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Environmental Restoration News

U.S. Army Alaska

Fort Wainwright

Fairbanks, Alaska

October 2001

Volume 9, Number 4

RAB Update

Due to low Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting attendance this past year and after discussion with the RAB community co-chair, the Army decided not to have an RAB meeting in October. The information the Army planned to present at the October RAB is summarized, in part, in this newsletter. Any additional information will be presented at the January RAB meeting, scheduled for January 22, 2002. Finalized meeting date, time, and location will be communicated to RAB members, and public notices will be published in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner and the Alaska Post.

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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 Five-Year Review also provides information on possible future actions. The Five-Year Review document is one of the required documents for all "Superfund" or "CERCLA" sites that have contamination in place resulting in restricted land uses (Institutional Controls). The Army, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) reviewed and signed the document.

Acronyms

RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
OU	Operable Unit
DRMO	Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office

The final document will be available for public review at the Administrative Record locations in Fairbanks and on Fort Wainwright following publication. A notice will be published in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner indicating the date that the document will become available. The Administrative Record locations are at the Noel Wien Library, on Fort Wainwright at the post library, and at the Environmental Resource Department office, Building 3023 at the corner of 11th Street and Neely Road.

Operable Unit Updates

Operable Unit (OU) 1

The Army is pursuing regulatory approval to dispose of the phytoremediation soils, which are currently located across the street from the Fort Wainwright landfill, into a specially designed disposal cell at the landfill. A draft work plan for the disposal cell will be submitted to ADEC for review this winter. The Army hopes to move the soils during the 2002 field season.

Three wells are scheduled to be sampled in 2002 as part of the long-term groundwater monitoring at the 801 Drum Burial Site.

Operable Unit 2

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) and former Building 1168 three-party site operations Maintenance and Monitoring Contract was awarded in September 2001. The contract includes operation of all the remedial systems at DRMO, including the two-party systems. The monitoring portion of the contract includes all DRMO monitoring requirements, including sampling the water supply wells and "picket" wells along Channel B.

Acronyms

WQFS

West Quartermaster's Fueling System

EQFA

East Quartermaster's Fueling System

DSERTS

Defense Sites Environmental Restoration Tracking System

Results of the monitoring will be compiled into a comprehensive monitoring report, which is submitted annually.

To determine whether contaminant levels in the area are decreasing and no longer migrating, annual monitoring at former Building 1168 will continue.

Operable Unit 3

The product recovery system is operating on Birch Hill. Recent field tests indicate that there has been a slight increase in the amount of product recovered. A new product recovery tank has been installed to handle larger quantities of fuels recovered from the groundwater. In addition, high-flow carbon filters have been installed to minimize the "plugging" problem which had occurred in the past due to high levels of iron in the system.

The soil vapor extraction/air sparging systems continued to operate at the Birch Hill Tank Farm former Building 1173, Truck Fill Stand; the Railcar Offloading Facility Valve Pits A, B, and C, Central Header, Former Building 1144, and Eight-Car Header. Most of these systems (with the exception of the Valve Pits) will operate throughout the winter.

During October, groundwater at all sites within Operable Unit 3 will be monitored, including Fairbanks-Eielson Pipeline Mileposts 2.7, 3.0, and 15.75. Preliminary results will be available at the next RAB meeting scheduled for January 22, 2002.

Operable Unit 4

The treatment system at the Coal Storage Yard was not in operation during the 2001 field season. The Army, EPA, and ADEC agreed not to operate the system to see if contaminant levels rebound without the system in operation. Samples were collected from groundwater monitoring wells this Fall 2001 and will be reviewed this winter. Based on the results, a decision will be made whether the system will need to operate in 2002. Whether the treatment system operates or not, the Army will continue to monitor the groundwater at this site.

At the Fort Wainwright landfill, two replacement wells and one new well were installed in September and sampled in early October. The replacement wells were required because the original wells had "jacked", or moved due to permafrost, and could no longer be sampled. The new well took the place of a third "jacked" well. A different location was chosen to better monitor contaminant movement in the landfill area. Monitoring will continue on a semi-annual basis.

Operable Unit 5

New air sparging wells and enhancements to existing systems at the West Quartermasters' Fueling System (WQFS), have been installed. Start up of the enhanced systems were completed the week of October 5, and are now operating "full steam."

An electric oxidizer was installed at the East Quartermasters' Fueling System (EQFS) to treat air vapor before release into the environment. Initial air monitoring tests have been completed and the Army anticipates that full operation of this system will begin by mid-October.

Monitoring of the systems, as well as the natural attenuation monitoring in the EQFS, will continue.

In conjunction with the work being done at OU5, numerous groundwater monitoring wells have been and will continue to be decommissioned in this area and throughout the post. Wells that have become unusable or are no longer needed will be decommissioned and taken out of service. A Fort Wainwright groundwater monitoring well database exists which assists the Army in tracking the usefulness of wells on Fort Wainwright.

What We Do Between RAB Meetings

Happy New Year to the federal government! Our fiscal year 2001 ended September 30, and fiscal year 2002 began October 1. Up until the end of the fiscal year, we were busy ensuring all our obligations for the year were met, and contracts closed as required. We were also busy planning our financial requirements for the upcoming years—2002 through 2015! While it is difficult to project our needs that far out, we use our current clean-up position as the starting point and "guesstimate" based on past results: how long active remediation might take, how long a monitoring program will remain in place, and at what point we can consider a site "no further action." This plan goes through the chain of command for approval, first to our major command, U.S. Army Pacific, then to the Army Environmental Center.

Tied to future funding requirements is DSERTS, or Defense Sites Environmental Restoration Tracking System. This web-based database includes information on projected start/end dates for each phase of a project, future actions anticipated for a site, and the date that the installation is expected to complete restoration activities. This database is updated twice yearly, and includes information on contamination levels at each site, or "risk data."

As the Army takes on more contracting responsibilities, more of our time is expended writing scopes of work and monitoring the contractors' performance under these contracts. Two of our newest contracts awarded for Fort Wainwright include the Chena River Aquatic Assessment Program sampling contract, and a "Time to Clean Up" contract, which will assist us in completing "exit strategies" for sites. Exit strategies will assist the Army, EPA, and ADEC make decisions on soil vapor extraction/air sparging systems turn off dates, long-term monitoring requirements, and at what point sites can be considered "no further action." The Chena River Aquatic Assessment Program sampling will take place during the 2002 field season. During winter 2001/2002, the Army will meet with EPA and ADEC to refine the sampling parameters and meet with the contractors to determine the best sampling times and methods.

We are presently in the process of completing the obligation plan from fiscal year 2001, updating our planned obligations for this fiscal year, and reviewing new documents. Documents being received now will help us make decisions for 2002 field work.

Our next meeting, scheduled for January 22, 2002, will cover information intended for our October meeting in addition to our usual agenda. The information should be very useful for our board members and interested public. I hope to see you all there!

Therese

