

**Galena Technical Project Team**  
**Meeting # 15**  
**May 12-13, 2005**  
**Galena Air Force Base Conference Room**

**TPT Members**

Ragine Pilot	Louden Tribe
Marvin Yoder	City of Galena
Steve Wicks/Harry White	Galena Schools
Dave Hertzog	Air Force (AF)
Colin Craven	Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Phil Koontz	Louden Tribe
JoAnn Grady	Facilitator

**Support Personnel**

Stephanie Pingree	Ecology & Environment (DEC contractor-by phone)
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**Summary Comments**

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Galena Technical Project Team began with a visit from Chief Peter Captain and Dean Westlake, the new Tribal Coordinator for the Loudon Tribal Council. Chief Captain thanked the team for their continued work. Mr. Westlake stated that Ragine Pilot would continue her services for Loudon as a member of the Technical Project Team.

**New TPT Member**

Mr. Steve Wicks introduced Mr. Harry White to the Project Team. Mr. White is the new principal of the Galena PERS school, and will serve as Mr. Wicks replacement to the Technical Project Team.

**Update on the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report:**

The TPT began its meeting with an overview of data from the following sites that will be featured in the draft RI Report. The report will be out for review to the TPT on September 23, 2005.

**Fire Training (FT001)**

- Groundwater sampling performed in 4 monitoring wells in June and October 2004. Sampling will continue.
- Source area well showed benzene at 60 ug/L in June and 20.6 ug/L in October. Both measurements are above clean up level standards.
- One well located near the standpipe showed benzene at 22 ug/L in June and .37 ug/L in October.
- Site wells were monitored 10 times since 1992 and show declining benzene concentrations.
- Geochemical conditions show evidence of biodegradation.

- Sentry wells may be needed at this site. Colin Craven stated the sentry wells are intended to demonstrate that contaminants are not migrating into the Yukon, and may need to be constructed as cluster wells, as was done for other IRP sites previously, to characterize the benzene plume at different depths in the subsurface.
- Relevant historical investigative activities will be summarized in the upcoming RI.
- Focused FS will be performed to evaluate soil and groundwater remedies.
- The TPT discussed sentry well installation downgradient of the source to better define the plume.

#### **SERFS (ST010)**

- 5 monitoring wells were sampled in June and October of 2004.
- Benzene detected below clean up criteria in all wells.
- One well, SE-MW-01, showed DRO above clean up criteria in June and October. DRO below criteria in down gradient wells.
- Geochemical parameters indicate evidence of natural attenuation.
- Relevant historical activities and investigations will be summarized in the upcoming RI.

#### **Wilderness Hall (SS005)**

- Air injection bioventing system converted to air extraction bioventing system.
  - Extraction flow rate: 25-32 scfm
  - Soil gas samples collected from extraction well 05-SV-06 for TO-03. Analysis in June 2004
    - Benzene detected at 1.1 ppmv
- ROI tests performed in June 2004. ROI estimated at 55 ft.
  - System to be operated for approximately one year. Soil gas samples to be collected in 2005.
- Groundwater sample collected from 05-SV-06 for BTEX and GRO analysis in June 2004.
  - GRO: 1.44 mg/L
  - Benzene: 68.4 ug/L
- Sampling of the exhaust stack and groundwater to be repeated in summer 2005.
- RI to summarize historical activities and investigations. FS not required.
- No additional soil treatment required.
- Continued groundwater monitoring may be appropriate based on the summer 2005 results.

#### **JP-Fill Stands (ST009)**

- Previous excavation removed all pesticide contaminated soil and a portion of fuel contaminated soil.
- Remaining source removal.
  - FS to evaluate bioventing vs. excavation at the fill stands.

- Verify feasibility of land farming at Galena.
- Building 1428 needs additional investigation to determine if it's a source for the JP-4 Fillstands plume.
- 9 monitoring wells sampled in the summer of 2004 for BTEX, DRO, and MNA parameters
  - Most wells sampled multiple times.
  - Plume extent characterized.
- The TPT discussed delineating the downgradient edge of the plume with new monitoring cluster wells.

#### **Campion POL Storage Area (ST007)**

- Soil sampling conducted along drainage.
- 10 soil samples collected for DRO, PAH and pesticides showed low levels of DRO most of which are still above the default cleanup level for DRO of 250 mg/kg.
- 7 monitoring wells and 4 new wells were sampled for VOC, GRO, DRO, PAHs, lead and MNA parameters. (June 2004)
  - Results show benzene, GRO and DRO exceedence in a few wells.
- No adverse eco-risks from site contaminants.
- Historic free product recovery performed at this site.
- Very low product recovery observed. Free product recovery is not feasible at this site.

The TPT questioned whether it had been decided if the DRO at this site was biogenic in nature or not. DEC's Colin Craven stated the DRO results were reviewed by both the DEC chemist and an Air Force contracted chemist and were confirmed to contain petroleum hydrocarbons; i.e. NOT naturally occurring organics. Both Mr. Hertzog and Mr. Craven confirmed the DRO is occurring at very low concentrations at this site. The site is moving towards closure with the possibility of groundwater sampling.

#### **Update on the Final Human Health Risk Assessment Work Plan (HHRAWP)**

Stephanie Pingree from Ecology and Environment joined the meeting via teleconference to discuss developments on the HHRAWP. Mr. Hertzog provided a short history of the document and stated the AF and DEC had been involved in two teleconferences since the last TPT meeting to discuss the re-evaluation of the exposure scenarios currently in the RAWP. He explained that the AF is trying to develop new site-specific scenarios in the RA. The TPT was provided with the updated exposure scenarios prepared by the AF.

Stephanie Pingree stated that the exposure scenarios currently being used in the RAWP were based on site-specific information gleaned from interviews from local residents. She stated the current document is already a site-specific risk assessment.

Mr. Craven stated that if the assumptions currently stated in the HHRAWP were to be changed to a less conservative scenario, the AF would need to justify any of those changes. In addition to placing the site-specific justification and defense in the next iteration of the RAWP, the DEC would want the AF to explain proposed changes to the CSMs.

Mr. Hertzog stated the work would be placed in the upcoming draft RI Report. If the report is not approved, the RI may then need to be amended.

It is still inconclusive whether the RAWP that was submitted to the team will be considered the final document, or if the document will be considered a draft.

### **Possible Removal of the Petroleum Sites from the CERCLA Process**

Dave Hertzog began the discussion with a short history of the RI/FS for the Galena Air Base. He stated that while the typical RI/FS takes about 2-3 years to complete, Galena has taken about 16 years. He stated that the AF is looking into ways to make the remediation for the sites in Galena more expeditious. One idea being considered is the removal of the petroleum sites from the federal CERCLA process. The sites would be remediated following the State of Alaska regulations for contaminated sites. While petroleum is not a CERCLA hazardous substance, it is a hazardous substance under the State of Alaska regulations.

Colin Craven stated that the DEC is amenable with removing the petroleum sites from CERCLA and placing them under the state regulations. He stated the paperwork under the State process is much less cumbersome but the process for remediation would be as rigorous. He stated that active remediation is already taking place on most of the Galena sites which makes the move from the Federal to the State process even more agreeable.

Mr. Hertzog said the idea to remove the sites from the CERCLA process has been advanced to the Air Staff and to PACAF. He will report back to the TPT at the next meeting regarding their decision.

### **Comprehensive Team Discussion Regarding the Future of Air Monitoring at the GAVTC**

The GAVTC discussion began with a site visit to the GAVTC building. Dave Hertzog provided the TPT with a letter submitted to the DEC citing the justification for eliminating the indoor air sampling at the GAVTC.

Mr. Craven stated the DEC felt the AF proposal was fair and reasonable and cited only one point of clarification, i.e., the AF continue to include the four SVE wells surrounding the GAVTC building and that damaged or inoperable vapor monitoring points be replaced. This will provide certainty that the system is operating correctly.

Steve Wicks asked for confirmation that the reason the indoor air sampling was being eliminated was because the AF felt certain that the building was safe for both teachers and students to occupy without the monitoring. Mr. Hertzog reiterated that was the case and stated the monthly vapor monitoring point sampling will continue, as will the quarterly stack sampling.

Mr. Craven stated the DEC will document their comments regarding the elimination of the indoor air sampling at the GAVTC building. The TPT will review that letter at their next meeting.

**Site Visits**

The TPT concluded its meeting with a field trip to all of the Galena sites. Mr.Hertzog provided a review of the fieldwork that has taken place to date. He also discussed the future need for TPT decisions at a number of sites, including the POL South Tank Farm and the JP-4 Fill Stands.

**Next Meeting Time and Place**

The next meeting of the TPT will be held in Anchorage at the DEC offices on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The meeting will commence at 9 A.M. and will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.