gap testing are eggs and chickens, source area data, and more groundwater testing around the edges of the map.
- *Human Health Risk Assessment* – RAB members requested that the Baseline Human Health and Risk Assessment Work Plan and other published documents on OneStop associated with the RI be sent to the RAB when they become available.
 - Regarding cancer endpoint levels, WSP clarified that the non-cancer end point values are currently more conservative than the cancer endpoints for PFOA, which is why non-cancer is the basis for all current PFAS risk-based screening levels. Things continue changing and it is possible that cancer endpoints could become more conservative than non-cancer in the future.
- *Communication*- RAB members had several requests to improve future communication between the Air Force and the RAB such as including a year-to-date progress reports in the monthly

newsletters. In addition, for the AIMS treatment plant, RAB members asked that any metrics be presented in the monthly RAB newsletter in a percentage capacity to be easier to understand.

- RAB members asked to bring the maps and other data layers to local town officers so neighbors can be aware of it.
- RAB members hope to see issues revolving the NDAA guidelines to be resolved soon.

Municipal Water Update

Al Pratt, City of Portsmouth, delivered the update. The facility has been online for two years. The plant is changing out one of the three carbon vessels. In addition, six of the twelve resin vessels will be changed out. The facility is now in a good cycle of operation and change out. Some of the short change compounds were coming through the resin vessels before they got the new carbon changed out (PFBA, PFPEA and PFHXA). There is sampling done every month. The GAC vessel cost \$53,000. Each one will last three years. The ion exchange cost \$78,000 per vessel. They are changing to a porous, ceramic based media, which pilot tests show is performing best.

Public Comment

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

- Arnie Leriche, Wurtsmith RAB member, shared details about the foam sampling that happened in Michigan which Andrea mentioned earlier in the meeting.
- Hagai Nassau and Karmen King introduced themselves to the group as the TASC leads who will be working with the Pease RAB.
- Val de la Fuente from the Air Force announced they hired Dr. Termath's replacement, named Greg Gangnuss. The Air Force will bring Greg to visit the Pease site in mid-July for an Eastern summit of other DoD regulators.

Final Thoughts

Members of the RAB shared final thoughts before the close of the meeting.

- RAB Members voiced appreciation for the members that have stepped off the RAB: Mindi Messmer, Joan Hamlett, Ted Connors, Brian Goetz, and Gene Schrage.
- A request that EPA be contacted prior to any testing that is conducted that is not by the Air Force or DES.
- New RAB members voiced appreciation for the thorough meeting and appreciated everyone's patience as they got up to speed. Other RAB members invited to bring new members up to speed on the clean up.
- RAB members expressed excitement about the TASC and thanked the Air Force for making the information presented so accessible in pre-recordings and big physical maps.

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), Huddy Grandy (community member), Ben Johnson (community member), Christopher King (appointed member: Air Force Civil Engineer Center, DoD Chair), Rosalie Lopresto (community member), Mark Mattson (community member), William McQuillen (community member), Albert Pratt (appointed member: City of Portsmouth), Peter Sandin (appointed member: NHDES), and Jared Sheehan (appointed member: Pease Development Authority).

Meeting Support Staff Present: Hank Andolsek (WPS), Grant Austin (WPS), Madi Dinsmore (WPS), Ona Ferguson (Consensus Building Institute, RAB Meeting Facilitator), Dante Gulle, (AGEISS, Public Affairs Support), Cameron Hager (Consensus Building Institute Support), Haley Plante (WSP), Amy Quintin (WPS), Rob Singer (WPS).

Others Present: Jack Besse (WSP), Kelsey Dumville (US EPA), Val de la Fuente (US Air Force), Frank Getchell, Andrew Hoffman, Karmen King, Arnie Leriche (Wurtsmith RAB Member), Deborah McDonald (EPP), Elizabeth McKenna (Senator Jeanne Shaheen), Dave Merle (ECC), Hagai Nassau, Greg Santos (ECC), Brandon Shaw (WPS), Allen Tevyaw (Cherokee Nation), Lauren Tierney (WPS), Nathan Vogan (WSP).

Appendix A: Meeting recording times

A - Technical Recorded Presentation

See recording of technical presentation here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/q8tllxHhq1G7hY4fobFbtCKzNqxH3dCeF7NdAhNkgczQXywuEcEgcl8Hct7yFvc-.2hO7RHsgq_a_Ylmd

Air Force and Air Force contractor (WSP) shared the overall cleanup update including:

- Air Force – Introduction and agenda (0:00)
- Air Force – Private Well Update (1:38)
- WSP – Site 8 operations update (2:33)
- Air Force – Remedial Investigation timeline extension (4:22)
- WSP – Additional field investigation scoping (6:43)
- WSP – Draft USEPA PFAS laboratory method 1633 (8:50)
- WSP – Human Health Risk Assessment Work Plan and upcoming interim deliverable (13:04)

B – RAB Interactive Meeting

The meeting recording is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EigiRU6Y64M&list=PLNWsoVwtYMQvuBBvoBKWtGoTjOzF7YHVb>

Welcome, Introductions, RAB Business – Consensus Building Institute (CBI)

- Reviewed the technology supporting this hybrid meeting (0:00)
- Reviewed the meeting agenda (2:10)
- New members were welcomed and introduced (4:03)
 - Huddy Grandy
 - Ben Johnson
 - Rosalie Lopresto
 - Paul Roy
- Existing members and others attending the meeting were introduced (6:36)
- Approved January 2023 meeting summary (11:45)

Open Discussion – RAB members

- RAB members had the opportunity to share thoughts, questions and concerns related to the cleanup.
- Andrea Amico presented slides related to the following RAB update topics:
 - Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program which will provide technical support to RAB members from experts hired by the USEPA (13:02)
 - DoD Community Outreach Initiative (15:10)
 - PFAS in foam on waterbodies sampling by Andrea Amico (16:40)
 - NDAA data sharing guidelines and actions from Senator Jeanne Shaheen (19:40)
 - NHDES is no longer copied on private well data – Data letters delivered to homeowners include a statement to this effect and include NHDES contact information (24:18)
- Discussed DoD response to new EPA draft MCLs – RAB members requested that the Air Force inform private well owners that exceed the EPA draft MCLs (25:50)

- Discussed public outreach to homeowners within the predicted groundwater management zone. Requested to borrow data presentation poster boards for public display (30:40)
- Discussed NHDES response to draft EPA MCLs (32:40)
- Discussed restricted information sharing under NDAA guidelines (36:03)
- Discussed presentation of PFAS data at this meeting (38:21)
- Reviewed timeline and steps to improve performance of the Site 8 Interim Mitigation System (40:29)
- The Air Force provided clarification around where PFAS testing has been done around the peninsula (44:32)
- WSP reviewed the upcoming sand filter pilot test at Site 8 that would aim to remove solids and increase plant efficiency (46:42)
- Discussed data gaps that might be addressed with the extended RI timeline (48:31)
- Discussed the effects of potentially lower MCLs on the risk assessment including specific concerns regarding shellfish (50:28)
- discussed the effects of new analysis method 1633 on non-detect data collected under modified method 537 and additional sampling to refine data collected under modified method 537 (53:28)
- RAB requested that the Baseline Human Health and Risk Assessment Work Plan and other published documents one OneStop associated with the RI are sent to the RAB when they become available (58:27)
- WSP explained RI risk assessment usage of toxicity end points versus cancer end points (59:37)
- Discussed areas of focus in the extended data gap investigation (1:03:10)
- Air Force discussed hosting additional meetings with RAB members to give input in extended investigation (1:08:13)
- RAB provided suggestions around how to improve monthly Air force newsletter content (1:09:25)
- Discussed an update on AIMS treatment plant productivity and how to communicate in newsletters (1:10:20)
- Rab requested increased communication around RI timeline and extension (1:15:25)

Public Comments

- Members of the public were given the opportunity to request up to 3 minutes to speak.
- Arnie Leriche, from the Wurtsmith RAB, provided additional background on foam sampling performed in Michigan. Requested a more concerted effort around foam investigation at both bases. (1:19:02)
- TASC team from SKEO introduced (1:23:30)
 - Hagai Nassau
 - Karmen King

Brief Update on Drinking Water – *City of Portsmouth*

- Al Pratt provided an update on carbon vessel change outs, associated costs, and sampling results (1:26:20)
- RAB acknowledged co-chair Andrea Amico for the work she put into getting TASC involved with the Pease RAB (1:28:29)
- City discussed the results of resin pilot tests, new resin being used, sampling regimes and

results (1:30:11)

- Val de la Fuente (Air Force BRAC East Branch Chief) discussed upcoming travel to Portsmouth in mid-July (1:32:15)

Meeting Recap and Next Steps – Consensus Building Institute

- CBI reviewed and summarized the RAB requests and next steps (1:34:09)
 - Post January 2023 RAB meeting and summary
 - Update member contact list
 - RAB request for Air Force to contact residents with drinking water exceeding draft EPA MCLs
 - RAB request to borrow poster figures for presentation in Newington Town Hall
 - RAB members request meeting to discuss scoping further RI data gap investigation
 - RAB members request the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment Work Plan be shared with RAB members
 - Ideas for improved monthly newsletters
 - Air Force visit planning for mid-July 2023
- RAB members provided closing remarks (1:36:00)

Adjourn