

**Minutes**  
**Fort McClellan Restoration Advisory Board**  
**Fort McClellan, AL**  
**September 17, 2001**

**CO-CHAIR:** Mr. Glynn Ryan; Mayor Ed Kimbrough

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. James Buford; Mr. Pete Conroy; Mr. Don Cunningham; Mr. Jerome Elser; Ms. Donna Fathke; Mr. Curtis Franklin; Mr. Ron Hood; Mayor Ed Kimbrough; Mr. Fern Thomassy.

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

---

- I. **Call To Order:** The Community Co-Chair, Dr. Cox, was absent, so Mayor Kimbrough filled in for him. He called the roll and those present are listed above. The minutes were approved, however, Mr. Conroy called for a question and requested a clarification of the August minutes. He felt his comments that were placed in the last meeting minutes might have been misunderstood. He wanted go on record with the statement that there is an awful lot of information coming to the RAB and he doesn't want the RAB to be held responsible for actions that are taken later on under the perception that the RAB fully understood the events. Additionally, he does not think the RAB has had the in-depth discussion relative to some of the issues that have been presented to give a comfort level that provides RAB members to absolutely say they are for or against any issues that are presented at these meetings. A short discussion ensued and it was agreed to include the clarification in the meeting minutes.
- II. **Old Business:** Mr. Ron Levy spoke briefly about the Eastern Bypass tour that had taken place in September and stated that arrangements could be made if someone else was interested in making the tour. He also reminded the RAB members that they had a handout of a Repository Index that lists all the documents available for public viewing and their location.
- III. **New Business:** Mr. Levy introduced Mr. Ellis Pope, Mobile District Corps of Engineers, who gave an update of preliminary results of recent groundwater monitoring wells associated with Landfill #3. Mr. Pope provided background information, historical data and, using maps and slides, identified and described each well. Nine monitoring wells have been installed. These wells were pointed out on a map and included existing wells from the 1994 and 1995 study. The Weaver City wells and two domestic wells off-post were sampled and no contamination was found. Contamination was found in both off-post and on-post monitoring wells. The on-post wells were identified as GO-3, GO-4, GO-7, and GO-20. The contaminant found was chlorinated solvents. The well in the median of Highway 21 had the most significant

contamination. According to historical data, the contamination has increased over the years. Responding to Mayor Kimbrough's query whether the increase indicates the contaminants are moving, Mr. Pope responded it was a possibility. He stated that on-post well seven (G0-7), which is closest to what is believed to be the source, also has increased contamination. Low levels of carbon tetrachloride were detected in well 27 (G0-27) on Blarney Drive in a previous sampling so it was resampled for carbon tetrachloride in June and came back as non-detect.

He said that because of the variance of data, such as what distance the contamination has traveled, how deep, and in what direction, additional study is required to determine the next step. The contractors and the BRAC Cleanup Team will meet and determine the best course of action for the next set of wells. He informed the RAB that the contaminants in the ground water are not a threat to human health or the environment. He summarized by reiterating the known information, i.e., there is contamination off-post; however it is not in domestic wells across Highway 21 and it is not in Weaver City wells. He continued by explaining the unknowns such as the extent of the plume, where, or how deep it is.

A short discussion ensued concerning access to private property in order to place some wells that may be crucial to the investigation. Mr. Levy pointed out that there are still additional wells to go in, and as new data becomes available, it will be presented to the RAB.

Mayor Kimbrough stated that if there is ever a problem with the Weaver City wells, a back up plan is in effect with the Anniston Water System. Currently, there is a problem getting the water up to the high elevations, but hopefully that will be cleared up soon.

The agency reports were then presented, beginning with Mr. Stroud, ADEM, who stated that the last month's information had a lot of pending reports and he has been working on many of those this month.

Mr. Doyle Brittain, EPA, stated that while he had been reviewing some small reports, the largest one, on the landfills, is composed of five 4-inch thick binders. He concluded that he is working with the State and the Army to move forward on these documents.

Commissioner Randy Woods, JPA, who was attending the meeting, announced that JPA would meet Tuesday morning at 7:30 A.M. and the public is invited. One of the agenda items is a contract on a five-thousand acre plot.

Mr. Levy then discussed the Action Summary Sheet items. He explained to the audience that the Action Summary sheet is a list of items identifying environmental work that has occurred over the past month.

He discussed two items under the ordnance and explosive Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) investigation. In the Alpha Area EE/CA, the originally planned field work for site characterization was completed, but due to some of the findings we are doing additional field work that we expect to complete in October. Bravo Area, which is in the southwest part of the installation, is in the process of brush clearing for grids and transects. He briefly discussed the items found to date and stated the field work is expected

to be completed in December or possibly later, depending on the clearing process. The Charlie Area is the area that has been designated for the National Wildlife Refuge. Comments from regulatory agencies, including Fish and Wildlife, pertaining to that EE/ CA are still being addressed.

Mr. Levy stated there are about seventy-seven contractor personnel on site to support the OE effort and approximately thirty-five contractor personnel working the HTRW Sites.

He reminded the RAB that the Army completed the Chemical Warfare Material (CWM) EE/CA field work and no CWM was discovered in the investigation. He said the Army is currently working on the report and expects it to become available to the public in November. He stated a press release would be prepared after that which would discuss the results.

Mr. Levy concluded the Action Summary Sheet by discussing the current status of clearing the Eastern Bypass site. He explained the process and requirements of documentation and safety considerations and said that while geophysical work is being done, no removal will be accomplished until approval is received from the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board. He reminded the RAB that the Army has already transferred a parcel that is identified as Tract #1 and ALDOT has placed a fence around it.

Mayor Kimbrough then called for questions from RAB members. Mr. Elser pointed out the rapid increase in contaminants in OLFG-12 well and voiced concern over the potential of future increase. A discussion ensued and it was explained that these contaminants are degreasers and solvents. Mr. Levy explained that some of this contamination could be due to solvents used in a dry cleaning operation or weapon cleaning operation. Responding to Mayor Kimbrough's query about acceptable levels in drinking water, Mr. Pope replied that while the levels of these contaminants are over the drinking water standard, no one is drinking the water and there are no receptors. A discussion ensued on established drinking water standards, maximum contaminant levels and which compounds are carcinogens.

Ms. McKinney announced that at the October meeting, the new co-chair, Mr. Craig Branchfield, will ascend and a new vice co-chair should be elected. She stated she believed there is one vacancy on the RAB board and a new member should be selected. The October meeting will be at Fort McClellan.

- IV. Audience Comments:** Mr. Keith Howland provided information concerning TCE levels in Anniston and was concerned if any of the contaminants would move with increased pumping of the Weaver City wells. Mr. Josh Jenkins explained the various faults and their location, and a brief discussion then evolved concerning comparison of the contaminated groundwater at Anniston Army Depot to what Ft McClellan might be experiencing. Mr. Levy agreed that these were good questions, but at this point, the Army doesn't have all the answers and does not know where the migration is and where it is going. Mr. Jenkins then discussed the recent drought conditions and rise and fall of water levels and how that could affect contaminants being flushed into the system.

He concluded by stating that the Weaver City wells are not contaminated and additional wells will be needed to answer more questions.

Mr. Medders expressed his concern about the four metal contaminants that exceeded the EPA standards that the Army found in his well when it was tested in 1995 and about the fact he had not received sampling results from this recent round of sampling. Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Brittain, Mr. Stroud, Mr. Pope, and Mr. Levy explained that due to incorrect sampling technique in 1995, the groundwater samples that were collected had soil in them and the test results reflected metals that were in the soils rather than in the groundwater. They explained that a study to establish background metals levels for this area showed certain metals in our soil to be naturally occurring and above EPA levels. Mr. Pope assured Mr. Medders that when the data is validated from this recent well sampling, the Army will send the results to him. Mr. Levy offered to meet with Mr. Medders to address his concerns and get answers for any questions he has.

Ms. Champion discussed the similar water contamination issues of Anniston Army Depot and Ft McClellan and asked if it was possible to hold a joint RAB meeting between the two. She also asked Mr. Conroy if it was possible to convene some sort of Water Committee to discuss all the water issues in the area. Mr. Conroy responded positively.

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