

**Minutes**  
**Fort McClellan Restoration Advisory Board**  
**Fort McClellan, AL**  
**July 16, 2001**

**CO-CHAIR:** Mr. Glynn Ryan; Mr. Craig Branchfield (acting Co-Chair)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Craig Branchfield; Mr. James Buford; Mr. Monty Clendenin; Mr. Don Cunningham; Mr. Jerome Elser; Ms. Donna Fathke; Mr. Curtis Franklin; Dr. Mary Harrington; Mr. Jerry Hopper; Mr. Lamar Freeman; Mr. Fernand Thomassy.

**BCT MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Ron Levy; Mr. Doyle Brittain; Mr. Philip Stroud.

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- I. **Call To Order:** Explaining that he was sitting in for Dr. Cox, Mr. Branchfield called the roll and those present are listed above. The minutes from the June meeting were approved with a correction that reflected the absence of Mr. Fernand Thomassy at that meeting. The audience was then asked to introduce themselves.
- II. **Old Business:** None
- III. **New Business:** Mr. Ron Levy introduced Mr. Joe Cudney, Project Manager from Parsons Engineering, who gave a presentation on the status of the Chemical Warfare Materiel (CWM) EE/CA. Mr. Cudney provided background information and, using maps and photographs, identified and described each sampling site. He provided information on the organizations and contractors involved in the project and gave a brief history of the Chemical Corps activities at Fort McClellan. He said that, based on the Chemical Corps School training data, they investigated for CWM such as mustard agents, nerve agents, choking agent, incapacitating agent, and decontamination agents. Mr. Cudney told the RAB that during this field review, twelve training locations and five mustard spill areas were sampled. He then explained in detail the work that had been done in each of the areas, what types of instruments were used and the findings. He concluded by reporting that while some ordnance items were found, no CWM was detected on any of the sites. Mr. Levy reminded the RAB that Fort McClellan was a training activity and never a manufacturing site for CWM or related ordnance nor was there any evidence that rounds containing CWM were fired at Fort McClellan. Mr. Thomassy stated he felt this important positive information should be provided to the public as soon as possible and strongly recommended a press release be prepared and made available to the media. Mr. Levy agreed and responded that when the EE/CA is completed, there will be a public meeting; and hopefully the media will attend that. He ended by pointing out to the RAB that the work plan to investigate the site was coordinated with the BCT, including the EPA and ADEM. Mr. Craig Branchfield then moved on to agency reports. Mr. Philip Stroud reported on some restructuring in his area at ADEM. He said he is still getting many favorable comments concerning the FMC clean-up process and the apparent positive teamwork among the BCT as well as the interest and input from the RAB. Mr. Stroud reported he has been walking around small arms ranges with IT and EPA and discussing the range fans and the clean up involved. Mr. Brittain, EPA, endorsed Mr. Stroud's comments and stated that they are still reviewing documents and looking at ranges and making a lot of progress. JPA was not represented at the meeting. Mr. Levy continued the discussion of the Action Summary Sheet items. Mr. Josh Jenkins, IT Group, gave an update on Landfill #3 off-site ground water monitoring. Using a map, Mr. Jenkins identified the sites and discussed the status. He stated that they had completed sampling monitoring well S-5. All off-site well locations have been sampled with the exception of well S-14 due to detection of some foreign material. Responding to Ms. Fathke's query concerning the type of foreign material, Mr. Jenkins

stated there was an oily substance in the water. He said quite a while back the well was struck by lightning and the submersible pump exploded, thus explaining how oil possibly got into the well. It was then determined that this was not a good location to sample. Mr. Jenkins continued his report and said that four wells have been installed in the median on Highway 21 and one on Midway Community Church property. Sampling was done on OLF-G21 the previous week, OLF-G22 on July 16<sup>th</sup>, OLF-G23 on July 17<sup>th</sup>; and sampling at OLF-G24 will be completed by the end of the month. Equipment problems caused a delay with the installation of OLF-G20 and a deep well on the church property. The other well that is installed on the church property will be sampled in a few weeks. Mr. Levy asked Mr. Pope about the proposed well number OLF-G31 on Mr. Brown's property. Mr. Pope said that Mr. Brown had not given approval and the Army is still pursuing it. Mr. Jenkins concluded by stating that preliminary data should be in by September for all of the wells. Mr. Franklin raised a query about the validity of not sampling the well with the foreign material since it was so close to the Weaver city wells. A discussion ensued concerning the oil in the well, distance of other wells to Weaver city wells, consistent geology in the area, and lack of specific data. Mr. Levy provided an update on the OE EE/CAs for the Alpha and Bravo Areas, which were briefed at the last meeting. He then briefly updated the RAB on Fort McClellan's actions related to the Eastern Bypass, including the Action Memorandum awaiting signature at Department of the Army, the explosive safety submission under review by the Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center, and the brush clearing by Foster Wheeler. He informed the RAB that ALDOT placed a fence on the southernmost portion (Tract #1) and that ALDOT has talked about needing some additional property for an easement/right of entry to build some catch basins and dams due to water run off from Tract #1. Mr. Bill Garland, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stated the prescribed burn of the Caffey Mountain area has been rescheduled for a winter burn. Mr. Levy concluded by asking for any other questions about activities going on around post from the RAB. There were none. Ms. McKinney discussed the current procedures of sending RAB notification and minutes to members via email and asked if the members still needed the reminder phone call. The RAB decided that the phone call would be eliminated. Mr. Levy reminded the members that Mr. Cudney's presentation was large, but if any RAB member wanted a copy they could email the request and it would be sent to them. Mr. Thomassy wanted a follow-up at the next meeting on the Chemical Warfare Materiel investigation so that a press release can be made to the public. Mr. Franklin feels the RAB will have a good turn out for the meeting in Weaver in September since the well sampling is a large issue with the citizens of Weaver. He would like the water sampling presentation to be presented in terms that the citizens can understand so they can be reassured on this issue. Ms. Donna Fathke agreed and also suggested not using acronyms. Mr. Levy agreed that the presentations must be on a level that can be understood easily by everyone. He also asked the RAB to help out by stopping a speaker immediately if there is something that is not understood so that the meaning can be clarified.

**IV. Audience Comments:** None

**V. Adjournment:** Mr. Branchfield received a motion to adjourn; it was seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.