



U.S. AIR FORCE

Pease Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Wednesday, 01 November 2023 – 4:30-8:00 p.m.

In person meeting with virtual option

Meeting Summary

Meeting in Brief

This RAB meeting focused on updates about the interim mitigation system at Site 8, and changes to Department of Defense policies. It had virtual and in-person options, with most RAB members and members of the public attending in-person. Fifteen 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://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNWsoVwtYMQvuBBvoBKWTGoTjQzF7YHVb>

Air Force Cleanup Update

In a pre-recorded presentation, Chris King (Air Force), and Haley Plante and Jack Besse (WSP), delivered presentations on recent work. Hayley Plant, WSP, gave an update on the Interim Mitigation Well installed at the Haven Well, where work is currently underway replacing a broken wall screen at one of the extraction wells. This is scheduled for completion in November 2023.

Jack Besse, WSP, gave an update on the Site 8 Interim Mitigation System. They have made good progress improving operating flow and continue to make changes to upsize and improve key process units. Site 8 waste was stored on site while seeking a new vendor for waste disposal. The waste will soon be moved to a new landfill in Michigan.

Updates from RAB Community Co-Chair

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

- *Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Update* - The Pease RAB was approved for TASC support in May. The committee held several meetings with scientists and an assessment report was submitted in September. Skeo provided questions and comments. When we receive the Draft Remedial Investigation Informal Technical Information Report (ITIR) from the Air Force, we will share it with Skeo for their review.
- *Community Letter to USAF, USEPA & NHDES* – Clean-up related technical data is not easily accessible or available to the community. The RAB submitted a community letter asking that the Air Force notify the RAB when technical documents pertaining to the RAB’s work are published.
 - Chris King said the USAF has received this letter and is preparing a response. Members requested a response before the end of the calendar year.
- *Department of Defense Policy Update* - DoD issued two new policies of interest over the summer.
 - One, *Memorandum for Taking Interim Actions to Address Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Migration from DoD Installations and National Guard Facilities*, advises undertaking implementation actions to address PFAS as quickly as possible, which may have implications for what is undertaken at Pease.
 - The second, *Managing Controlled Unclassified Information in Department of Defense Environmental Cleanup Data and Reports*, addresses the management of controlled unclassified information in DoD Environmental Clean Up Data and Reports, which may affect data sharing with the Pease community.
- *Environmental Clean Up Communication and Outreach Initiative (ECCOI) Update* - The ECCOI is a DoD initiative that enhances communication with communities around existing and former DoD installations. The Pease RAB was selected to participate in June 2023. We are awaiting outcomes and recommendations from DoD.

Open Discussion

RAB members were invited to discuss the presentations and other project-related topics. Key themes from the discussion are listed below.

Site 8

- *Site 8 Waste Disposal* – Members had questions about the mode of waste disposal, and whether alternatives like incineration are being considered. It was clarified that the vendor in Michigan operates a landfill.
 - Chris King replied that incineration can be an acceptable form of disposal if it meets total destruction requirements – these conditions are set by the state and the EPA.
 - For the time being, incineration is still on hold. Members will be informed if the mode of disposal changes.
- *Site 8 Plant Optimization Process*. Members asked questions about the optimization process at Site 8. As the plant was the first of its kind, the team is learning as they go, making updates and

changes as needed. Their goal is to reliably operate all wells at full capacity, with room to allow for seasonal changes and any necessary extra processing.

- *Unique challenges around clean-up.* Site 8 is host to many pollutants aside from PFAS. A member suggested that the committee explore conducting pilot studies to look at parallel options for clean up of other chemicals.
- *Funding* - Site 8 has adequate funding for operations.
- Given that PFAS research is rapidly evolving, the methodology in the work plan will reflect the time it was written. The most current data will be used in implementation.

DoD Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Policy

- RAB members discussed welcome changes in the PII policy.
- RAB members noted that data sharing has been a concern for the community for some time, and asked if this policy will make it easier to get the data required.
- PII is protected from public release under the Freedom of Information Act. Names and addresses of private individuals are considered PII. Latitude and longitude data is not; however, OSD policy protects from disclosure latitude and longitude data that is linked to sampling results from, privately owned residential drinking water wells.
- The DoD policy requires new or modified access agreements from privately owned residential drinking water wells; to obtain data sharing consent. The USAF is reaching out to 62 owners of privately owned residential drinking water wells. A RAB member suggested that Pease community members provide the USAF with a letter of support to aid the Air Force's conversations with well owners.

Health and Human Risk Assessment

- *Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment (BHHRA):* Amy Quintin, WSP, gave an update on the Interim Deliverable for the work plan approved in 2021. This includes updated screening levels and remedial investigation data collected to date.
- *PFAS in Chicken and Eggs:* Free range eggs typically have higher PFAS than commercial eggs. Eggs from seven properties in Newington were tested for PFAS. PFOS was detected only in the yolks.
 - The study included two properties with private wells and five with municipal water. The study also looked for PFAS in the soil, groundwater and chicken feed. Results of the study were shared with homeowners.
 - As neither the USDA nor any other federal or state agency has established screening levels pertaining to PFAS in eggs, the Air Force could not use this data to analyze potential human risks from consumption of eggs. USDA is the appropriate federal agency to establish risk screening levels for egg consumption.
 - Members expressed frustration with the lack of clarity on the potential human health risks, and asked that additional sampling have clearer selection criteria and results. They also said they would like to see the Air Force giving information to people who have chickens about PFAS levels and screening levels the Air Force is using.

Municipal Water Update

Brian Goetz, City of Portsmouth, provided an update on municipal drinking water. He gave an overview of the treatment system at the Grafton Drive Water Treatment Facility (WTF). The WTF treats water from three supply wells in Pease -- the Harrison, Haven and Smith wells. Overall, treatment is performing well. The team has been tracking PFAS in the supply wells consistently since 2020. This makes it possible for the team to anticipate with reasonable accuracy the level of treatment required through the year.

Brian shared updates on the performance of the IX Resin System and the presence of short chain PFAS. The system is impacted by differential pressure caused by the build up of manganese, creating some operational issues that the team is addressing. They are running a treatment pilot that uses different types of resins and testing how they address the issue of manganese build up. The lifespan of the single use resin is being monitored.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this meeting.

Final Thoughts

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

- Expressed thanks to Skeo for their support, and to the USAF, DES and EPA for committing to respond to the community letter.
- Voiced appreciation for Ona Ferguson, who is stepping down as facilitator.
- Requested ongoing updates about the study of PFAS in chickens and eggs.
- Requested a system for notification about data release, and training on how to access relevant data and documents on federal online portals.

Meeting Attendees

RAB Members Present: Andrea Amico (community member and co-chair), Sam Beam (community member), 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), Kim McNamara (appointed member: City of Portsmouth), Autumn Ricker (appointed member: NH Air National Guard), Paul Roy (community member), Peter Sandin (appointed member: NHDES), and Jared Sheehan (appointed member: Pease Development Authority).

Meeting Support Staff Present: Jack Besse (WSP), Ona Ferguson (Consensus Building Institute, RAB Meeting Facilitator), Abby Fullem (Consensus Building Institute Support), Brian Goetz (City of Portsmouth), Dante Gulle, (AGEISS, Public Affairs Support), Haley Plante (WSP), Amy Quintin (WSP).

Others Present: Hank Andolsek (WSP), Grant Austin (WSP), Val de la Fuente (US Air Force), Arthur Ditto, Tim Green (City of Portsmouth), Aarsal Khan (Skeo), Karmen King (Skeo), Jim Kountzman (Cherokee Nation), Elizabeth McKenna (Senator Jeanne Shaheen), Hagai Nassau (Skeo), Michael Paganelli (City of Portsmouth), Brandon Shaw (WSP), Maureen Sullivan, Lauren Tierney (WSP), Nate Vogan (WSP).

Appendix A: Meeting recording times

A – Technical Recorded Presentation

See recording of technical presentation here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/901853/pease-rab-planning-session>

In the technical presentation, Air Force and Air Force contractor (WSP) presented an update on the Site 8 Interim Mitigation System (IMS) and the Airfield Interim Mitigation System (AIMS).

B – RAB Interactive Meeting

The meeting recording is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6eefO6EHKc>

5:30 **Welcome, Introductions, RAB Business – Consensus Building Institute (CBI) – (Recording started)**

- Reviewed the RAB agenda and protocols. (0:30)
- Introduced meeting attendees. (4:05)
- Reviewed the CBI transition. (9:00)
- Approved the May RAB summary. (9:54)

5:40 **Open Discussion – RAB members**

- RAB member discussed questions related to off-site waste disposal associated with Pease including incineration, landfill, and other disposal technologies being tested. (10:40)
- Discussed decreasing trends in monitoring locations associated with the Site 8 IMS. (15:10)
- Discussed Site 8 IMS optimization strategies and changes in flow rates. (16:40)
- Discussed Site 8 monitoring network data compared to calculated screening values. (25:30)
- Andrea Amico, RAB Co-Chair provided the following updates:
 - RAB's TASC contract; (28:30)
 - RAB's letter to the Air Force, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; (33:53)
 - Recently issued DoD Policies; and (36:30)
 - Environmental Cleanup Communication and Outreach Initiative (ECCOI) Update. (38:13)
- Air Force provided an update on response to letter from RAB and updates to the ITIR. (39:23)

6:15 **Updates on the Department of Defense Policy and Human Health Risk Assessment – Air Force, WSP**

- Air Force provided update on new DoD data sharing policy (42:44)
- Community discussed policy update and data sharing request letters that will be mailed to private well owners. (51:00)
- NHDES provided an impression of how the new data sharing policy may impact transparency towards NHDES. (55:58)
- Discussed the IRA DoD policy and how it may impact Pease. (58:09)
- Discussed Site 8 iron/unique chemistry and how it may be affected by IRA policy. (59:52)
- Discussed bulk soil removal as an IRA and Site 8 budget. (1:03:42)
- WSP presented an update on the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment:
 - Reminders from May 2023 BHHRA discussion. (1:08:06)

- WSP presented poultry egg pathway and discussed results. (1:11:30)
- The following was discussed regarding poultry egg sampling:
 - RAB members asked about sample results for the property that did not allow data sharing. WSP stated there is a potential correlation between chicken feed and eggs for PFBA but no other PFAS were detected in egg or soil at this location. (1:20:17)
 - Discussed the correlation of groundwater to egg data. (1:21:07)
 - RAB members requested the TASC inform chicken owners of the calculated screening levels used to evaluate egg data. (1:24:29)
 - Discussed chicken feed sampling. (1:26:56)
 - Discussed options to provide more information to chicken owners. (1:29:36)
 - Discussed results on the property without detections in egg or soil. (1:32:00)
 - Discussed national PFAS poultry egg data that could be used as a reference. (1:32:35)
 - Cherokee Nation explained that although FDA has not established safe levels of PFAS in any agricultural commodity. (1:34:08)
 - Discussed the inclusion of egg data in the ITIR. (1:35:08)
 - RAB confirmed with Air Force that contact information for the Air Force, NHDES, and NHDHHS is included in data letters to residents. (1:36:50)
 - Discussed how the HHRA selected which properties with chickens to sample. (1:38:20)

7:13 Break (1:41:45)

7:24 Updates on Drinking Water – City of Portsmouth (1:53:02)

- Brian Goetz reviewed the Grafton Pease Treatment Facility components. (1:53:28)
- Presented a graph/histogram of pumpage at plant and system performance trend charts. (1:54:53)
- Discussed resin performance and filter fouling. (1:58:43)
- Provided an update on the resin pilot program and recent resin change-out. (2:05:01)
- Discussed 2022 Water Quality Reports and EPA’s proposed updated MCLs for PFAS. (2:06:37)
- Discussed manganese removal and potential pretreatment with an alternative method. (2:08:01)
- RAB members asked about the distribution of treated water from the Pease Treatment Facility to the Pease Tradeport and Newington Village areas. (2:10:27)
- Discussed the lifespan of the resin and frequency of filter changeout. (2:11:16)
- Discussion related to availability of carbon and resin (2:12:09)
- RAB members confirmed with City of Portsmouth that PFAS waste is transported to the same site as the waste generated from the Air Force investigation. (2:15:12)
- Discussed potential actions related to the Portsmouth and Collins wells in preparation for the finalization of EPA’s new MCL guidance for PFAS. (2:16:08)

Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

7:49 Meeting Recap and Next Steps – Consensus Building Institute

- RAB members provided closing remarks. (2:17:29)

- CBI reviewed the next steps/action items/requests from this meeting: (2:20:55)
 - Post November 2023 RAB meeting and summary;
 - RAB is interested in creating a system for the Air Force to notify the RAB when new documents are released and to provide guidance on how to access these documents;
 - RAB would like access to the ITIR when it is available;
 - Air Force is developing a response to the letter from RAB members in coordination with regulators;
 - RAB requested that screening levels being used for egg data be shared; and
 - RAB requested that any available egg data from other sites be shared.
- RAB Co-Chairs provided closing remarks. (2:23:02)

7:58 Adjourn