



FORT WAINWRIGHT

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION NEWS

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Restoration Advisory Board Update

Due to decreasing public interest, it was decided at the July 2002 Fort Wainwright Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting that the Army would host one more official RAB meeting during the summer of 2003. The RAB would then be disbanded if no additional interest were shown by 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. The date of the next RAB meeting has not been set.

Two-Party Agreement Sites Update

There are 14 Two-Party Agreement sites on Fort Wainwright. These sites are being addressed through a separate State of Alaska "Two Party Agreement" because the only contaminant of concern at these sites is petroleum, which is not monitored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Army has worked closely with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to develop a plan to address these sites.

Three of the two-party sites have active treatment systems in place: Building 2250 (at the golf course), Buildings 2111 and 2112 (located on the runway), and Building 2077.

The Building 2077 and Building 2250 treatment systems continue to operate without incident.

Work has begun to evaluate the treatment system at Buildings 2111/2112 to identify ways to improve its performance. The system was operated for brief periods to perform the evaluation.

Postwide Issues

Federal Facilities Agreement meetings were held in Fairbanks on October 23 and 24 to cover issues associated with Operable Units (OUs) 1, 2, 4, and 5. A meeting to cover issues associated with Operable Unit 3 was held in Seattle from November 18 to 21. The status of the Two-Party Agreement sites will be discussed at a later date.

ACRONYMS

- ADEC**
Alaska
Department of
Environmental
Conservation
- EPA**
U.S.
Environmental
Protection
Agency
- OU**
Operable Unit
- RAB**
Restoration
Advisory Board

IN THIS ISSUE

- Restoration Advisory Board Update..... 1**
- Postwide Issues ... 1**
- Two-Party Agreement Sites Update 1**
- Operable Unit Updates 2**
- The Superfund Process 6**
- Information Repositories Locations 6**
- What We Do Between RAB Meetings..... 7**
- Mailing List Coupon..... 8**

The evaluation report with recommended system changes is currently being reviewed by the Army.

Fall groundwater monitoring activities have been completed. New monitoring wells have been installed at Buildings 2062, 2063, and 1022. Additionally, all of the wells at each site were land surveyed and inspected. Soil borings were drilled and sampled at Building

2077 in order to determine the extent of the hot spot. Review of the analytical results from the Building 2077 investigation may prompt a modification to the site treatment strategy. Action may be directed toward soil removal.

Operable Unit Updates

Construction Complete Status

Fort Wainwright has achieved the construction complete milestone for all OUs. This means that all remedial actions for the entire post are constructed, operational, and functional. (Remediation at Fort Wainwright is in the form of treatment systems, natural attenuation, or operational controls.)

“Actions at this site [Fort Wainwright] can truly be considered a national success story.”

— L. John Iani, EPA

In an October 2, 2002, letter, the EPA congratulated Fort Wainwright staff for “accomplishing a very significant milestone in the ongoing cleanup efforts....”

L. John Iani, Regional Administrator for EPA, Region 10, wrote, “EPA staff and management want to express our appreciation ... for your conscientious, diligent, and cooperative management of this site.”

Operable Unit 1



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

Operable Unit 1 (OU1) includes the phytoremediation soil that is being stored across the street from the Fort Wainwright landfill and the 801 Drum Burial Site.

The work plan is being drafted and will be submitted to the ADEC for review. The Army plans to move the soils generated during the phytoremediation project to a cell at the Fort Wainwright landfill. The Army is currently negotiating with ADEC on a permit modification to allow disposal of polluted soils at the landfill. The final work plan will be completed once ADEC approves the modified lined-cell design. The removal is planned for summer 2003.

Groundwater sampling at the 801 Drum Burial site is planned for March 2003. This 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, 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 negotiate other terms.

Operable Unit 2



The Defense Reutilization Marketing Office Yard.

Operable Unit 2 (OU2) includes groundwater beneath the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office (DRMO) Yard.

The Army is evaluating whether the expansion of two of the on-site treatment systems at the DRMO Yard, the DRMO-1 and DRMO-5 treatment systems, is necessary. Analytical results indicated that the treatment systems currently in place have not been adequately addressing the diesel range organic contamination. The systems appear to be too small. If the expansion occurs, the treatment area would double in size.

All of the treatment systems were operating during the summer of 2002.

During the past quarter, additional soil borings were drilled and sampled near DRMO-4 and near the suspected truck fuel stand southwest of Channel B. The fall soil, groundwater, and vapor samples were collected. The results, as well as a comprehensive report of

fiscal year 2002 sampling activities, are expected next quarter. This information will be shared in future newsletters.

ACRONYMS

ADEC

Alaska
Department of
Environmental
Conservation

DRMO

Defense
Reutilization
Marketing Office

EPA

U.S.
Environmental
Protection
Agency

OU

Operable Unit

ROLF

Railcar off-
loading facility

Future work at OU2 includes the semiannual sampling activities in the spring and fall, as well as routine system maintenance operations.

Operable Unit 3



Public information signs along the bike path in front of the ROLF.

Operable Unit 3 (OU3) consists of three sites – (1) mileposts (MP) 2.75 and 3.0, (2) the railcar off-loading facility (ROLF), and (3) the Birch Hill Tank Farm – which currently have a total of five treatment systems.

Fall groundwater samples were collected across the site. Soil samples were collected at the demolished ROLF buildings. The results of these sampling efforts will be shared in an upcoming newsletter, after the analytical results become available.

A technical memorandum was prepared to summarize the July 2002 pilot study of air sparge probes rehabilitation in which a hydroshock tool was used to remove iron precipitation and silt encrustation that were clogging monitoring wells. The study shows that shock treatment had the following successes:

- Restoring air flow in almost 90 percent of the probes where shock treatment was applied;
- Increasing dissolved oxygen concentrations in groundwater at seven of the eight treatment systems

where shock treatment was applied; and

- Increasing volatile organic compound concentration in soil vapor extraction probes located in the vicinity of the shocked sparge probes.

The report includes recommendations for further air sparge rehabilitation at other locations on Fort Wainwright.

Upcoming fieldwork planned for OU3 during the summer of 2003 includes the following:

- Installation of soil gas probes at ROLF sites, with special interest in the Eight-Car Header area;
- Soil sampling at MP 2.7; and
- Installation of replacement extraction wells at Birch Hill.

To gather data to update the computer model of groundwater flow in the Birch Hill area, several studies and tests have been performed. In conjunction with the routine groundwater sampling, samples were also collected as part of a dye-tracer study at Birch Hill. Aquifer pump tests and geophysical (seismic) tests were performed at Birch Hill. Results of these tests, as well as groundwater model updates, are expected this quarter (fall 2002).

All of the treatment systems are currently operating, with the exception of the Valve Pit C and Eight-Car Header systems, which are shut down for rebound studies. At the Product Recovery System, a 3,000-gallon holding tank was replaced with a 1,000-gallon holding tank, and the used carbon was replaced and disposed. The Product Recovery System is currently producing about 8 gallons of product per day.

The treatment systems at the following site will be suspended for the winter due to operational concerns: the Birch Hill Tank Farm former Building 1173, the Truck Fill Stand, and the ROLF Valve Pits A, B, and C. In addition, the system treating contaminated soils from MP 2.7 and 3.0 will be suspended during the winter. The Army expects to resume operating these systems in the spring of 2003.

The Eight-Car Header system has been suspended for a rebound study and a Cleanup

Operation Systems Site Exit Strategy (CLOSES) evaluation. The CLOSES evaluation will be performed to support moving the site from treatment to monitoring, to identify data gaps, to potentially reduce monitoring requirements, and to eventually move to closure status.

In September, the Army submitted the Interim Remedial Action Report to the EPA and ADEC. This report describes what remediation steps are being taken, the progress to date, and the exit strategy.

The Army finalized the final Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) associated with the Birch Hill Tank Farm in September. The ESD describes to the public the nature of and reasons for changes to the remedy that occur after the Record of Decision has been signed. The ESD is now available at the Information Repositories.

Operable Unit 4



Public information sign in front of the inactive landfill.

Operable Unit 4 (OU4) includes the former post landfill and the coal storage yard located behind the power plant, where, historically, coal was sprayed with used oil to increase the British thermal units of the coal.

The Army is required to sample groundwater associated with the Fort Wainwright landfill twice per year. All of the wells were sampled in September, with the exception of one, which was sampled after it was de-iced. When the data from the spring and fall sampling activities are available, the results will be shared in a newsletter.

In order to ensure protection of a supply well downgradient of the coal storage yard, semiannual soil and groundwater samples are collected. The results from the spring soil sampling at the coal storage yard will be included in the annual report and shared in a future newsletter. Soil and groundwater samples were also collected during the fall of 2002. When the results from the fall sampling activity are available, they will be shared in a newsletter.

The Army will be conducting a CLOSES evaluation for the coal storage yard to determine whether (1) any data gaps exist, (2) additional monitoring wells are needed, or (3) the frequency of monitoring groundwater can be decreased.

Operable Unit 5



Equipment from a treatability study at OU5 is visible from Gaffney Road.

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

The following treatment systems have continued to operate and be monitored: an air-sparge curtain, a source area treatment system, a horizontal well/vertical probes treatment system, and the Building 1060 treatment system with an electric oxidizer.

During extremely cold weather, the oxidizers used in the treatment systems have been plugging up, causing the treatment system to shut down. The blower system was also affected by freezing weather. To rectify these issues, the Army has prepared a Technical Memorandum recommending treatment system oxidizer insulation repairs and blower

replacement. These upgrades and repairs are planned to be implemented this summer.

The neutron probes at the West Quartermaster's Fueling System site were decommissioned, as were 37 monitoring wells across Fort Wainwright.

Monthly samples were collected for volatile organic compound analysis from each of the treatment systems. Groundwater samples were collected at the East Quartermaster's Fueling System site to monitor natural attenuation of contaminants. The remainder of the OU5 fall groundwater monitoring was completed in October. A total of 18 soil borings were drilled and sampled at the West Quartermaster's Fueling System site in September. When the laboratory data from these monitoring activities are available, the results will be shared in a newsletter.

Indoor air quality monitoring was performed in Building 1060 in July to determine whether any vapors were being forced into Building 1060, a currently occupied building. The results indicate that no further air monitoring is required.

The Army completed the Chena River Aquatic Assessment Program sampling to determine whether any detrimental effects have occurred to the river from contamination that has migrated from off-post areas. The goal of the program is to show that the integrity of the river in the OU5 area is improving due to the presence of the remediation systems. Sediment and water samples were collected in the area of the air sparge curtain.

The Army is reviewing the Final Interim Remedial Action Plan prepared by a consultant.

ACRONYMS

ADEC

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

CLOSES

Cleanup Operation Systems Site Exit Strategy

EPA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ESD

Explanation of Significant Differences

MP

Milepost

OU

Operable Unit

ROLF

Railcar off-loading facility

What We Do Between RAB Meetings

Happy New (Fiscal) Year! Once again we found ourselves on September 30 working feverishly to make sure fiscal year funds were fully expended; I do believe that, once again, we were successful!

While preparing for our year end, we were also diligently updating our Defense Sites Environmental Restoration Tracking Systems database and estimating funding requirements for fiscal year 2003 (which started October 1). Fort Wainwright is projected to receive approximately \$4,500,000 this year. This amount allows us to continue full operation and monitoring of all sites and allows for some repairs and upgrades of systems and monitoring wells.

The Army also "transformed" as of October 1, seemingly a transparent change. As with most large businesses, the Army has changed to be come more effective and efficient in both defense and operating procedures. You might be wondering how this affects the restoration program. . . we are still learning. Our method of receiving funds has changed somewhat, and we are still in the process of learning the procedures and meeting the new individuals on our team beyond the Alaska borders.

During the past quarter, we also completed the Chena River Aquatic Assessment Program sampling (see Operable Unit 5 Update on page 5), which included for yours truly a visit to the river during the sediment sampling. Such site visits are always interesting and informative.

We also continued reviewing reports, gathering data, negotiating with regulators, and assembling data to better understand our progress toward Fort Wainwright cleanup goals. We also (finally) completed the Operable Unit 3 Explanation of Significant Differences, which will be made available at the information repositories during the next month.

The biggest accomplishment of the quarter was Fort Wainwright achieving "Construction Complete," installation-wide, by the Environmental Protection Agency. This nationally significant milestone puts Fort Wainwright as a front-runner in the Army. We certainly appreciate everyone who helped us achieve this goal!

See you next quarter. As always, please call or e-mail if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks!



Therese Deardorff

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