

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Restoration Advisory Board Meeting, November 30, 2021

PREPARED FOR: NAVFAC NW

COPY TO:

PREPARED BY: CH2M

DATE: December 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Summary of Meeting Minutes from the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Meeting on November 30, 2021

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to update the public on the restoration program and be part of ongoing actions by providing input.

Navy Staff: Captain Eric Hanks
Melissa Gehrmann (Navy co-chair)
Kendra Clubb (Navy co-chair)
Laura Himes
Mike Welding
Tom Mills

RAB Members: Doug Kelly (Community Co-Chair)
Celine Servatius
Gary Windlund
Alfred Williams

RAB Members (non-voting):
Chan Pongkhamsing, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Sandra Caldwell, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Ron Johnson, Ecology
Mike Shaljjan, Ecology

CH2M: Jennifer Madsen
Leti Solaun
Brittany Prentice

Facilitator: JoAnn Grady

Stenographer: Connie Recob

Summary

This document presents a summary of the November 30, 2021 RAB Meeting. The meeting summary is divided into seven main sections:

- Part 1: Introductions & Administrative Items
- Part 2: Area 6 Update
- Part 3: Munitions Program Update
- Part 4: Petroleum Program Update
- Part 5: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Drinking Water Update
- Part 6: PFAS CERCLA Update
- Part 7: Community Questions

Meeting commenced at 5:09 p.m.

Part 1 Introductions & Administrative Items

Introductions

RAB Overview

- Ms. Gehrman gave a quick overview of the RAB. A RAB is a stakeholder group that meets, on a regular basis, to discuss environmental restoration at a specific property that is either currently or was formerly owned by the DoD, and where the DoD oversees the environmental restoration process. Members of the RAB are conduits of information between the community and the Navy. Environmental restoration includes all environmental investigations and/or cleanup that fall under the CERCLA regulatory framework which also includes Military Munitions Response Program and State-regulated petroleum cleanups. It does not include installation compliance issues such as pipeline, USTs, stormwater, etc.

Administrative Items

- Approval of previous meeting minutes (May 2021) were motioned and seconded.
- Navy to provide the template PFAS letter to an agricultural operator to the RAB members.
 - Completed May 18, 2021 by Kendra Clubb.

NASWI Overview

- Quick overview of the restoration sites and the locations of all of the sites in Ault Field, Seaplane Base, OLF Coupeville, and Lake Hancock.

Part 2 Area 6 Update – Laura Himes

Area 6 Landfill Update

- Groundwater monitoring is being conducted.
- A new south advanced oxidation process (AOP) groundwater treatment plant is being added.
- Since last RAB meeting, the work has been focused on implementing the Record of Decision Amendment.

- Construction of the southern AOP groundwater treatment plan has been completed and operating since October 2021. Reviewed pictures of the new plant.
- Remedial action activities continue, including Land Use Controls inspections, operating the existing air stripper groundwater treatment system, and conducting groundwater monitoring.
- Upcoming work:
 - Finalize the design for the western AOP system which will upgrade the current air stripper system to AOP.
 - Continue to operate the south AOP system and prepare the construction completion report.
 - Draft the workplans and start real estate discussions with off-site property owners to install monitoring wells to the south to delineate the groundwater plume.
 - Continue with the groundwater treatment system and landfill operation and maintenance.
 - Continue long-term groundwater monitoring.

Questions

- Al Williams: Have the wells with positive results for 1,4-dioxane been worked on?
 - Laura Himes: The system along the west and south property line has been operating since 1995 and has done a good job of capturing the chlorinated plume. We are still seeing 1,4-dioxane and vinyl chloride going off site to the south. Wells that we have with private property owners to the west have shown that the system has done a good job of capturing the part of the plume that is going off to the west. We are planning to add additional production wells to the western system when we convert it to an AOP.

Part 3 Military Munitions Response Program Update – Laura Himes

- Actively working on the Lake Hancock target range.
- Surface clearance removal was conducted at the Lake Hancock target range over the summer and approximately 29 acres was covered.
- Upcoming work:
 - Finalize the 2021 surface clearance completion report.
 - Continue to have land use controls including annual inspections until less than ten munition anomalies are found as outlined in the ROD.
 - The next annual surface clearance will be conducted during summer 2022.
 - The next five-year review is due in 2023.

Questions

- Paul Perlwitz: How often is the fence line at Lake Hancock inspected?

- Laura Himes: Not sure of the frequency. This question will be added as an action item.
- Ron Johnson: The Navy inspects the perimeter fencing during their annual clearance.

Part 4 Petroleum Restoration Program Update – Laura Himes

- Conducting groundwater monitoring for petroleum compounds and limited free product removal in select wells at the four Former Fuel Farm sites.
- Additional excavation was conducted at the former “A3 Memorial” underground storage tank site in October 2021.

Questions

- What will the future use of the “A3 Memorial” location be? Will that still have a static display on it? What is the plan moving forward for this location?
 - Captain Hanks: Right now there is no intent. A static display is not moving there. I don’t know what’s going to go there but this will be taken into account with other decisions.

Part 5 PFAS Drinking Water Update – Kendra Clubb

- Navy has sampled 286 individual drinking water wells near the Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Coupeville, Ault Field, and the Former Landfill Area 6. We identified 16 wells near OLF Coupeville, Ault Field and Area 6 above the EPA's lifetime health advisory. Eight wells were near OLF Coupeville and eight wells were also identified near Ault Field and Area 6.
- Since last RAB:
 - Biannual drinking water well sampling was conducted in October 2021. This includes resampling of all wells that had detections and exceedances and properties adjacent to properties with exceedances of the lifetime health advisory.
 - Continuing to provide bottled water service or point-of-use treatment to residents who have exceedances for PFOS and/or PFOA. We are slowly stopping bottled water for those that we have provided a long-term solution.
 - The cooperative agreement with the Town of Coupeville for PFAS water treatment was awarded for the long-term solution selected for residents in Coupeville. The first quarterly sampling event was conducted in October 2021.
 - The design for the last segment of the new water main construction that will be associated with the long-term solution in Coupeville has been revised. The Town of Coupeville has resumed work on the associated easement with the new water main under a separate cooperative agreement with the Navy.
 - The workplans and designs have been finalized for long-term solutions in Oak Harbor associated with the new connections and construction has begun for the impacted well owners in November 2021.
- Upcoming work:
 - Spring 2022 biannual drinking water well sampling event.
 - Work with Town of Coupeville for the operation and maintenance of the PFAS treatment and easements for the new water main in Coupeville.

- Complete all new connections to the City of Oak Harbor waterline for six impacted well owners in Oak Harbor.

Questions

- Doug Kelly: What all is being sampled at Coupeville? Pre and post treatment?
 - Kendra Clubb: Sampling occurs at the influent to the plant, prior to each treatment train, the midpoint between vessels in the treatment trains, effluent of the treatment, combined effluent that goes to the town of Coupeville. All functional wells at Fort Casey are also sampled.

Part 6 PFAS CERCLA Investigation Update – Kendra Clubb

- Prior to providing specifics on the program, background was provided on the Navy’s CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act) work at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and how/why the Navy moves from one step to the next. In 2018, the Navy finalized preliminary assessments at three locations, Ault Field (including Area 6), Seaplane Base, and OLF Coupeville specifically for PFAS. The preliminary assessment is the first step in the CERCLA process. It includes a comprehensive record search and interviews to determine where known or potential releases of PFAS occurred. If areas are identified in the preliminary assessment, then the areas proceed to a site inspection, the second step in the CERCLA process. The site inspection consists of determining the presence of PFAS in an area of interest by groundwater and soil sampling. If PFAS is identified above appropriate risk-based screening levels and is linked to a Navy PFAS release, then a remedial investigation is conducted. A remedial investigation consists of delineating PFAS and conducting a risk evaluation. The science is evolving around PFAS and the Navy currently only has EPA-vetted risk screening levels for PFBS, PFOA, and PFOS in soil and groundwater.
 - At Ault Field, 39 sites evaluated in the preliminary assessment; 4 sites are no further action. 35 sites evaluated in the site inspection; 8 sites will not move to a remedial investigation. 27 sites will move to a remedial investigation
- At Ault Field/Area 6, 39 sites were evaluated in the preliminary assessment; 4 sites require no further action. 35 sites were evaluated in the site inspection; 8 sites will not move to a remedial investigation. 27 sites will move to a remedial investigation, which include the Current Fire Training Area, Former Runway Fire School, Area 6 Landfill, Ault Field Airfield (21 sites), Former Sewage Lagoons, Current Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Former Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- At Seaplane Base, 6 sites were evaluated in the preliminary assessment; 3 sites require no further action. The report for the site inspection is pending, so the number of the site proceeding to the remedial investigation is known at this time. The sites evaluated in the site inspection include Building 18, Sanitary Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Biosolids Land Application Area.
- Since the last RAB
 - Finalized Ault Field Phase 2 Site Inspection Report.
 - Drafted Area 31 Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plans.
 - Started developing the Area 6 Landfill and the Current Fire Training Area Remedial Investigation Work Plans.

- Started developing a Baseline Groundwater Model for Ault Field.
- Drafted the Seaplane Base SI Report.
- Finalized the OLF Supplemental SI Report.
- Drafted the OLF Supplemental SI Report Addendum.
- Drafted work plans for OLF Coupeville Remedial Investigation. The remedial investigation will include installing new wells where there is little or no PFAS data; installing up to five off-base wells to the east, south and west of OLF; collecting sediment and surface water, where necessary; performing a human health risk assessment; and refining the groundwater and PFOS, PFOA, and PFBS transport model.
- Drafted preliminary assessments for the NASWI specialty areas, which includes Boardman Range, Racon Hill, Lake Hancock, and Coos Head/Bay.
- Upcoming work:
 - Finalize the Area 31 RI Work Plans and begin field work.
 - Draft the Area 6 Landfill and Current Fire Training Area RI Work Plans.
 - Finalize the Work Plans associated with a baseline groundwater model and start field work.
 - Finalize the Seaplane Base SI Report.
 - Finalize the OLF Coupeville Supplemental SI Report Addendum.
 - Finalize the OLF Coupeville RI Work Plans and complete the on-Base field work. The OLF RI Work Plan addendum will be drafted for the off-Base work.
 - Finalize the NASWI Specialty Area preliminary assessment.

Questions

- Doug Kelly: Would it be possible for the Navy to notify RAB members when these reports are available?
 - Kendra Clubb: Yes, we can set up meetings to walk through the reports with the RAB members.

Part 7 Community Questions

- With regard to the MS4 stormwater permit, is the Navy going to do any testing of the PFAS that is being released through the permit?
 - The MS4 permit is environmental compliance, which is not a focus of this RAB. This item can be addressed outside of this meeting. Melissa Gehrmann to follow-up with Garrett Newkirk.
- Has the Navy removed the use PFAS and AFFF from OLF Coupeville?
 - AFFF or PFAS is not used for training at OLF Coupeville anymore. In case of emergency, AFFF will be deployed; however, an extensive spill contingency plan is in place to contain the release as soon as possible.

- Other foams are being evaluated to meet the military specification for AFFF on DoD bases.
- How do the PFAS numbers compare to the new Washington State PFAS levels?
 - This rule applies to all Group A wells in the state of Washington, which is for connections of greater than 15 for a well. The number of wells in the Navy's off-base drinking water program that exceed the new lower Department of Health action levels have been identified. That is the extent of the evaluation at this time.
- Will the wells south of OLF Coupeville be on the south side of State Route 20?
 - Wells are being installed to the south of OLF Coupeville, but not south of State Route 20.
- Are there any plans to test the Admiral's Cove Water District well again in the next sampling event?
 - There is no plan to test those wells again because during prior sampling they were non-detect for PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS.
- Are Ecology's dangerous waste regulations Chapter 173-303 WAC considered ARARs?
 - Yes, they are.
- How were the addresses provided to send the letters to the off-Base and on-Base ag operators near Ault Field Area 6 and OLF Coupeville?
 - The addresses were provided by the Food and Drug Administration.
- When was the last mailing sent to all off-Base private well owners around OLF Coupeville notifying them of the opportunity to have their well tested for PFAS?
 - The last mailing to off-Base residents for the first time well sampling and follow-up second chance sampling was in 2017 near OLF Coupeville and in 2018 near Ault Field and Area 6 landfill. The area near Ault Field included the area near Clover Valley Creek.
- When was the last round of sampling of on-Base monitoring wells at OLF Coupeville conducted, and on which website are the results posted?
 - The latest round of sampling of the on-Base monitoring wells at OLF Coupeville was in 2019 and 2020. The report for this information was finalized in October of 2021 and will be posted on the website shortly.
- Why is the reporting of monitoring well results for the OLF Coupeville on-Base monitoring wells limited to four PFAS when a larger number are found and reported in off-Base wells?
 - 18 PFAS were analyzed in accordance with the current Navy guidelines. The results for PFOS, PFOA, and PFBS in groundwater and soil are compared to the screening values based on vetted EPA toxicity values and DoD guidance. The results for the other 15 PFAS are presented in an appendix in all PFAS reports (which includes PFHxS). This data may be further evaluated in the future if criteria are established.
- What is the reasoning behind the dropping of information and discussion on Clover Creek Lake area private well surface water and soil contamination from the RAB? Where can PFAS sampling and results be found?

- *PFAS results associated with the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program on and off-base near Naval Air Station Whidbey Island can be found at: <https://navfac.navy.mil/NWPFAS> and https://www.navfac.navy.mil/products_and_services/ev/products_and_services/env_restoration/pfas_reading_room.html#Washington. The sample results include off-base drinking water sampling and on-base soil and groundwater sampling associated with our CERCLA investigations.*
- *PFAS results from Clover Valley Creek are still posted at the bottom of the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island RAB website. See <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/NASWIRAB>*
- Has anyone done any sampling on the Marine life in Dugualla Bay?
 - The Navy has not done any sampling of the marine life at this point. Sediment and surface water sampling is planned as part of upcoming remedial investigations to understand the migration pathways. Depending on the data and the results of the investigation, this could lead to sampling Dugualla Bay in the future, but it is not planned at this time.

Meeting Wrap Up and Action Items

- Action items
 - How often is the fence at Lake Hancock inspected?
 - Melissa Gehrmann to contact Garrett Newkirk to further discuss MS-4 permit concerns
 - Provide information on alternative AFFF usage by the DoD
 - Notify RAB members when documents that are of interest to them are made available
 - Updating PFAS data on website
- Next RAB meeting will be in spring of 2022. The Navy would like input from the RAB members and the public if they prefer future RAB meetings continue using the virtual platform or they prefer in-person meetings, once it's safe to do so.
- Captain Hanks thanked the RAB and community members for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.