

Operable Unit Updates (Continued from Page 2)

Operable Unit 5

In conjunction with the work being conducted at the West Quartermasters' Fueling System (WQFS), the adsorbent boom that usually exists in the Chena River has been removed for the winter months. It will be replaced in the Spring.

The treatment systems at both the WQFS and East Quartermasters' Fueling System (EQFS) have been monitored monthly to ensure proper operation. In addition, the groundwater in these areas is sampled quarterly. The last round of samples was collected in November 2001. When results from these events are received, they will be published in the newsletter.

The draft work plan for the Chena River Aquatic Assessment program is being reviewed by the RPMs. The RPMs are scheduled to meet in late January to discuss the plan so work can begin in Spring when water levels in the Chena River are most appropriate for sampling.

Acronyms

WQFS
West Quartermaster's Fueling System

EQFS
East Quartermaster's Fueling System



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RAB Update

The Fort Wainwright Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting is scheduled from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 in the auditorium at the Noel Wien Library. The public is invited to attend. Topics scheduled to be discussed include Operable Unit updates, the Five-Year Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Review and the Department of Defense Relative Risk Model for setting funding priorities. In addition, the Army will be evaluating RAB members' interest in continuing to meet quarterly.

Alaska Forum on the Environment

The Annual Alaska Forum on the Environment will be held from February 4 through 8, 2002, in Anchorage. This is the annual conference which includes the Statewide RAB meeting, which will be held on February 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All Community Co-Chairs will be invited to participate. In addition, Ann Farris, the Fort Wainwright regulator with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), will be making a presentation on February 5, titled "Remediation Progress and Techniques on Fort Wainwright." Therese Deardorff, the Fort Wainwright RAB Army Co-Chair, and Diane Soderlund, the Fort Wainwright Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representative, will participate in the presentation as panel members.

Five-Year Review

The Fort Wainwright Five-Year Review, a report on the current status of the installation's cleanup program, was completed and signed in September 2001. The final version of this document is scheduled to be available at the Administrative Record locations the week of the RAB meeting (fourth week of January 2002). The Administrative Record is located off post at the Noel Wien Library (1215 Cowles Street) or on post at the Environmental Office (Building 3023). If you have any questions about the Five-Year Review or would like a copy, please call Therese Deardorff at (907) 384-2716.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the environmental program at Fort Wainwright or would like to become a member of the Restoration Advisory Board, please contact:

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Acronyms

RAB
Restoration Advisory Board

CERCLA
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

ADEC
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

EPA
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Operable Unit Updates

Operable Unit 1

The Army continues to investigate several options for disposal of the phytoremediation soils, which are currently located across the street from the Fort Wainwright landfill. The Army is still planning to move the soils during the upcoming field season. The Army is negotiating with ADEC to approve disposal of the soil in a specially designed cell at the Fort Wainwright landfill.

The outdoor sign has been installed at the 801 Drum Burial site. You should be able to see it when you pass the site along River Road, across from the 801 Housing Area.

Operable Unit 2

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) Yard was the focus of an early December meeting by the remedial project managers (RPMs). The RPMs reviewed the work plan and discussed modifications to treatment system operations. In late December contractors attempted to sample two of the wells at DRMO; however, only one well could be sampled due to recharge problems in the second well. Sample results from the well that was sampled will be available in later January. A new well is scheduled to be installed at DRMO this Spring.

The Army prepared a scope of work to sample the water supply well located at DRMO. The sampling procedures will include collecting samples before and after the filter and submitting them for laboratory analysis for volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The soil vapor extraction (SVE) and air sparge (AS) system installed at the DRMO Yard is operating in the AS mode only during the winter months. The SVE system is not operating during the winter due to concerns about the system freezing.

Operable Unit 3

Although expected to operate during the winter, the operation of the SVE systems at the following facilities have been suspended this winter due to operational concerns: the Birch Hill Tank Farm former Building 1173, Truck Fill Stand; and the Railcar Offloading Facility Valve Pits, A, B, and C. The Army expects to begin operating these systems in the Spring. In addition, the systems treating contaminated soils from Milepost 2.7 and 3.0 have not been operating this winter.

The treatment systems at the Thaw Channel Sparge Curtain, Central Header, Eight-Car Header, and former Building 1144 have been operating this winter.

The Birch Hill product recovery system is operating with system adjustments, which enhanced the system's operation. In addition, two injection wells were installed at the base of Birch Hill and are currently being used in conjunction with the product recovery system.

Operable Unit 4

The Army has continued collecting soil and groundwater samples at the Coal Storage Yard. The Army was able to collect additional soil samples in areas previously covered with coal. The treatment system at the Coal Storage Yard is not operating, per an agreement between the Army, EPA, and ADEC to see if contaminant levels will rebound without the system operating. Based on the results collected in Fall 2001 and Spring 2002, a decision will be made whether the system will need to begin operating again in Spring 2002. Whether the treatment system operates or not, the Army will continue to monitor the groundwater at the site.

The Fort Wainwright Landfill wells, including new replacement wells, were sampled in early October. Initial review of the results indicates no significant changes have occurred.

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Acronyms

DRMO
Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office

RPM
Regional Project Manager

VOC
Volatile organic compound

SVE
Soil vapor extraction

AS
Air sparge

WHAT WE DO BETWEEN RAB MEETINGS

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is in good health and enjoying our unusual winter! Above twenty degrees in January!? We know it won't last. . .

Prior to the holidays, we spent a good deal of time still working our financial and contractual requirements. Since the official Defense Authorization Bill hadn't been signed at the beginning of our fiscal year (October 1, 2001), we only received a percentage of last year's budget to work with until the Bill is signed. Therefore, we are constantly reviewing current needs and moving priorities around as emergencies arise. By the time this Newsletter goes to print, the Bill should be signed and things will be back to "normal."

I was able to "sneak in" a class on Contract Administration, as part of an on-going employee career development program for all Federal employees. Since I do oversee our General Services Administration contracts, this class helped me to better understand the Government's responsibilities versus Contractor requirements. The course was held in Anchorage at the Joint Regional Environmental Training Center.

We have also begun receiving and reviewing reports from this past summer's field season. Along with that, we identify additional requirements and begin the tedious process of contracting supplemental and/or new work to meet objectives.

Cristal Fosbrook attended the Defense Environmental Restoration Program Review meetings in November. These reviews are held semi-annually to give Army personnel a chance to meet with individuals from the Pentagon and Army Environmental Center, and to hear about any upcoming changes to Army environmental reporting requirements or regulatory changes. We also have a chance to present highlights of our program and discuss lessons learned with other Army installations.

We seem to be entering a "planning" phase since the first of the year-planning for the Federal Facility Agreement meetings to be held in conjunction with the RAB, planning for the Statewide Restoration Advisory Board Workshop (see related article), and planning to update our Installation Action Plans, Defense Sites Environmental Restoration Tracking System, and Costs to Complete. These update activities typically begin in February and run through almost May—just in time for the next Defense Environmental Restoration Program Review meeting!

I do want to take this chance to welcome a new member to the Fort Wainwright Environmental Restoration Team for the Army. Ms. Karen Dearborn joined us in mid-September and will be project manager for some of the sites on Fort Wainwright. Cristal and I certainly welcome the addition of a new team member!

We hope to see everyone at the next RAB—and please remember, everyone is invited, so bring a friend, neighbor, co-worker!

