

Galena Technical Project Team

Meeting # 18

October 20, 2005

Anchorage Offices

Department of Environmental Conservation

TPT Members in Attendance

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

Support Personnel and Invited Guests

Jennifer Roberts	ADEC
Todd Fickel	AF
Kevin Thomas	Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE)
Manish Joshi	EarthTech (teleconference)
Patrick Haas	Patrick Haas and Associates (teleconference)
Pam Lewis	ADOT (teleconference)
Darren Mulkey	ADOT (teleconference)
Bret Berglund	Hoefler Consulting Group
Peggy Yang	Hoefler Consulting Group

Summary Comments

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

The TPT began its meeting with a discussion among team members regarding the closure of the Galena Air Force Base and ideas from the community addressing reuse of the Air Force properties and state-owned land at Galena.

Marvin Yoder led the discussion and reported that the City of Galena has begun the process to create a Local Redevelopment Authority, (LRA). The Galena LRA will consist of one representative from the Loudon Tribe, one from the Galena School District and one from the City of Galena. Those members will then choose one additional representative from the community to sit on the committee. Mr. Yoder has been asked to serve as coordinator/staff to the LRA.

Mr. Yoder stated that a community meeting was held in Galena October 12-14 to discuss options for the land and buildings and to decide on the composition of the LRA. He stated that Air Force was well represented at the meeting and offered their assistance to the LRA.

Mr. Hertzog reported that Congress is scheduled to make the final decision to accept the BRAC list on November 12. A first step, after their approval, will be for Air Force to

conduct an Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) of the Galena base. Patrick Haas suggested the TPT study the Administrative Record, Document number 134 item 0025005 (1996), to glean insight and direction into the EBS process. He stated that while the Galena EBS will have to be updated, the document can provide information that could generally be helpful to the team and to the LRA.

The team continued its discussion regarding possibilities that could develop as the BRAC process moves forward. While the TPT is scheduled to sunset after approval of decision documents on the Galena sites, the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) will continue in its capacity to serve as an advisory board to the Air Force. Members discussed the willingness for the TPT to expand in order to include other stakeholders that will be affected by the BRAC closure. DEC's Jennifer Roberts stated that the TPT may expand its mandate to become the Base Closure Team (BCT); a committee developed during BRAC closures to provide assistance to the AF and to the LRA.

Yukanna Sampling Update

TPT member Phil Koontz reported that the year long contract between the AF and Yukanna is winding down with most of the technical field work having been completed. He stated that sampling reports are currently being produced and will be summarized for the community in both a newsletter and a fact sheet due in December.

DEC's Colin Craven expressed concern regarding the tardiness of technical project reports stating DEC has not been in receipt of indoor air sampling reports for 10 months. Mr. Hertzog instructed Yukanna to send DEC all technical reports and to make certain they are promptly recorded in the administrative record.

Mr. Craven stated the DEC had sent the AF a conditional letter of agreement approving the termination of indoor air sampling at the GAVTC in October, 2005. He stated the DEC is awaiting receipt of the letter from AF acknowledging the termination per the condition that the buildings vapor monitoring points are repaired as needed. Mr. Hertzog instructed his staff to send AF acknowledgement of the agreement.

Mr. Hertzog informed the TPT the AF was having difficulties securing its current contract agreement with Earthtech and that work performed by Earthtech is currently in hiatus. He stated that in the interim, an in-house technical crew from the AF 611th is planning to conduct the required sampling at Galena until a new contract is executed. Mr. Craven suggested that the 611th continue to operate under existing operation, maintenance and sampling plans. He stated the DEC would like to see weekly reports from the 611th crew showing that the systems are balanced and running correctly while the contracts are in transition. Mr. Hertzog agreed that the 'learning curve' for running the systems could prove to be difficult and suggested that AF could possibly produce a purchase order to Yukanna which would allow them to continue to oversee the system checks and balances and avoid possible problems associated with new crew unfamiliarity. He will inform the TPT on the outcome of his suggestion.

Air Force Munitions Response Sites at Galena and Campion

Mr. Craven presented a report to the TPT outlining the AF's munitions response sites at both Galena and Campion. He stated there had been rumors of ordnance left in the ground just near the Million Gallon Hill site. He reported the AF conducted a comprehensive site evaluation of the area of investigation which did NOT reveal ordnance items. They did, however, find a site at the end of EOD Road which appeared to be a former disposal site for small arms. Mr. Craven reported that a preliminary conceptual site model is being developed for the 20 acre area. The AF contractor is preparing a fact sheet on remediation plans for the area and will also hold a public meeting in January in Galena to discuss their findings. In May and June a geophysical survey will be conducted to identify the disposal area.

Mr. Craven reported that similarly at Campion, a 15 acre site was located which had been used up until the late 1980s as an Open Burn/Open Detonation (OBOD) site. The AF contractor has been instructed to perform both surface and subsurface clearance of munitions from the site. The TPT will be kept informed of work performed on both sites.

Update on the Galena Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA)

Mr. Hertzog reported that Oasis Environmental is proceeding with their work on the Galena Human Health Risk Assessment. They continue to use the land use assumptions and scenarios recommended by the TPT, although future land use under BRAC may produce other land use activities in the future.

At present, the HHRA document remains on schedule and will be included in the RI/FS document which is due for public review in January 2006. Mr. Hertzog further explained the RI/FS becomes AF's working document on specific clean-up actions that protect human health and the environment at Galena.

Update on the Proposed Plan (PP) Sites

ADOT's Colette Foster, Pamela Lewis, and Darren Mulkey joined the meeting via teleconference. The discussion began with a brief review of sites proposed for closure in the Proposed Plan. ADOT will submit formal comments to the AF by November 10, 2005. Current informal comments by ADOT on the PP sites are as follows:

- Control Tower Drum Storage Area (SS002): ADOT agreed that combining CTSDA and CTDSA South into one site in the PP was acceptable. ADOT has no concerns or comments at this time on the site.
- POL Fuel Line Leak (SS003): No issues of concerns were stated at this time.
- Road Oiling (SS009): No concerns from ADOT on this site at this time.
- Power Plant #49 (TU001): Darren Mulkey stated he did not feel there was adequate information provided in the PP for ADOT to be comfortable with closure at this site. Colin Cravin agreed that DEC needed additional information at the site and had requested the information from the AF at past meetings. Mr. Hertzog instructed staff to provide additional information to both agencies.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the use, in general, of institutional controls (ICs) on sites at Galena. ADOT, while not in disagreement on many of the recommendations for closure on sites listed in the Proposed Plan, stated they are reticent to accept land containing ICs that will be released back to the state after BRAC. They are concerned

that accepting ICs will set precedent for accepting land use restrictions at other sites throughout the State.

Mr. Hertzog stated the AF is responsible for putting land use controls at sites that formerly or currently could be a cause of concern for future land users. Colette Foster stated that while ADOT may find it necessary to accept land use controls on lands being returned to the state, the agency will need specific information from the AF before they consider any restrictions. ADOT will need the exact maps of areas of concern so they can be platted on land occupancy maps. AF contractors offered to provide CAD drawings to the ADOT outlining specific designated areas with a description of suggested restrictions. Mr. Hertzog suggested the CAD drawings be given to all agencies involved in zoning issues including City of Galena, other state agencies, and to the newly organized Galena LRA.

TPT Training: Applying the Principals of Risk Assessment and Risk Management to the BRAC Process

Hoefler Consulting Group joined the meeting during the afternoon session and delivered a well received training to the team on how to use risk assessments as a tool in the BRAC process. Peggy Yang and Bret Berglund led the discussion. It was suggested that the presentation be attached to these summary comments so as to be referenced in the future as a resource by the TPT or the Galena LRA. (See attached Power Point presentation.)

BRAC question and answer period with Jennifer Roberts

Jennifer Roberts, DEC's program manager for the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Program, met with the TPT to answer questions regarding the BRAC process. She provided information on 'lessons learned' during the last rounds of the BRAC closures and reviewed steps taken by successful LRA's to develop reuse scenarios. She also provided information from the Base Closure Focus Group of the National Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, and a paper on BRAC issues considered from the state perspective. The TPT appreciated her taking the time to meet and provide valuable 'Alaska specific' information on the BRAC process.

Next Meeting Time and Place

The next meeting of the TPT will be held in Galena, January 23-27, 2006. The meeting will begin at 10 A.M. and will be held at the base conference room.