

Air Force Civil Engineer Center



Former Pease Air Force Base

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

April 19, 2016

Battle Ready...Built Right!



Pease Restoration Advisory Board

Welcome and Introductions

The RAB's objective is to create a forum for discussion that facilitates completing environmental restoration activities at an installation in an open and cooperative environment.



Agenda

- **Meeting Ground Rules**
- **Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) History and Objectives**
- **RAB Administrative Items**
- **Pease Environmental Restoration Summary**
- **Perflourinated Compounds (PFCs) at Pease**
- **Public Comment Period**
- **RAB Member Around the Table**
- **Meeting Adjournment**



RAB Historical Overview and Objectives

- **RABs established by DoD (IAW 32 CFR 202) to inform and involve communities**
 - May 2006 RAB Rule (March 2007 RAB Rule Handbook) provides legal guidelines
- **Pease Technical Review Committee (TRC) played a key role during height of cleanup activities 1990-2000**
- **RAB stopped meeting after the major Records of Decision were finalized and Pease property was transferred**
 - Majority of restoration decisions (known as Records of Decision) were finalized by 2000
 - Whole Base Transfer Date: 2005



RAB Historical Overview and Objectives

- **Air Force reestablished the RAB**
 - To promote awareness about ongoing cleanup activities
 - To address restoration work associated with Perflourinated Compounds (PFCs)
 - To answer questions about entire restoration program
- **RAB members are comprised of:**
 - Government representatives
 - Community representatives
- **Role of RAB members**
 - Review progress and serve as conduit to greater community
 - Provide comments and advice

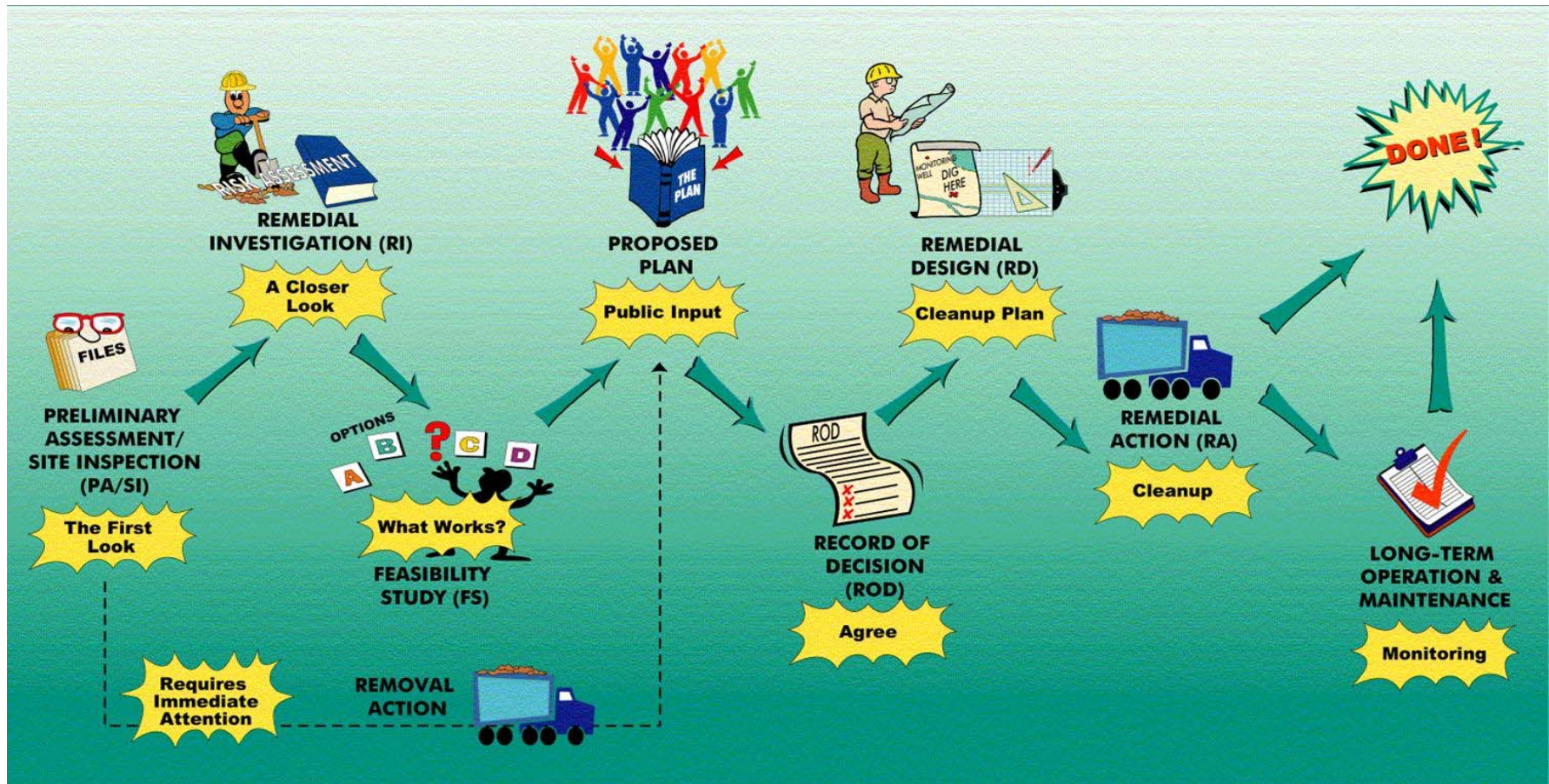


RAB Administrative Items

- **Purpose of the RAB**
 - Provide opportunity for stakeholder involvement
 - Provide a forum for early discussion and information exchange
- **Operating Procedures**
 - A draft version is in the works
 - All members will receive a draft copy for review and input
- **Meeting Minutes**
 - Summary notes to be provided by Air Force for RAB review and comment within 3 weeks of meeting
 - Approval at following meeting
- **Comment Cards for Public**
 - Available for those wishing to make public comments
 - Questions will be answered in writing in Meeting Minutes and individually, if you leave email contact information



Environmental Restoration Key Regulations



- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- NH Code of Admin Rules Env-Or 600, Contaminated Site Management



Environmental Restoration Summary

- **Pease Air Force Base Opened in 1954**
- **Base Closure process started in 1988**
- **Pease AFB added to National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990**
- **Technical approach to cleanup is site specific**
 - **Records of Decision (ROD) govern how sites are addressed**
 - **Each ROD requires regulatory approval and a 30-day public comment period**
 - **Pease has 11 Records of Decision in place for soil and groundwater areas**



Environmental Restoration Summary – 83 Sites

- **Air Force has closed 51 restoration sites meaning restoration is done and the site is suitable for unrestricted use**
- **Of the remaining 32 sites**
 - **11 have clean up activities complete (monitoring continues)**
 - **21 have active clean up ongoing**
 - **Air Sparging/Soil Vapor Extraction**
 - **Permeable Reactive Barrier**
 - **Monitored Natural Attenuation**
 - **Long-term Monitoring**



Environmental Restoration Summary

- **Records Of Decision and Remedial Action Plans**
- **are in place to address environmental issues at Pease**
- **Since the mid-1990s, all 83 sites have been addressed in decision documents (RODs or RAPs) that have been fully coordinated with USEPA and NHDES**



Environmental Restoration Summary

- **Activities planned at all 21 sites this year**
 - **Sampling**
 - **Operation of existing treatment systems**
 - **Acceleration of treatment**



PFCs at Pease

- **Perflourinated compounds (PFCs)**
 - “Emerging contaminant”
 - In 1970, the Air Force began using Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), a firefighting agent that contains PFCs, to extinguish petroleum fires
 - AFFF was also used in fire training activities and in hangar fire suppression systems
 - In 2009, EPA developed Provisional Health Advisory (PHA) for two PFCs in drinking water
 - Perflouroctanoic acid (PFOA) - concentrations > 0.4 parts per billion (ppb)
 - Perflouroctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) – concentrations > 0.2 ppb



PFCs at Pease

- **In 2012, the Air Force established guidance for responding to possible releases of PFCs**
- **This led to a nationwide comprehensive assessment process in 2014**
- **At Pease, PFCs were discovered at levels above EPA's Provisional Health Advisory at the Haven Well**
 - **City of Portsmouth took Haven Well off-line immediately (May 2014)**
 - **In coordination with the USEPA and NHDES, the Air Force initiated an investigative program to better understand the location and extent of the problem at Pease.**

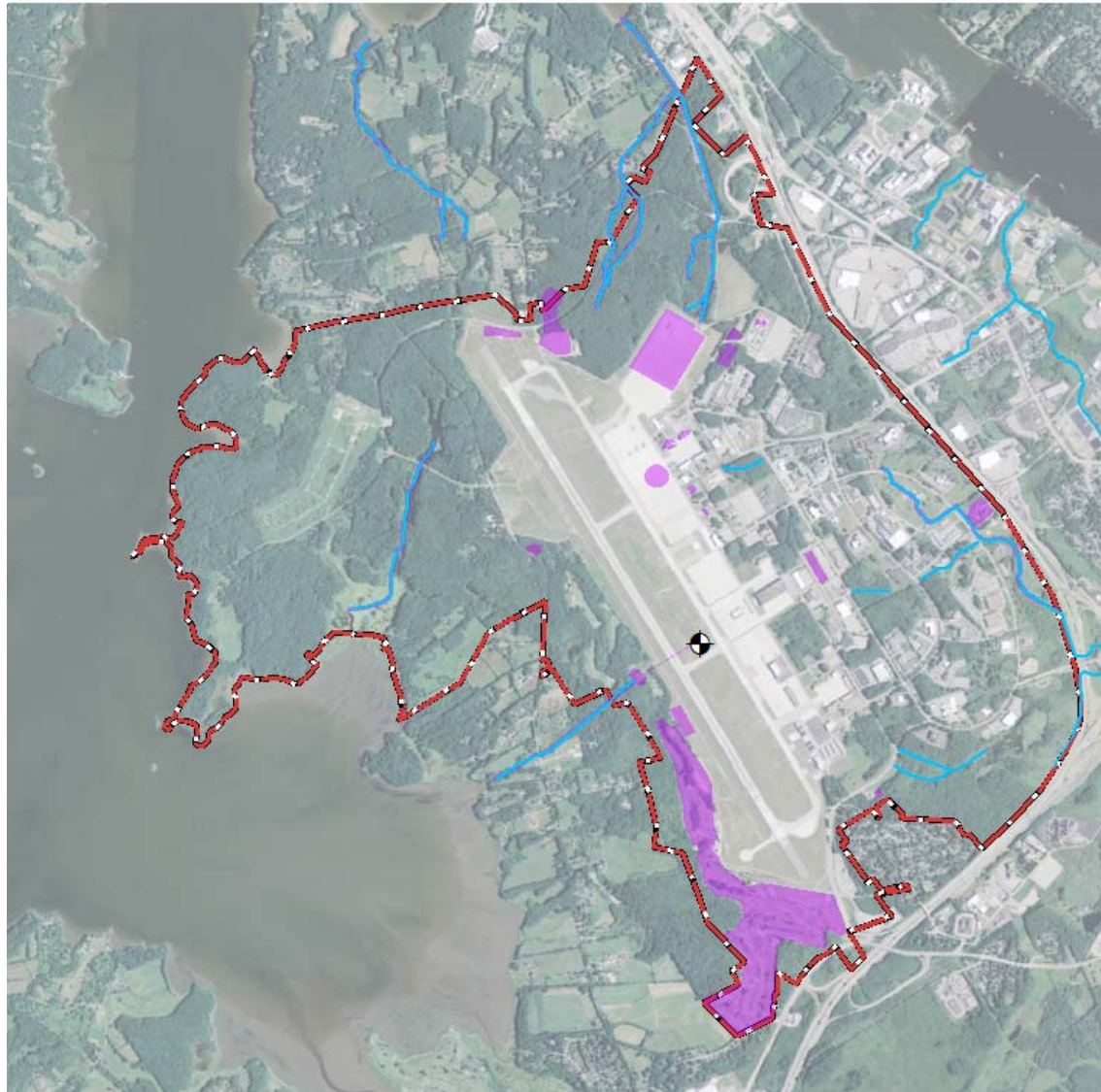


Protecting Drinking Water

- **PFCs were detected in the Harrison, Smith, Collins, and Portsmouth #1 wells at concentrations that were never more than 20% of the PHA for PFOS, and never more than 5% of the PHA for PFOA**
 - **Air Force has monitored public water supply wells *weekly* for the past 90 weeks and concentrations have not changed**
 - **Air Force continues to monitor public drinking water wells in accordance with the Sentry Well Monitoring Plan**
- **Sampled all private drinking water wells within an approximately one-mile radius of Pease where access was granted.**
 - **One private drinking water well had PFCs above PHA**
 - **Air Force immediately provided water to the homeowner and installed an in-home treatment system**
 - **Air Force continues to monitor private drinking water wells in accordance with the Long Term Residential Well Monitoring Plan**



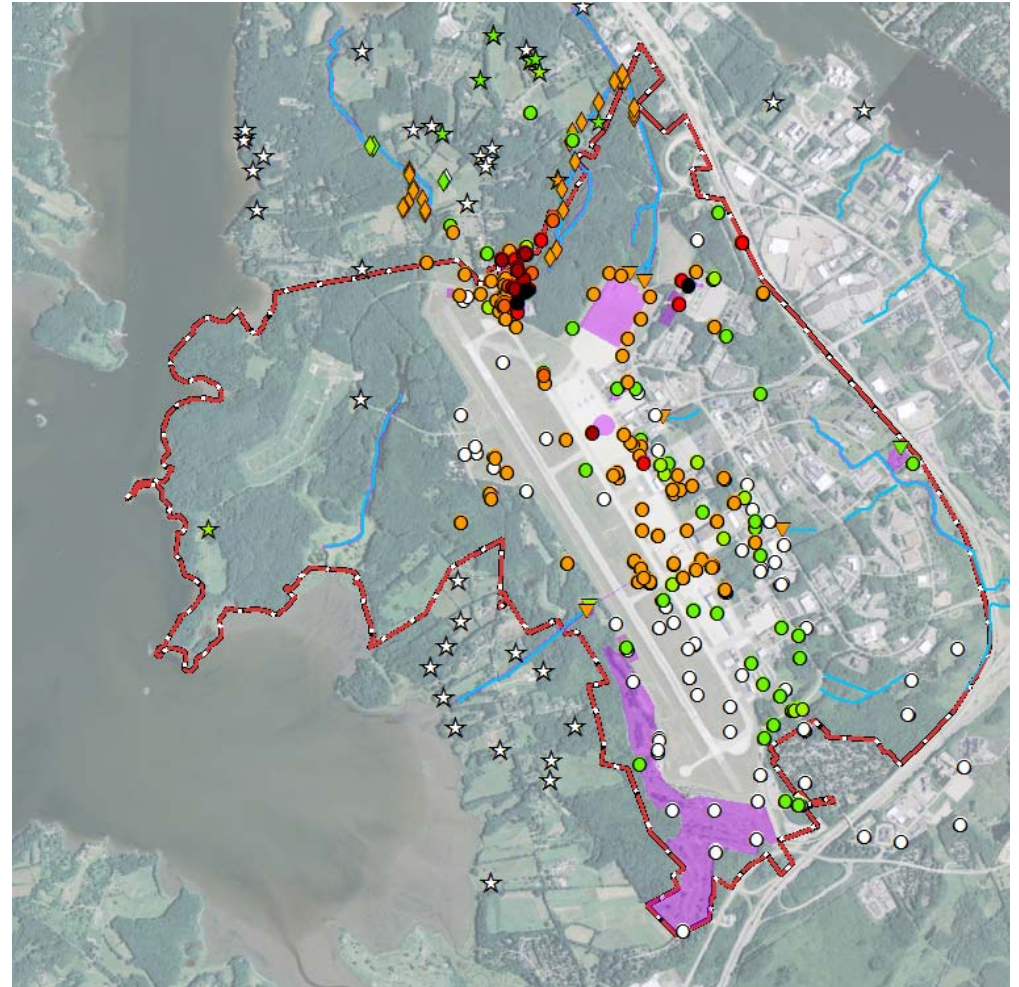
PFCs at Pease





PFCs at Pease

- Each of the 21 potential PFC sites identified at Pease have been investigated.
- PFC sampling and groundwater flow patterns have identified four areas that are likely the primary contributors to the PFCs in the Haven Well
- PFC concentrations in monitoring wells are not changing – PFCs moving slowly





PFCs Next Steps

- **Working with USEPA and NHDES to comply with the Administrative Order**
- **Existing groundwater treatment system at the Pease Fire Training Area (FTA) was modified and re-activated in Fall 2015 to control migration of PFC-impacted groundwater from the FTA toward Newington.**
- **The City of Portsmouth is to construct a drinking water treatment system, with AF funding, to remove PFCs from the Haven, Smith and Harrison wells**
 - **Anticipate the demonstration treatment system to be active in Fall 2016**
 - **Construction of final treatment system due in Fall 2017**
- **Initiate construction of new interceptor treatment system at Fire Training Area in Fall 2016**
- **Initiate construction of new interceptor treatment system north of Haven Well in Fall 2016**



PFCs at Pease Summary

- **The Air Force is committed to the protection of public and private drinking water supplies.**
- **The Air Force, USEPA, NHDES, and City of Portsmouth are working together to address the presence of PFCs at Pease both short and long term.**
- **Restoration Advisory Board is a key forum for continued communication on progress of PFC work.**



RAB Discussion

Questions?



Public Comment

Goal: Provide opportunity for members of the public to comment.

Process: Public members fill out a comment card indicating they wish to speak. Statements are timed and are limited to 3 minutes for each speaker. The timer will notify the speaker when they have 30 seconds remaining and when they have reached 3 minutes.

Outcome: Questions will be answered in writing in Meeting Minutes and individually, if you leave us an email address



RAB Around the Table

Goal: Solicit advice from each RAB member for upcoming agendas, and provide an opportunity for RAB members to express brief comments or make announcements.

