



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

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

Tuesday, August 6, 2024:

Doors opened for in person arrival at 4:45pm

The meeting was scheduled for 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern

Newington Town Hall Auditorium

205 Nimble Hill Road, Newington, New Hampshire 03801

Link to meeting video recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciCogDUYNq8>

Recording timestamps are listed parenthetically next to the associated topics that were discussed.

### **Summary**

#### **4:45 Arrival**

People who attend in person are welcomed to arrive early.

#### **4:50 Tech Check**

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

#### **5:07 Welcome, Introductions, RAB Business – *Consensus Building Institute***

- Reviewed technology, meeting agenda, introductions, approved previous meeting summary, moment of silence to honor the recent passing of Brig. Gen. John Pogorek. (0:00:00)

#### **5:15 Update on Air Force Treatment Plants – *Air Force and WSP***

- Air Force shared a brief update on the Site 8 Interim Mitigation System Optimization activities. (0:07:45)
- Questions:
  - Discussion on expected post-implementation extraction flow rates. (0:15:11)
  - Discussion on single pass versus regenerative resin. (0:16:00)
  - RAB member re-iterates how important the Site 8 IMS is and how important optimization is. (0:17:43)
  - Discussion on sludge disposal. (0:20:14)
  - Discussion on variability in manganese and iron concentrations during pilot test. (0:20:29)

#### **5:30 EPA updates on recent PFAS actions – *US EPA***

- EPA shared an update on PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and hazardous substance designations. (0:23:05)
  - Discussion related to DoD policy on accepting latest EPA toxicological values and MCLs. (0:26:52)
  - Discussion related to Newington private drinking water wells and City of Portsmouth municipal supply wells with respect to the MCLs. (0:28:35)
  - Discussion related to the hazardous substance designation. (0:31:25)
  - RAB member acknowledges milestone achievement of EPA MCLs. (0:34:09)
  - City of Portsmouth reviews preliminary plan for treatment of the Portsmouth and Collins wells. (0:35:15)

#### **5:43 Review of RAB/Skeo ITIR Comments and Questions – Air Force and WSP**

- The Air Force reviewed responses to questions received from the RAB about the RI Informal Technical Information Report (ITIR). (0:36:20)
  - Discussed importance of community input and understanding of the RI data collected. (0:38:40)
  - Discussed Air Force identified data gaps after the ITIR. (0:40:49)
  - Discussed opportunities for RAB involvement in the ecological risk assessment field sampling plan. (0:48:49)
  - Discussed lack of data interpretation in ITIR, all Air Force interpretation will be in RI Report. (0:54:09)
  - Discussed nature and extent evaluation and how it relates to screening levels. (0:58:25)
  - Discussed Question #3 related to interim remedial actions. (1:02:52)
  - Discussed Question #4 related to swimming and dermal exposure. (1:04:22)
  - Discussed Question #5 related to fingerprinting analysis and how it may relate to media such as striped bass and lobster. (1:05:01)
  - Discussed Question #11 and RAB concerns related to foam. (1:11:53)
  - Discussed Question #12 regarding field duplicates and quality control samples, specifically how shellfish media homogenization. (1:14:43)
  - Discussed Question #14 and Question #15, related to screening levels. (1:16:53)
  - Discussed Question #19 related to USEPA and NHDES responses to screening levels used in the ITIR. (1:17:30)
  - Discussed Question #20 related to work plan documents that have been written to address remaining data gaps and are available on the Administrative Record. (1:19:16)
  - Discussed Question #17 related to ITIR Figure 66 Fish and Shellfish Box Plots and laboratory detection limits. (1:28:17) Further follow up discussion related to federally endangered species. (1:31:39)
  - Further discussed the screening levels used in the ITIR and the difference in analytical methods used for data analysis – prior method EPA 537 by LC/MS/MS and current EPA Method 1633 with expanded PFAS compound analysis. (1:33:11)
  - Discussed ecological vs human health risk assessment criteria, specifically RAB concerns related to wild turkey consumption. (1:34:15)

#### **6:44 Break**

Attendees were encouraged to walk around the room to view maps and discuss topics with technical team.

#### **7:00 Workshop on Data Gaps – Air Force, WSP and RAB members**

The Air Force shared a set of maps from the ITIR for discussion. RAB members had an opportunity to review maps and help identify remaining data gaps.

- Reviewed conversations between RAB members and WSP resulting from Data Gap map posters. (1:54:10)
- Discussed PFAS concentration trend plots are monitoring locations near Site 8. (1:55:16)
- Discussed PFAS concentration trend plots for Portsmouth supply wells. (2:01:30)
- Discussed the ecological tissue sampling work plan and RAB member were invited to provide input or recommendations to the Air Force for consideration during drafting. The RAB is not permitted to review draft documents. (2:03:59)

#### **7:13 Brief Update on Drinking Water - City of Portsmouth**

Updates from the City of Portsmouth on plant operations. (2:06:25)

- Discussed moderate drought conditions and water demands. (2:06:47)

- Discussed most recent carbon vessel changeout at the Pease treatment plant and follow up questions on resin maintenance. (2:08:15)
- Discussed City and Air Force treatment plant operations and cooperative agreements. (2:09:54)

**7:18 Public Comments**

Members of the general public may request up to 3 minutes to speak

- No in person / online final public comments. (2:11:28)

**7:20 Meeting Recap and Next Steps – *Consensus Building Institute***

- CBI reviewed meeting action items/next steps. (2:12:19)
  - Mike Daly to send link with the EPA/Army update on MCLs.
  - Suggestion that EPA and DES would try to give intentions to RAB in advance of the ERA Work Plan.
  - Mark Matteson to proactively provide Air Force with a write up of some thoughts on sampling and local knowledge for the ecological tissue sampling plan.
  - The RAB will have an opportunity after this meeting to provide additional data gap questions to the Air Force by 20 August 2024.
- RAB member reviews Air Force testing in northwestern Newington as a result of RAB feedback during previous meetings. (2:14:05)
- RAB member asked about the cooperative agreement between The Air Force and City of Portsmouth as it pertains to Pease Treatment Plant. (2:15:28)
- RAB member informed the group that state toxicologist has left NHDES and point of contact for RAB members with NHDES should now be the NH Department of Human Health Services for health-related questions, or Peter Sandin for questions pertaining to the investigation. (2:16:50)

**7:25 Adjourn (2:18:40)**