

Minutes
Fort McClellan Restoration Advisory Board
Fort McClellan, AL
August 20, 2001

CO-CHAIR: Mr. Glynn Ryan; Dr. Barry Cox

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Scott Beckett; Mr. Craig Branchfield; Mr. James Buford; Mr. Pete Conroy; Mr. Jerome Elser; Mr. Curtis Franklin; Dr. Mary Harrington; Mr. Ron Hood; Mr. Jerry Hopper; Mayor Ed Kimbrough

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

I. Call To Order: Dr. Barry Cox called the roll and those present are listed above. The minutes from the July meeting were approved. The audience was then asked to introduce themselves.

II. Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. Ron Levy introduced Mr. Gary Harvey, Base Transition Coordinator, who gave an update on the status of disposal of property at Fort McClellan. Using maps with overlays and a powerpoint presentation, Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the management structure; workforce assets, and property disposal procedures and process. He discussed the property transfers to federal agencies, the Public Benefit Conveyances, utilities transfers, and transfers to the JPA. He explained that the Army has executed four deeds to the JPA, which is fifty-one percent of the facilities to be transferred and an additional transfer of property is scheduled to occur by the end of September. Mr. Levy and Mr. Harvey discussed an upcoming transfer, projected for November 2001, of 50 parcels of property that were environmentally encumbered and therefore were withheld from previous transfers until the BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) could complete investigations and make a determination that the parcels were ready for transfer. A Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) for this property was advertised in the newspaper for public comment. Responding to Mr. Conroy's query, Mr. Harvey stated the FOST is open to public comment and was posted in the legal section of the local newspaper. Mr. Harvey then displayed and discussed the status of environmental investigations at HTRW (hazardous, toxic, radiological waste) sites, UXO (unexploded ordnance) sites, and CWM (chemical warfare materiel) sites. There was no CWM found during the field phase of the CWM investigation, and that investigation report should be complete sometime next Spring. In discussing the UXO investigations and clean-up, Mr. Levy explained that the UXO clean-up uses a risk-based approach. He stated the Army will not turn over property until there is assurance the public is protected. Mr. Levy added he wanted the group to

understand that a risk-based cleanup approach is different than saying there will be a hundred percent cleanup. Mr. Harvey stated the Parks and Recreation FOST is scheduled to be advertised for public comment on Wednesday (August 22). In response to Mayor Kimbrough's question, Mr. Harvey stated Reilly and Yahoo lakes were cut out of the FOST since the investigation of those areas was not complete. A discussion ensued on clean up to protect the public as well as public involvement in the process. Ms. Wanda Champion asked if the Army could create a map notating the new property owners, to which Dr. Cox responded that when the property is turned over to Joint Powers Authority (JPA) they will be the owner. An audience member asked whether the JPA would take responsibility for environmental conditions when the property is transferred. Mr. Ryan stated that the Army cleans the property to a level that is acceptable to the reuse plan. Mr. Levy informed the RAB that all document information is in the repositories for the public to review, and if there are any questions the Army will provide the documentation. Ms. McKinney stated that she would make a copy of the repository index to give to the RAB members at the September meeting. Dr. Cox then moved on to the agency reports. Mr. Philip Stroud, Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), passed out summary reports that included all the reports ADEM has reviewed since January. He explained that his reviews are now slower because the documents are dealing with areas that have contamination and unexploded ordnance. Mr. Doyle Brittain, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), referred to slide eleven of Mr. Harvey's briefing and pointed out the enormous amount of work that had gone into investigation and transfer of property. He said he is not aware of any property that cannot be cleaned up and reused. Mr. Pete Conroy mentioned the large amount of information that is presented to the RAB and expressed concern that he doesn't understand much of it and that he may be missing something. Mr. Joe Doyle responded that on properties transferred to date there have essentially been no environmental encumbrances or limitations, other than for endangered species, that were different than those that would be placed on property purchased outside FMC. Mr. Levy reminded the RAB that the next meeting would be in Weaver, gave a short summary of the status of the landfill wells, and stated a complete update will be given at the next meeting. Mr. Ellis Pope stated that all wells have been sampled and the unvalidated preliminary data will be ready to present at the September meeting. Mr. Levy briefly updated the status of the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) investigations. For the Ordnance and Explosives (OE) EE/CA, field work in the Alpha area is complete but continues in the Bravo area while field work in Charlie area has not begun. Under the Chemical Warfare Materiel (CWM) EE/CA there was no CWM found on the sites that were investigated in the field work phase, but the investigation and report is not complete. The Army plans to issue a press release after the EE/CA process has been completed. Investigations are currently underway for CWM and HTRW on Pelham Range in support of transfer of property accountability to the National Guard. The Department of

the Army signed an Action Memorandum on the Eastern By-Pass EE/CA investigation. There was a public meeting for this EE/CA, and ADEM and EPA concurred with the Action Memorandum. The Army is hoping the final OE clearance on Tract #3 of the Eastern Bypass will be completed so that this tract can be transferred to ALDOT by the end of next summer. Following Mr. Ryan's statement that the area is closed and considered unsafe, Mr. Conroy suggested a field trip so that the community could be made aware of the construction on Tract #3. A tentative date of September 4 was set for the trip. For the final item on the Action Summary Sheet, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indefinitely postponed the previously scheduled controlled burn. Ms. McKinney stated that by the next meeting, the RAB should have one vacancy. In response to Mr. Conroy's questions concerning when the landfill EE/CA would be complete, Mr. Levy said he expected completion by this fall with public review to follow.

- III. Audience Comments:** Mr. Howland questioned whether there were some areas at FMC where contaminant levels that are currently considered safe by the EPA could at some time in the future be considered unsafe due to new guidelines established by the EPA. Mr. Brittain stated that EPA decisions are based on the best available information at any particular point in time, and he could not say whether those decisions would be changed based on new information. He also said that when a decision for cleanup is determined, there will be a public meeting and the community will have the opportunity to comment and those comments will be considered before a final decision is made. Continuing, he said a final agreement is reached only when ADEM, the Army, and EPA are in agreement. Mr. Conroy stated that Mr. Howland (Enviroman) has a television show and suggested that Mr. Howland invite members of the BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) to the show to talk about the cleanup at Fort McClellan. Mr. Charlie Parris asked about the maintenance of the Post and POW Cemeteries, and Mr. Ryan replied that the Army would maintain them. Ms. Champion felt that as progress continues at Fort McClellan, more people will be attending the RAB meeting and wanted to know if accommodations could be made for additional guests. Mr. Ryan responded that Lide Hall, a facility located on post, would accommodate a larger crowd.
- IV. Adjournment:** Dr. Cox received a motion to adjourn; it was seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.