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**GALENA  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 21, 2004**



**RECEIVED**

**ATTENDEES:**

JAN 18 2005

Colin Craven, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)  
Greg Dubois, Bethel Services Inc.  
Chuck Fedler, Chugach Support Services (CSS), RAB Member  
Maureen K. Green, Accu-Type Depositions  
David Hertzog, Galena Military Co-Chair, 611 Civil Engineer Squadron, U.S. Air Force  
(Air Force)  
Tom Johnson, Department of Transportation/City of Galena, RAB Member  
Phil Koontz, Louden Tribal Council (LTC), RAB Member  
Suzette Lapine-Rosecrans  
Ragine Pilot, LTC, RAB Member  
Eleanor Yatlin, LTC, RAB Member

**CONTAMINATED  
SITES  
FAIRBANKS**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. The meeting attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations, if any.

Mr. David Hertzog stated that Ms. Suzette Lapine-Rosecrans would be taking notes in place of Ms. Maureen Green for future RAB meetings.

There were no changes to the agenda.

There were no changes to the minutes from the meeting of May 18, 2004.

**AIR FORCE**

**Field work**

Mr. Hertzog said that since the last meeting, Earth Tech, Yukaana, and Oasis had been to Galena to conduct fieldwork.

Mr. Phil Koontz and Alfred spent some time last winter and spring measuring product levels in monitoring wells to see if a product recovery system would work. Groundwater samples were collected from 60 wells as part of the ADEC-approved Work Plan, and the Air Force worked on the bio remediation systems for Million Gallon Hill, the Missile Storage Area and Building 1845. Most of these systems are in place and working well.

### **Galena Aviation Vocational Technical Center (GAVTC)**

The last monitoring at the GAVTC Facility was in August, and data loggers have been installed in the wells at the facility to measure the water levels in relation to amount of vapor going into the building. The reports have not been submitted yet, but it looks like the system at the GAVTC Facility is working fine and, now that school is back in session, Mr. Koontz and Alfred have been checking it on a regular basis. The resurfacing of the apron near the GAVTC Facility seemed to be affecting the movement of the vapors, so some of the wells were turned down and the system is being closely monitored for any changes.

Mr. Koontz said it has always surprised him how much fuel comes out of the ground through the vapor extraction wells, emissions have been monitored so as to not cause an air quality violation. When the apron was blacktopped, it caused some rerouting of the vapors in the subsurface and the concentrations went up, so the wells had to be turned down. Eventually, as the vapors are removed, the concentration should go down, but this has not happened yet. One of the wells is not operating because the business that supplied power to the well went out of business, but the other wells are working fine and the system is being closely monitored.

Mr. Hertzog said that an Operations and Maintenance Manual for the system would be available shortly to explain its operation and how to adjust it, so that everyone will know what to do when conditions change.

### **Remedial Investigation**

Some work on the trichloroethylene (TCE) plume near Building 1700 was done summer 2004, and the Air Force was able to delineate most of the plume. A definite source area for the plume was not identified, but it is suspected to have been related to some floor drains in that area, possibly associated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Building.

Mr. Tom Johnson asked what the Air Force found out from the installation of the four wells in the plume area. Mr. Hertzog replied that from that investigation, it looks like there is TCE to a depth of 50 to 60 feet. Mr. Colin Craven asked how deep the drinking water wells are relative to the TCE plume. Mr. Hertzog replied that the drinking water wells are at least 160 feet deep. The influent water at the treatment plant has been sampled for the last 10 months or so, and all of the samples have been clean or below drinking water standards. Since drinking water data is available for almost a whole year, through high and low water periods, this part of the contract has been discontinued, and samples might be taken only occasionally from now on.

Mr. Johnson asked if the air stripper was still operating at the water treatment plant. Mr. Hertzog replied it was still there, but based on the most recent data, it might be possible to eliminate it. Before doing so, however, the issue would have to be discussed in public meetings and some Records of Decision drafted, which will hopefully occur in the next 8 months or so. Mr. Craven added that the air stripper would not be turned off until everyone has seen the data and agreed that it was an appropriate action.

Mr. Johnson said that, whatever the decision was, periodic testing of the influent water at the treatment plant would probably be required, just make sure it was OK, especially if there was evidence that the TCE plume was migrating.

Mr. Craven said he was not familiar with the USFWS Building and asked how it related to Building 1700. Mr. Johnson replied that the building used to be a maintenance building for fueling trucks; therefore, it was likely that some fuel made it into the floor drains. Mr. Craven asked if the floor drains had been decommissioned or sampled as potential sources. Mr. Hertzog replied that the Air Force had collected soil samples from around the floor drain, but no TCE was found. The floor drains are still there, but the building is not really being used at this time. One snowmachine being stored there, but there is no major fuel use or storage. He suggested the next lease for the building include sealing the floor drain.

Mr. Johnson said he thought the Air Force should have taken the same precautions there as at the school. Mr. Hertzog replied that the school was considered a source area, but now it looks like the vehicle maintenance facility is a possible source, so it should be looked at more closely.

### **CAMPION**

Mr. Hertzog said that there was also some recent work conducted at Campion, where the wetlands were sampled. He asked Ms. Eleanor Yatlin if she had any comment on that sampling, since she was there. Ms. Yatlin replied that a lot of work was done, but the ground was still pretty frozen. Mr. Hertzog said that the Air Force went back in August and were able to finish up the work.

### **Remedial Investigation (Biovents-Remediation time frames etc)**

Mr. Johnson asked if enough information has been compiled to provide an idea of when it will be possible to turn off the remediation system. Mr. Hertzog replied that he wished he could give a firm date, but could not at the current time. The Air Force has the Remedial Project Optimization Report from 2002, and he has asked Yukaana to feed their information into the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being developed by EarthTech. Mr. Hertzog and Mr. Craven will be going to San Antonio to talk to EarthTech about where to go from here and what data is still needed. Hopefully, the Draft RI/FS will provide some idea about how long the systems will have to run.

Mr. Johnson said that the point of all the monitoring was to evaluate how well and at what rate the systems were working. This always seemed to be a gray area, even though a lot of data is available. Mr. Hertzog replied that he was aware of this. During his previous work at Adak and King Salmon, the Air Force had set schedules and goals to achieve, and he was able to get five Records of Decision signed for King Salmon. He said the Air Force could now feel confident about the data being collected and, in another year, everyone should be able to discuss these issues with a lot better idea of where things are going. The RI/FS due in January 2005 should address many of these issues.

Mr. Craven said they are dealing with something that cannot be seen, and it is hard to determine exactly what is happening under the ground. He stated that whether there is a gallon, 1,000 gallons, or a million gallons of free product floating around underneath us, unless it is of some danger or some threat to life and limb the process is to leave it alone and maybe check wells once a year.

Once the data is compiled, there will be a better idea of where things stand, but it will only be a guess. Some sites will take a long time, some will take less time, and after all of the data is reviewed there should be a better idea of how long things will take.

Mr. Johnson said it looks like Loudon will have a contract for another 20 years, since they have 50,000 gallons of free floating aviation fuel under the buildings that will require monitoring. Mr. Hertzog replied it might take that long, but once trends are established, monitoring might only be required every few years or so. Right now, the Air Force is at different phases. It has been established that contamination is not getting into the drinking water or the river, but the bio-vent and vapor extraction systems are still being evaluated. The petroleum, oil, and lubricant (POL) is going to be a high dollar cleanup, and will need to be addressed, but it will likely be a long-term thing. At Campion, however, Mr. Hertzog feels that monitoring could be reduced, but all of the data needs to be reviewed. Hopefully, the Air Force will have some better answers by this time next year.

Mr. Johnson said he knew he had asked these questions before, but wanted to refresh his memory since it had been awhile since the last meeting.

#### **Phil Koontz report on Galena Technical Project Team**

Mr. Koontz said that the LTC contract was for monitoring, operations, and maintenance. The systems currently running are removing tons of product per year and providing oxygen to increase biological remediation. In the past, it seems like the systems had been forgotten every few years, then had to be started over again. Now that working systems are in place, a big difference should be seen in the next few years.

Mr. Johnson said that, since the emissions from the system at the GAVTC Building have been monitored, it should be possible to go back and do the math and figure out the total amount removed. Mr. Koontz replied that the emissions probably represent about half what actually gets treated by the system. The RI/FS should show how well the system is working; therefore, the system should continue to be operated.

Mr. Craven said that one of the problems is that no one really knows how much product was spilled in the first place. The volume can be estimated, but is subject to a high uncertainty, which can be frustrating. Mr. Johnson replied that it was probably not more than 3 or 4 million gallons; therefore, if 100 tons are being removed per year, they should be able to get a ballpark idea of how long it will take.

Mr. Hertzog said that one issue that complicates things is that during the transition between high and low water, there is a lot of smearing of contamination through the soil. The free product recovery tests indicate that free product recovery is not really an option because the product levels did not recover very fast. However, air injection and soil vapor extraction seem to be working well

Mr. Craven said that, although these issues have been around for years, he is new to the project, and looking over the data from the past 3 years, it looks like things are much better organized now and the progress is much greater, even if it seems a little slow sometimes.

Mr. Craven stated he did not have anything to add from the ADEC perspective. Mr. Koontz will be covering a lot of it in his technical project team (TPT) update

#### **Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Craven what his background was. Mr. Craven replied that he has a degree in geology and a Masters degree in geochemistry and hydrology. He worked for a couple of consulting firms before coming to work for ADEC. The former regulator for Galena, Ann Farris, is still around, but she is in another position at ADEC.

#### **Galena/Campion Administrative Record**

Mr. Hertzog asked if anyone had any of the reports on the soil work at Campion because he could not find the reports and they were not in the administrative record. Mr. Craven replied that he had emailed the author of the reports, who responded that the reports were coming up for publication, which seemed odd, because they are pretty old reports.

Mr. Hertzog said there was a gap in the administrative record from 1997 to 2002, with nothing but RAB minutes for that time period. There is not even a drum removal report. If anyone has any of these documents, he asked them to please let him know.

Mr. Craven asked if there was a hard copy information repository of just the online record. Mr. Hertzog said that he boxed up the information repository and shipped it off to be added to the administrative record, but it has not been updated yet.

#### **TECHNICAL PROJECT TEAM UPDATE**

Mr. Koontz said that the RI/FS Work Plan finally went final and the result will be a comprehensive report of the sites the LTC is working on. Once the Work Plan was finalized, six sites were recommended for closure. Mr. Hertzog added it is not really closure, but No Further Action or No Further Response Action Planned.

Mr. Koontz said there was also an administrative closure. Ms. Farris had made that decision because there was no documented contamination at Birchwood Hangar. There was also a site near the control tower drum storage area where some old samples showed TCE in the groundwater, so that area might require some more work.

Mr. Hertzog said that a draft Proposed Plan had been issued for these six sites and the Air Force is in the process of reviewing ADEC's comments on the Proposed Plan. There will be some further work monitoring the groundwater at the Control Tower Drum Storage Area, but if there is no contamination it will be closed out.

Mr. Koontz said that another issue was the Risk Assessment Work Plan, which will determine if there is something in the air or water that is potentially harmful to people or the environment. This Work Plan is out in draft for comments and will go final after the comments are reviewed.

Mr. Hertzog said that before it goes final, the Air Force would discuss the comments with the TPT and the risk assessor, so it might not go final until November or December 2004.

Mr. Craven said that sounded about right. Regarding the sites covered in the Proposed Plan, since they are smaller, low priority sites, the Air Force proposed No Further Action. ADEC concurred on several of the sites, but were concerned with TCE at the Control Tower Drum Storage Area. Data was available showing possible TCE contamination there and upgradient of the site, so ADEC cannot make a decision about the site until more data is provided.

Mr. Johnson said the next item on the agenda was a review of the RAB charter. Mr. Hertzog said he emailed a copy provided by Mr. Scott Tarbox that had been signed by members of the community. This was the draft charter dated October 1997, and it did not look like the charter needed to be updated. Ms. Ragine Pilot said that she had not even seen the charter before.

Mr. Koontz said that his understanding was the RAB was a tool for the Air Force to communicate with the community, but it does not have any authority. Mr. Hertzog replied that this is basically correct, if a community wants a RAB, then can form one, but there are no details about a quorum. If people stop coming or lose interest, however, the RAB can disband. One thing to consider in Galena is the Munitions Response program coming up in the future, which will have its own meetings. If the community wants to keep the RAB going, they should make a schedule and stick to it.

Mr. Johnson said it seems like he is the only person there who is not being paid to be a part of the cleanup, but he is motivated as a landowner. He said people are generally apathetic about what is going on, and it has been this way for a while.

Mr. Hertzog said when the RAB was formed in King Salmon 10 years ago, there were about 25 people, but over the years it has shrunk to a core group of about eight people. Sometimes only two or three might show up for a meeting, but they consider that a quorum. What constitutes a quorum is not specified in the charter, but a quorum could be addressed.

Mr. Craven said it seems like a simple issue of modifying the charter. Mr. Hertzog agreed. Mr. Craven asked how many official RAB members there were. Mr. Hertzog said they have added members since 1997. Mr. Craven suggested a list of active members be compiled before they considering the issue of a quorum. Mr. Johnson suggested that Ms. Suzette Lapine-Roscrans call the members on the list and ask if they are still interested in being a member.

Mr. Craven asked if the meeting used to be held at the City Hall. Mr. Hertzog replied that one meeting had been held there. Mr. Craven asked if more members showed up to the meeting at the City Hall. Mr. Johnson added that he thought some people were uncomfortable going to meetings on the base.

Mr. Hertzog said if they could agree on a day when the City Hall was available, the meetings could be moved there. The third Tuesday of the month had been suggested. Mr. Johnson said they had tried to schedule specific days in the past, but something always came up and the meeting had to be changed. He suggested talking to Marvin about when the City Hall was open, and go from there. Mr. Craven said this would likely maximize the potential for participation. Quarterly meetings were agreed upon.

Mr. Hertzog suggested January 2005 because the draft RI/FS might be available by then. He asked Mr. Greg Dubois what the turnaround time was for lab samples. Mr. Dubois said the labs

were very busy this time of year, so it usually took about a month. Mr. Hertzog asked when they were planning on getting data to EarthTech. Mr. Dubois said they would not be done sampling until the end of November or October 2004, would have to wait for the lab, then get the data to EarthTech for inclusion into the RI/FS Report.

Mr. Hertzog proposed January 19, 2005, for the next meeting, when the Air Force will have information from the TPT and the results of the meetings with EarthTech. The attendees agreed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.