

Galena Technical Project Team

Meeting # 17

August 30-31, 2005

Galena Air Force Base Conference Room

Galena, Alaska

TPT Members in Attendance

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

TPT Members not in Attendance

Colette Foster	Alaska Department of Transportation
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Support Personnel

Manish Joshi	EarthTech (By teleconference)
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Guests

Richard Kaufmann	Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Dr. Robert Johnson	ATSDR
Joe Maloney	ATSDR
Steven Strausback	AF Center for Health

Summary Comments

Base Reallocation and Closure (BRAC) of the Forward Operation Base at Galena

The TPT began its meeting with a lengthy discussion among all team members regarding the Pentagon's recommendation to close the Forward Operating Base at Galena. While many questions are still unanswered regarding the closure of the base, Marvin Yoder told the team that the City of Galena is beginning its work to address redevelopment of the land currently being used by the Air Force. He stated that a community meeting will be held October 12-14 in Galena to discuss options and prioritize re-use scenarios for the land and buildings. Dave Hertzog suggested that it may be beneficial for both he and DEC's Colin Craven to be present at the meeting.

Those gathered grappled with how the TPT may best serve Galena in its current capacity as an environmental working group and how it may expand its role to further assist the City as the base begins the closure process.

Marvin Yoder said that the BRAC Commission has assured the City that it will be

'business as usual' in Galena for a few more years as the closure will likely wait until the end of this BRAC round. This will assist the City to put redevelopment plans in place before the AF support leaves the area.

Mr. Hertzog shared the AF's timeline for closure with the team and said that the BRAC www site contains a good number of reference information on details of the BRAC process. The address for the site is: www.defenselink.mil/BRAC

The team continued its discussion regarding possibilities that could develop as the BRAC process moves forward. Members discussed the willingness for the team to expand in order to include other stakeholders that will be affected by the BRAC closure. Mr. Hertzog stated that he felt the team could become the Ad Hoc environmental committee for the closure; its mandate expanding to develop and oversee environmental plans for the closure as well as serving to keep all stakeholders involved in the process. (Attached is a copy of the initial mandate of the TPT 'Goals and Objectives of the Galena Technical Project Team')

Update on the Proposed Plan Sites

Mr. Hertzog shared the draft final Proposed Plan for sites scheduled to be closed. Colin Craven stated that the DEC agreed that four of the five sites in the plan could move to closure, the exception being the Control Tower Drum Storage Area South (SS0013) He stated that the DEC requests the AF conduct additional monitoring at the site to determine whether the site could be closed or require remedial action. Mr. Hertzog agreed to pull that site from the Proposed Plan and will install two additional monitoring wells at the site during the summer of 2006. Two sampling events will be conducted, one at high water and the other at low water. If those two sampling events show non-detects, the site can move forward for closure.

The sites scheduled to be closed in the Proposed Plan are:

- Control Tower Drum Storage Area (SS002)
- POL Fuel Line Leak (SS003)
- Road Oiling (SS009)
- Power Plant #49 (TU001)

Mr. Hertzog stated that all historic data and documentation that had been collected at these sites would be included in the Proposed Plan document. He said that the Proposed Plan will be distributed for public review and comment and that a public meeting to discuss the closure of the sites would be held in Galena in the upcoming months. If there are comments of concern, the AF will address those comments. If there are no further comments, the AF will write a decision document in order to close the sites.

Update on the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report:

Manish Joshi of Earthtech joined the meeting via teleconference. Dave Hertzog explained to the TPT that the RI for Galena will most likely be delayed until December 2005.

The TPT reviewed the remaining sites in Galena that will be included in the upcoming RI report. Mr. Hertzog reported that the only change from past TPT decisions/agreements on the sites would be to the Fire Training Area. He stated that the AF had decided to remove the top three feet of soil from the site during the summer of 2006. The site will be contoured to eliminate any potential for ponding. He also stated that the AF will produce a fact sheet which will explain the removal action to the community

Update on Air Monitoring at the GAVTC (Galena Aviation Vocational Technical Center)

During the June '05 TPT meeting, Mr. Craven stated the DEC would agree to suspend the indoor air sampling program at the GAVTC building in October of this year. Dave Hertzog reported that a June air sampling event had taken place but results were not ready for review. He also reported that due to heavy smoke in the Galena area, the August sampling event was cancelled. The final air sampling event for the GAVTC will now take place in September. Mr. Hertzog stated that while the indoor air sampling will stop, the AF will prove that the extraction system will continue to work and that the building will remain safe to occupy.

Colin Craven asked Harry White if the noise level in the GAVTC rooms had been at all abated since our last visit to the site. Mr. White said no, and that the noise continued to impair teachers and students in the building.

Mr. Hertzog agreed to a recommendation by TPT member Phil Koontz that applying sound baffling may help abate the noise problem. Mr. Hertzog stated he will look into providing the necessary baffling. He also added that the feasibility study on the GAVTC will explore other options that might address the noise problem at the site.

Marvin Yoder asked about the possibility of moving the vocational school from the current building into the Combat Alert Cell (CAC) building. Mr. Hertzog stated that while the CAC resides on the TCE plume, it is certainly not as 'hot' as the GAVTC and would be feasible to occupy.

Update on the Galena Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA)

The TPT reviewed minutes from a mid-summer teleconference attended by DEC and AF consultants which discussed possible changes in the HHRA as a result of BRAC considerations. Those attending agreed the risk scenarios and assumptions currently in the RA would not be affected by the base closure. Mr. Hertzog stated that the rationale for this decision will be presented in the RI/FS in a chapter entitled "BRAC Considerations".

Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

The TPT was very pleased to receive a presentation on ATSDR's Galena Health Assessment by health officials Richard Kaufmann, Dr. Robert Johnson, and Joe Maloney of ATSDR, and Mr. Steve Strausback of the Air Force Center for Health.

The guests were in town to conduct training at the Galena Clinic and to hold public meetings on their newly released Galena Health Assessment. They provided an overview of the health concerns that have been identified in the report as well as answered a

number of questions posed by the TPT. In summary, the ATSDR's recommendations include:

- Drinking wells located in Old Town should have the water tested for arsenic, iron and manganese.
- Private well owners in Old Town should consider installing water treatment systems to reduce the minerals in the water.
- Private wells in Old Town should be sampled for the next two years during both high and low water to better evaluate health risks posed by consuming the water.
- The GAVTC subsurface depressurization system should continue to operate and be monitored.
- Garden foods and wild foods such as berries should be rinsed before eating.
- Pregnant women and children should consider eating less burbot and northern pike.

Colin Craven offered to provide information to the Loudon Tribe on the Drinking Water Program conducted by the DEC. He noted that while the program is a good resource for information and does conduct sampling, there is a charge for testing.

Next Meeting Time and Place

The next meeting of the TPT will be held in Anchorage October 20-21, 2005. The meeting will begin at 9:30 A.M. The meeting will be held at the Anchorage offices of the DEC. The particular DEC conference room will be announced in the forthcoming agenda.