

***Final Minutes
Restoration Advisory Board
Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range
May 21, 2003***

The May 21st, 2003, meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was held at the Aurora Public Library at 14949 E. Alameda Dr., Aurora, Colorado 80012. The meeting started at 6:15 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ms. Bonnie Rader, Community co-chair for the RAB opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Ms. Rader asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

Attendance

The following RAB members were present:

Jerry Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (USACE), Co-chair
Jeff Swanson, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)
Bonnie Rader, Community Co-Chair
Mark Harding, Rangeview Metropolitan District
James Ives, City of Aurora
Dave Denton, Laing Village, LLC
Steve Ormiston, Shea Homes
Carol Maclennan, Tri-County Health Department
Bob Hastings, Colorado Countryside, Inc.
Joe Freund, Citizen
Ed Lohr, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Other attendees:

Keith Wegner, Correlation Corp.
John Mullen, Shaw Environmental Inc.
Tracie White, Shaw Environmental Inc.
Teri Hartman, Shaw Environmental Inc.
Morey Engle, Shaw Environmental Inc.
Laura Bishard, CDPHE
Sean Buckley, Parson Engineering Science (PES)
Fred Esposito, Office of Navy Research
Darrell Frey, EPA Region 8
Randy Hawbaker, Cherry Creek School District
Amy Lange, CH2M Hill
Sharon Moore, AETC
David Rathke, EPA Region 8
Lynn Robbio Wagner, Tri-County Health Department
Jeanette Alberg, U.S. Senator Wayne Allard's office
Greg Williams, Tetrattech Foster Wheeler
Matt Benson, Blackhawk
Skip Sowards, Blackhawk
Matt Levesque, Geophex UXO
Janice Sinden, SHORE
Joe Knopinski, Alpert Corporation
Peggy Linn, EPA Region 8

GENERAL RAB ITEMS

Ms. Bonnie Rader (Community Co-chair) asked if the board had an opportunity to review the minutes of the prior meeting (January 18, 2003). The minutes for the January 18th, 2003 RAB meeting were approved with no comment.

PRIVATE CLEARANCE

Greg Williams, of Tetrtech FW discussed clearance activities for the High Plains and Beacon Point properties; no formal slide show was presented.

Beacon Point Property

Clearance activities in this area were completed the week of May 12, 2003. The completion report for a portion of the site was submitted to the CDPHE in April 2003.

High Plains Property

The High Plains property has been subdivided into thirds for the clearance efforts. Clearance activities in the northern third of the property have been completed. The removal report for the southern third of the property is expected to be completed the week of May 26, 2003. Clearance activities in the middle portion of the site are expected to be completed within approximately 4-6 weeks. Items removed from the High Plains property include OE items, scrap material (fence posts, wiring), and farm implements.

Clearance activities in the more-densely populated areas of the High Plains property took place in three phases:

1. Phase 1: Mag and dig operations (removed approximately 250,000 items at very shallow depths).
2. Phase 2: Mag and dig operations (removed additional items and cleared to a depth of 8"-9" below surface).
3. Phase 3: Using different geophysical instruments, detected and recovered items up to 15" deep.

Discussion

When asked whether or not any UXO had been found on the properties, Mr. Williams stated that eleven 20mm rounds required demolition. Ten of these items had intact fuzes; the fuze had been knocked off of the remaining item.

Mr. Williams indicated that several inert OE items were also found across the sites. These included several intact 20mm rounds in burial pits. One pit contained approximately 1,500 of these abandoned projectiles. A number of .50 caliber rounds were also found in the pits.

Additionally, one burial pit was found to the west of Beacon Point that contained grommets and fuze cans (28 grommets, 3 eye bolts, and 12 fuze cans) from 155mm projectiles. Mr. Williams indicated that he believes this indicates evidence of a possible 155mm firing point.

Mr. Williams was asked how many teams were working on the clearances, to which he replied the High Plains property, between December and March, employed about 65 people performing clearance activities six days per week. There are currently 30 people performing clearance activities six days per week.

Mr. Jeff Swanson stated that he began reviewing the first report submitted by Tetrtech FW and will determine if the report meets all requirements. The report was submitted electronically as an Adobe Acrobat file, and he will supply a copy to anyone who would like one. He expects the document will take at least one to two weeks to review.

Mr. Jerry Hodgson posed the question of what the expectation is regarding the Corp's responsibility for items found in the privately-cleared properties after the clearances are completed and construction begins. He expressed concern that Tetrtech FW performed clearance operations in an area for which the USACE had planned to provide construction support; however if items were missed during private clearances by Tetrtech FW, who is responsible for evaluating and disposing of those missed items? Mr. Jeff Swanson replied that if any items were missed, the military munitions are still the responsibility of the Department of Defense. Mr. Williams stated that the land was

cleared with the best technology available. He indicated that he could not say that all metal was removed, but 400,000 items were removed from the area.

Mr. Dave Denton, Laing Village LLC., asked Mr. Hodgson whether or not he felt the developers cleared an area that did not necessitate clearance activities. Mr. Hodgson replied that he felt the risk in that area was very low and that construction support was appropriate to address UXO hazards. Mr. Hodgson stated that he felt the clearance results of Tetrtech FW validated his position in that over 400,000 OE items were found, of which 11 were UXO on over 600 acres of property. Mr. Hodgson also reiterated his position that the clearances in the 20mm Range Fan area of concern was a “legal clearance” agreed to in order to settle the lawsuit, not a risk based clearance

Mr. Mark Harding of Rangeview Metropolitan District indicated that, from the US Homes perspective, development could not move forward until the CDPHE gave the go-ahead to begin development activities. As the property was not a high priority for government clearance, Tetrtech FW was brought in to start and complete clearance of the area. Otherwise, Mr. Harding felt the land would not be approved for development for several years.

Discussion ensued regarding various RAB members’ personal opinions as to whether or not private clearance is less expensive or more expensive than USACE ordnance clearance, and whether or not private contractors should be able to request cost recovery from the government.

Wheatlands Property

(Presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Matt Benson of Blackhawk UXO Services, on behalf of Shea Homes, gave a presentation regarding the clearance activities on the Wheatlands Property, which is approximately 1.3 miles southwest of the Jeep/Demolition Range. Mr. Benson indicated that an internal grid system was not implemented for clearing the 100-acre Wheatlands site. Instead, the site would be cleared as one large grid.

Schonstedts are being used for detection during the intrusive activities. There are typically a total of 10 people working in the field at any given time – 2, 4-person dig teams accompanied by a SUXOS and UXOQC.

Mr. Benson indicated that to date, no UXO or OE items have been recovered from the Wheatlands property. Only metal trash (such as fence posts, nails, barbed wire, etc.) has been found.

Southshore Property

(Presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Matt Benson also presented a progress report on the Southshore property, which is being cleared for Laing Village, LLC. Southshore is comprised of approximately 800 acres south of the Aurora Reservoir, to be used for single family and multi-family dwellings. On this property, an internal grid system was established with 200’ x 200’ grids. As the Southshore property lies inside the FLBGR boundary, the QC process is being held to the Military Standard 1916. Approximately 95 acres have been geophysically mapped, and 20 acres have been intrusively investigated.

Mr. Benson was asked whether or not any UXO items have been found on either the Southshore or the Wheatlands property. His response was that all items found to date on both properties have been inert; no UXO have been recovered.

Mr. Benson was asked who made the decision to search and clear the Wheatlands property. Mr. Benson replied that Shea Homes made the decision to do a full clearance of the site.

LOWRY TRAINING ANNEX

Air Force Report

(handout posted on web)

Mr. Jerry Hodgson, on behalf of Ms. Sharon Moore, United States Air Force (USAF), stated there are two teams performing clearances at the Former Lowry Training Annex (FLTA). A total of 254 grids are complete to date, with 9 awaiting QC/QA.

FORMER LOWRY BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE

Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

(handout posted on the web)

Mr. Keith Wegner, Correlation Corporation, conveyed his comments to the Navy FLTA DRI Site Closeout Report. One comment in particular referred to the term "hot-dirt" used in the Report. Mr. Wegner pointed out that "hot-dirt" in this case refers to dirt with a high metallic content, not radioactive material. Using this term can be confusing.

All radioactive material has been removed except one drum. Arrangements have been made to move the drum to a low level radiological disposal site. Until that time, the drum will remain locked in a secure facility.

Mr. Wegner was asked if radiation surveys will be performed to determine whether or not scatter areas exist. Mr. Swanson replied that the Navy should do a clearance of the site, so that if some radioactive material still exists, it will be found and removed. Mr. Ed Lohr responded that additional clearance can be done, but not a 100% full clearance.

Field Work Update

(presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Jerry Hodgson presented a summary/update of the FLBGR project status. The presentation included a summary of current activities and a summary of activities completed to date. There are currently four teams performing clearance activities; two are working at the FLTA, and two are in Bombing Target 6.

Mr. Hodgson mentioned that the Area of Concern (AOC) slide has been changed to depict the AOC's in more detail. Blue AOC's have been worked in the past, but are currently idle, red AOC's have had no OE response activities work performed, and yellow are currently being cleared. Teams performing clearance activities include seven people.

Mr. Hodgson discussed the possibility of extending the boundary of Bombing Target 6 on the northeastern portion of the target due to the volume of items being found in the northeastern grids. However, due to the very small volume of items found in the southern grids, the Bombing Target 6 boundary to the south may be reduced.

Team day estimates for each of the AOCs on the FLBGR have been revised, and as a result, the project is currently 23% complete. This percentage is less than presented at the last RAB meeting (28%) due to the revision of team day estimates. Based on field clearance data, more team days are estimated to be required in the Rocket Range and Jeep/Demolition Range than previously anticipated.

RCWM Update

Additional funding for FY03 was received from an established contingency fund, separate from the FUDS budget. The \$5.3M received from the contingency fund brings the total FY03 RCWM funding to \$7.3M.

Between conventional and RCWM activities, there are approximately 80 people working at the FLBGR. Intrusive RCWM response activities may begin on June 9, 2003.

Mr. Hodgson indicated that the Table Top meeting is to be held on May 22, 2003. This meeting will include project team members as well as emergency personnel, including the fire department, police, medical personnel, the State, EPA, and USACE.

When asked how long the RCWM field work may take, Mr. Hodgson responded that the duration of the RCWM work will depend upon what is found when fieldwork commences. Additionally, if no RCWM items are found after a period of time, the question needs to be asked whether or not the Jeep/Demolition Range area should transition back to conventional clearance activities. Mr. Hodgson also stated that he is unsure whether or not he will receive RCWM funding for FY04.

Ms. Rader stated that residents of Dove Hill want to know if there will be an aerial warning for the residents in proximity of the RCWM work area. Mr. Hodgson replied that the residents are well outside the distance in which the items of concern could affect them if an incident occurred. In addition, engineering control structures are being utilized that eliminate all down wind hazards, so no evacuation procedure needs to be in place. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that the engineering control structures being used for RCWM work are not necessary for technical/safety purposes. Instead, they are being used as a result of outside pressures associated with the new school, development, and proximity to the racetrack.

AOC Prioritization

Mr. Hodgson brought up the fact that the current AOC scoring is based on the prioritization process which was performed approximately three years ago, and posed the question of whether or not the RAB would like to revisit the prioritization criteria and weighting factors. It was decided that repeating the prioritization process, reviewing the prioritization criteria and associated weighting factors, will be a main agenda item for the September 2003 RAB meeting. Mr. Hodgson indicated that he would like Mr. Keith Wegner to perform the actual AOC scoring. RAB members expressed agreement for having Mr. Wegner prepare the scores, with support from the USACE and CDPHE.

Adjournment

Arrangements were made for the next meeting to be held July 16, 2003, 6:00 p.m., at the Aurora Public Library.

Meeting notification for the next RAB meeting should be sent on or around July 7, 2003.