



FORT WAINWRIGHT

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION NEWS

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Restoration Advisory Board Update



Birch Hill Tank Farm area.

The Fort Wainwright Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met during the evening of July 16, 2002, at the Noel Wien Library. Three RAB members and the Community Co-Chair attended the meeting along with the Army Co-Chair, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

RAB member, several U.S. Army representatives, some contractor support personnel, and a member of the public.

The meeting lasted about 1 hour and covered Operable Unit

updates, the status of the Two-Party Agreement sites, and the status of the Birch Hill Tank Farm Aquifer Pump Test.

ACRONYMS

RAB
Restoration
Advisory Board

Future of the Fort Wainwright RAB

The meeting concluded with some discussion about the future of the Fort Wainwright RAB. It was decided that the Army would host one more official RAB meeting during the summer of 2003 and then disband the RAB if no additional interest is shown at that time. This schedule is subject to change if the Army receives requests for public meetings in the future or if the need to resume the RAB becomes necessary to make environmental restoration decisions with public input.

Newsletters

Several RAB members expressed their interest in continuing to receive quarterly newsletters, which update the public on the status of the environmental restoration program at Fort Wainwright. Newsletters, such as this one, will continue to be published and distributed quarterly.

Meeting Minutes

If you would like to receive a copy of the Fort Wainwright RAB meeting minutes, please contact Therese Deardorff, the RAB

Army Co-Chair, at 384-2716 or therese.deardorff@richardson.army.mil.

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Operable Unit Updates

Operable Unit 1



Information sign along the bike path for the 801 Drum Burial Site.

The work plan for the removal of the phytoremediation soils is being reviewed by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). The Army plans, pending approval by the ADEC, to move the soils generated during the phytoremediation project to a cell at the Fort Wainwright landfill. The hope is that the removal will take place this summer, or at least before the end of the government's fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2002. If it cannot occur by then, the removal will take place during fiscal year 2003.

Samples collected from the 801 Drum Burial Site in April indicated that contaminant concentrations remain consistent. However, the next round of sampling, per the long-term monitoring plan at the site, will include sampling the full suite of wells at the site. The full suite of wells consists of 14 groundwater-monitoring wells located on the site and downgradient of the site toward the Chena River. The full suite of wells is scheduled to be sampled every third year, with limited wells sampled annually, until the Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) negotiate other terms.

The Army and one of its contractors have developed the Cleanup Operation Systems Site Exit Strategy (CLOSES) program. This program involves calculations and flowcharts to support the permanent closure of a site or to move sites from operations to monitoring or remediation stages and eventually to closure. This calculation will also help identify the data gaps and could reduce monitoring requirements. The CLOSES program will be conducted for the 801 Drum Burial Site to determine whether monitoring is needed every third year and for what duration.

Results of the full suite of wells will be reported in this quarterly newsletter following the sampling event in the spring of 2003.

Operable Unit 2



The Defense Reutilization Marketing Office Yard.

The Army is reviewing plans to expand two of the treatment systems currently operating at the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office (DRMO) Yard in Operable Unit (OU) 2. Analytical results have indicated that the treatments systems currently in place have not been adequately addressing the diesel range organic contamination. The systems appear to be too small. This expansion

is expected to double the treatment area. In conjunction with the expansion of the treatment systems, the Army will collect soil samples and may address any contaminated soil by removing it to the already existing on-site lined storage cell.

In addition, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is building a radar tower behind the DRMO yard. The Army has been working with the FAA to ensure that if any contamination is discovered during the construction of the tower, it will be handled properly. At the time of the publication of this newsletter, no contamination has been discovered

during the tower's construction.

ACRONYMS
ADEC Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
CLOSES Cleanup Operation Systems Site Exit Strategy
MP Milepost
OU Operable Unit
ROLF Railcar Off-Loading Facility
RPM Remedial Project Managers

The Army is continuing to conduct long-term groundwater monitoring at Building 1168, the second source area within OU2. The treatment system at Building 1168 was closed approximately 2 years ago. The Army is monitoring to determine whether a rebound in contaminants

occurs and to analyze the continued reduction of contamination through natural attenuation.

Operable Unit 3



Information sign along the bike path for the Railcar Offloading Facility.

Operable Unit 3 (OU3) consists of three sites: mileposts (MP) 2.75 and 3.0, the railcar off-loading facility (ROLF), and the Birch Hill Tank Farm. MPs 2.75 and 3.0 were part of the Fairbanks-Eielson Pipeline. Soils were excavated and removed from MPs 2.75 and 3.0 and placed in an operating cell at the Birch Hill Tank Farm. The concentration of contaminants in the cell is low enough now that the decision to dismantle the cells could be made soon. Benzene concentrations at the MP 2.75 and MP 3.0 source areas remain high, and groundwater monitoring is continuing at these source areas. Further delineation will occur with the installation of new wells along the downgradient edge of the groundwater plume. Additionally, damaged wells will be decommissioned and replaced.

A hydroshock tool was tested on a few of the ROLF monitoring wells in early July. The objective of the hydroshock technology was to remove silt that had clogged the wells. The hydroshock technology operates by using explosives to send a shock down the well to clear out the silt. At this time, the hydroshock technology appears to have been successful, and several more wells along

Gaffney Road are scheduled for hydroshock treatment.

Monitoring at the Birch Hill Tank Farm indicates that contaminant concentrations are decreasing downgradient of Birch Hill. Additionally, there are no contaminants exceeding action levels in groundwater off post. The decrease in concentrations is likely the result of the product-recovery-system operation in conjunction with the air-sparge curtain operation. The product recovery system is extracting an average of 10 gallons of fuel per day.

The Army has been writing an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) associated with the Birch Hill Tank Farm. The ESD describes off-gasses from the treatment systems and oxidizers, as well as the increased cost from other treatment system unknowns. The ESD is anticipated to be signed by September 30, 2002. It is also anticipated that by September 30, 2002, Ft. Wainwright will have achieved the construction complete milestone.

Operable Unit 4



Information sign along the bike path for the former Post landfill.

Operable Unit 4 (OU4) includes the coal storage yard located behind the power plant. In the past, coal was

sprayed with used oil to make the coal burn better. This practice was discontinued many years ago. A treatment system is in place for trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination. Because TCE concentrations have decreased to below action levels, the treatment system has been shut down for the past two summers. Monitoring is continuing because a supply well is located downgradient of the coal storage yard. The Army will be conducting a CLOSES evaluation for the coal storage yard to determine whether any data gaps exist or if additional monitoring wells are needed. The CLOSES evaluation will also provide the Army with recommendations about whether groundwater-monitoring frequency can be decreased at the site.

OU4 also includes the former Post landfill. The Army conducts monitoring at the former Post landfill two times per year in conjunction with the Post's active landfill permit. The Army currently is performing slope stabilization on a portion of the active landfill as part of a compliance-funded project. Once capped, this portion of the landfill will be combined with the existing 14 acres that are currently inactive and will be enclosed within the inactive fenced boundary. Continued groundwater monitoring indicates that some contaminant concentrations increase and decrease as the groundwater levels fluctuate across the site.

ACRONYMS

CLOSES
Cleanup Operation
Systems Site Exit
Strategy

ESD
Explanation of
Significant
Differences

OU
Operable Unit

TCE
Trichloroethylene

Operable Unit 5



Air-sparge curtain at West Quartermaster's Fueling System site.

Operable Unit 5 (OU5) consists of two sites: (1) the Birch Hill Tank Farm site, and (2) the Former East and West Quartermaster's Fueling System site.

Institutional controls remain the remedy for lead-contaminated soils around the tanks at Birch Hill Tank Farm. The lead-contaminated soil will remain in place when or if the tanks are ever removed.



Boom to contain oil seepage to Chena River.

The second OU5 site is the Former East and West Quartermaster's Fueling System. On the west side, three active treatment systems are in place that were expanded last year to cover a larger area. Contaminant concentrations are decreasing. The air-sparge curtain is capturing any contaminants moving toward the Chena River in conjunction with the sorbent boom.



Former West Quartermaster's Fueling System site treatment system.

This summer, the Army is continuing the Chena River Aquatic Assessment Program to determine whether any detrimental effects from contamination have occurred to the river from contamination that has migrated off post. Sediment and water sampling were conducted in late July in the area of the air-sparge curtain. The Army believes that there may have been some effects on the macroinvertebrates from off-site contaminant migration, but because there are so many contaminant contributors to the river, it is difficult to determine how much of the effects are from the contamination associated with the Quartermaster's Fueling System.

The Army's goal is to show that the integrity of the river in the OU5 area is improving due to the presence of the remediation systems.

Two-Party Agreement Sites Update

There are 14 Two-Party Agreement sites. Three of these sites have active treatment systems in place: Building 2250 (located at the golf course), Buildings 2111 and 2112 (located on the runway), and Building 2077. At Buildings 2111 and 2112, no decreases in contaminant concentrations are occurring. The Army has awarded a new contract to a contractor to operate, to evaluate, and to look for ways to improve the performance of the system. The contract should be in place by the end of August 2002. At Building 2007, no decreases in petroleum contamination have been observed. The Army is planning to remove source area soils and is continuing to operate the treatment system at this site. Monitoring will also continue.

Most other systems are shut off because contaminant concentrations have reached action levels or it was not cost effective to operate them, but contaminant concentrations continued to decrease. Monitoring will continue until the Army negotiates monitoring frequency with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Superfund Process

The Superfund process timetable shown below reflects the advancement of the different Operable Units through the Comprehensive Environmental Restoration, Comprehension, and Liability Act (CERCLA) activities within the Fort Wainwright Environmental Restoration Program. Activities leading up to the Record of Decision (ROD) activities for each Operable Unit have been completed and have moved beyond the ROD milestone within the Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA) phases, with the exception of Operable Unit 3, which was amended after the ROD was signed. Therefore, the compressed, shaded milestones indicate the pre-ROD activities and the RD/RA phases of the process are expanded.

OU	NPL	RI	FS	PP	Public Comment	ROD	RD Detailed applications will be developed for the selected remedy.	RA A qualified contractor will be selected to begin the cleanup according to applications.	RA – Construction The final remedy is being put in place, and construction and testing are complete.	RA – Operations The remedy is in place and operating to achieve cleanup objectives identified in the ROD.	RC The remedy is in place and RA – Operations are completed.
1	[Shaded bar]										
2	[Shaded bar]										
3	[Shaded bar]										
4	[Shaded bar]										
5	[Shaded bar]										
Notes:											
Community relations activities take place throughout the CERCLA process, and cleanup actions take place when necessary.											
[Shaded bar] Indicates status of OU within the Superfund or CERCLA process.											
Key:											
FS = Feasibility Study						NPL = National Priority List					
OU = Operable Unit						PP = Proposed Plan					
RA = Remedial Action						RC = Response Complete					
RD = Remedial Design						RI = Remedial Investigation					
ROD = Record of Decision											

What We Do Between RAB Meetings

It seems as if we just finished updating our Installation Action Plans and Defense Sites Environmental Restoration Tracking System (DSERTS) and in comes another requirement! We recently finished our "first round" of estimating Restoration Costs to Completes. The first round included our inputting what we estimate now for all funds required to clean up and close each restoration site. This is our chance to review previous requests and modify them as needed. Modifications can be based on real-life examples (for example, installation of new wells on a recurring basis due to permafrost jacking) or estimates based on current contracts in place (for example, operations, maintenance, and monitoring of systems and sites). Other costs that may be included consist of contract administrative costs (funding the Corps of Engineers to work on our projects), any in-house requirements (such as snow plowing), and keeping our Institutional Controls maps and Administrative Record up to date. We will have another chance to review costs when the fall DSERTS are submitted.

We are also in the process of updating the Fort Wainwright Community Involvement Plan. This should be available in the information repositories by the end of September. Copies will also be available to those interested. In addition, the informational signs along the bicycle path at Operable Units 3 and 5 will be updated in the near future to reflect current remedial actions in place.

We are now trying to finalize work awards for the government's fiscal year, which ends on September 30, 2002. We have to ensure that operations and maintenance activities continue without interruption at all sites. We are also reviewing scopes of work for new contracts and continue meeting regularly with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to keep moving forward on projects with an eye toward reducing operation and monitoring requirements while maintaining adequate protection of human health and environment.

Enjoy the rest of summer. You'll be hearing from us again this fall.



Therese Deardorff

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Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99603-6506
Attn: Therese Deardorff

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Copies of site documents, fact sheets, and other supporting reports are available for public review at the following locations:

Noel Wien Library
1215 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 459-1020

Fort Wainwright Post Library
Building 3700
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703
(907) 353-2642

Directorate of Public Works
Building 3023
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703
(907) 353-9686