

## Minutes

### General Meeting Ft McClellan Restoration Advisory Board November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1998

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Conroy, Jerome Elser, Alan Faust, Ron Hood, Ed Kimbrough, James Miller, Jimmy Parks

#### BRAC CLEANUP TEAM (BCT) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Johnson, Bart Reedy

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**I. CALL TO ORDER.** Mr. Conroy called the meeting to order at 6:30. He called roll and asked audience to introduce themselves.

**II. MEETING DISCUSSION.** Mr. Conroy called on BCT members to provide an informal status of the cleanup and asked Mr. Reedy to open the discussion. Mr. Reedy summarized the activity to date, discussed the methods used and informed the members of nearly continuous oversight by EPA contractor. He stated the data should begin to be reported around the first of the year. He then discussed the data analysis process and stated that based on those results, the budget process was then revisited. Mr. Chris Johnson discussed the water sampling procedures. He also discussed the UXO cleanup and stated that the work plan was being reviewed; he didn't anticipate any major issues to be raised at an upcoming meeting and so far, everything appeared on schedule.

Mr. Conroy then suggested the RAB consider attending an actual site sampling demonstration. After a short discussion, it was decided to contact the contractor, IT Corp and determine a date, either Dec 4<sup>th</sup> or Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, then notify the RAB. Mr. Chris Johnson informed the RAB of a DOT Public Hearing scheduled for December 3, 1998 at the Anniston Meeting Center from 4-6pm to discuss the Anniston Eastern Bypass. Mayor Kimbrough mentioned that representatives from ALDOT (Mr Terry Robinson) and Huntsville (Mr. Dave Skridulis) made an excellent presentation to the Metropolitan Planning Organization and asked if they could make a similar presentation at the next RAB meeting. A short discussion followed concerning the bypass route and the need for a JPA representative to attend the RAB meetings.

Mr. Conroy then introduced a representative from the Chemical School, MAJ Johnson, who made a presentation on the graphite smoke training proposed for Ft McClellan. MAJ Johnson explained the composition of the smoke, the research completed on existing studies and the review of some environment assessment information. An extensive discussion followed during which the RAB queried MAJ Johnson on various characteristics of the smoke, use of protective equipment; short- and long-term effects on humans and the training area, air modeling and resuspension. He identified Range 24A as the training area and stated a review of the release of smoke was being conducted. He said that every stability category was being looked at. He assured the RAB the Chemical School was not setting a precedence which would allow for the National Guard to conduct this type training on Pelham Range. Mr. Miller asked why

this type smoke training was being conducted for the first time here, since Ft McClellan is closing. MAJ Johnson's response was that training standards required it and the objective was to conduct five events per month with a programmed schedule of January 99 – August 99. Several members of the RAB reiterated this smoke training had not been conducted anywhere else and questioned the necessity to have it here. Mr. Chris Johnson informed the RAB that ADEM does not require a permit for the graphite fog oil training however he was concerned about potential impacts to the environment. He reminded the RAB that Range 24A was currently in a remedial investigation phase and this training could impact some technical problems. Mr. John Esson, TRADOC Environmental Office, arrived at this point and after receiving a summary of the meeting, explained that he had written the EA and had developed six alternatives for the local commander. He then outlined the alternatives. The RAB held a lengthy discussion on the EA process including agency and public review. They also discussed the decision making process to determine which training alternative would be selected. At this time, Mr. Conroy had to leave so he turned the meeting over to Mr. Hood. Mr. Don Walters asked about long-term effect of graphite in soil and MAJ Johnson replied that the only study completed extended to two years. Mr. Esson stated the graphite was pure carbon and ingestion would not occur. He also reminded the RAB that training was only being conducted over a period of a few months. MAJ Johnson and the RAB then discussed the difference in permitting process at the various military installations where this training would occur. They also discussed the potential for this training to be continued at Pelham Range by the National Guard. Mr. Reedy asked how long it would take to get this training up and running in Missouri. MAJ Johnson said it would take 18-24 months because the requirements were different; he said there were threatened and endangered species involved and a different training environment. Mr. Hood concluded this portion of the meeting and reminded everyone there would be no meeting in December and the next meeting is scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

**III. ADJOURNMENT.** Mr. Hood adjourned the meeting.