

Restoration Advisory Board
Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range (FLBGR)
15 April 2009
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

The 15 April 2009 meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was held at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 East Quincy Avenue, Aurora, CO 80016. The scheduled start time was 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Jerry Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10 p.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

ATTENDANCE

The following RAB members were present:

- Larry Falsetto, Citizen
- Joe Freund, Citizen
- Mark Harding, Rangeview Metropolitan District
- Bob Hastings, Citizen
- Jerry Hodgson, USACE, Co-Chair
- Karan Holmes, Department of the Navy
- Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County
- Pete Pagano, Citizen
- Jeff Swanson, CDPHE
- Lynn Robbio Wagner, Tri-County Department of Health (TCHD)

Other attendees:

- Cathy Atkins, Army Western Regional Environmental Office (WREO)
- Morey Engle, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- Steve Gehring, Shaw
- J. Hathaway, PNNL
- Randy Hawbaker, Cherry Creek School District
- Laura Kazzaz, Shaw
- Shanti Montgomery, Tetra Tech
- John Mullen, Shaw
- Marilyn Null, CDPHE
- Meggan Pickner, Sky Research Inc. (SKY)
- David Rathke, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region VIII
- Rick St. Amand, Shaw
- Karlie Shaw, SKY
- Warren Smith, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Lisa Stahl, Shaw
- Chris Sundeen, Shaw
- Elaine Tate, Shaw
- Ken Vogler, CDPHE
- Adam Wilms, Tetra Tech

GENERAL RAB ITEMS

Mr. Hodgson, USACE, asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the minutes from the 12 November 2008 RAB meeting. As there were no comments, the minutes from the November RAB

meeting were approved. Mr. Hodgson then announced that Mr. Pete Pagano, Citizen Representative, had submitted his resignation from the RAB. Mr. Hodgson expressed his appreciation for Mr. Pagano services and thanked him for his longevity and hard work while serving on the RAB.

NAVY/DRI

Navy Update

Ms. Karan Holmes, Department of the Navy, presented information on upcoming and ongoing activities associated with the Navy/Denver Research Institute (DRI) site. Currently, the Navy is working on a myriad of Work Plans and Safety submissions. The Navy has met with the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Draft Work Plan. Also, Ms. Holmes mentioned that since this is a Non-Time Critical Removal Action (NTCRA), documents will need to go out for public comment; however, the particulars of public review have not yet been agreed upon. The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) should be available the first week in May for a 30-day public comment period. Public notice ads for the EE/CA will be placed in the Aurora Sentinel and the Denver Post. A copy of the EE/CA will also be placed on the www.flbgr.org project website.

Site mobilization, originally scheduled for June 2009, has been moved back to August with field equipment and trailers in place the last two weeks in July. Field work will run through the end of January 2010, assuming that there are minimal complications. Several board members (i.e., Ms. Lynn Robbio Wagner, Tri-County Department of Health, and Mr. Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County) expressed interest in reviewing the EE/CA and asked if it could be posted on the project website (www.flbgr.org). Mr. Hodgson responded that posting of the EE/CA on the project website would be acceptable. When the EE/CA document is placed on the website, Ms. Holmes will send out an email informing the RAB members.

FORMER LOWRY TRAINING ANNEX (FLTA)

Air Force Update

(presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Hodgson reported that munitions response activities are considered essentially complete at the FLTA. All field work is complete. Remaining activities include the ongoing coordination with CDPHE on post-removal verification (PRV) and final reporting. Unless issues arise during the PRV, the Post-Removal Action Report will begin shortly. Final reporting for the FLTA should be completed in early summer 2009.

FORMER LOWRY BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE (FLBGR)

Project Status and Field Work Update

(presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Hodgson presented a briefing on the current project status of FLBGR activities. His presentation included a summary of activities completed to date, ongoing activities, and planned future efforts. To date, the project has had 3,366 days without lost time due to injury. The FLBGR currently encompasses 12 known munitions response sites (MRSs) and three Areas of Interest (AOIs) within approximately 59,000 acres (i.e., 100 square miles). Currently, there are six munitions response teams in the field at FLBGR within three of the MRSs: three teams at Bombing Target 2 (BT2); two teams at the Rocket Range; and one team at Bombing Target 4 (BT4). Geophysical field crews will mobilize in May/June for the summer field season. Several of the MRSs are in the same phase as the aforementioned Air Force Site (FLTA) – i.e., they are nearing completion of the munitions response fieldwork.

Bombing Target 2 (BT2)

Since the last RAB meeting, 12 “mag-and-dig” grids have been completed, and 2 demolition shots were performed at BT2. To date, 538 live munitions items have been found within BT2. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that ten of the cleared grids are in the center of the target. These grids, as expected, have been very dense with a large amount of scrap and munitions recovered.

Bombing Target 3 (BT3)

Since the last RAB meeting, 46 “map-and-dig” grids have been completed, and no demolition shots were performed at BT3. Currently, there are 3 “map-and-dig” grids and 89 “mag-and-dig” grids remaining. To date, one live munitions item has been found within BT3. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that “mag-and-dig” methods are being performed on higher density grids while DGM “map-and-dig” methods are being used on lower density areas. Because this bombing target includes a former Titan Missile Site and contains a large amount of associated fill, underground structures, and subsurface debris, the CDPHE, the State Land Board, and the USACE are considering implementing land use controls to limit future subsurface use of the area.

Bombing Target 4 (BT4)

No grids have been completed and no demolition shots have been performed at BT4 since the last RAB meeting. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that munitions response teams have just recently returned to BT4 for the Spring 2009 field season. Currently, there are 86 “map-and-dig” grids and 20 “mag-and-dig” grids remaining.

Bombing Target 6 (BT6)

Munitions response activities at the 1,200 acres (~2 square miles) of BT6 are essentially complete. CDPHE and USACE agree that the munitions response effort has reached the boundaries of this huge, multi-use target. Activities that remain at BT6 include PRV, final USACE QA, CDPHE concurrence, and final reporting.

Bombing Target 7 (BT7)

Munitions response activities at BT7 are essentially complete. CDPHE and USACE agree that the munitions response effort has reached the boundaries of this target. Activities that remain at BT7 include PRV, final USACE QA, CDPHE concurrence, and final reporting.

Mortar Range

Since the last RAB meeting, one “mag-and-dig” grid has been completed and no demolition shots have been performed at the Mortar Range. To date, 12 live munitions items have been found within the Mortar Range. Currently, munitions activities at the Mortar Range are considered essentially complete. Remaining activities at the Mortar Range include PRV, final USACE QA, CDPHE concurrence, and final reporting.

No Name Area of Interest (AOI)

Initially, the No Name AOI was thought of as one target encompassing six to eight grids. However, once munitions response teams began investigating the area, the AOI was discovered to include two merged targets (determined by the types of munitions recovered) and the size of the area was increased significantly. Munitions activities are now considered to be essentially complete. Activities that remain at the No Name AOI include PRV, final USACE QA, CDPHE concurrence, and final reporting.

Rocket Range

Since the last RAB meeting, four “mag-and-dig” grids have been completed and seven demolition shots were performed at the Rocket Range. Currently, only ten “mag-and-dig” grids remain; however these are very dense grids which will require some time to work through. To date, 126 live munitions items have been found within the Rocket Range. It is expected that PRV, final USACE QA, CDPHE concurrence, and final reporting will commence at the Rocket Range in the near future.

Jeep/Demolition Range

Since the last RAB, no grids have been completed in the Jeep/Demo Range (JDR). Currently, 30 uncleared grids remain within the central triangular “berm” area. The uncleared area includes 5 acres with berms, 26 acres inside and adjacent to the berms, and 7 known open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) pits. The USACE is currently reconsidering previous plans for clearing the center grids and working out details of an alternate plan. This alternate plan would use heavy equipment to uncover and spread out the shallow soils, which contain large quantities of debris and metal fragments, within the center triangle area using a dozer/scraper. The spoils would be processed by UXO Technicians to remove munitions items. The resulting “clean” ground surface would be verified by mag-and-dig methods. Once the interior grids are cleared, the outer portions of the berms would be peeled back and spread over the center area. Again, the spoils would be processed by UXO Technicians to remove munitions items. Lastly, the remaining berms would be “imploded” into the center triangle area. It is assumed that the interior portions of the berms will not be contaminated or only lightly impacted. A number of the open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) pits will still remain and will be very time consuming to address. However, the USACE and Shaw are looking at a mechanized hammer mill to help with processing the pit materials. Jeff Swanson with CDPHE has agreed conceptually with this plan and the field work is scheduled to start in June or July.

Mr. Mark Harding, Rangeview Metro District, asked if the removed soil would undergo any sifting to remove the munitions debris. Mr. Hodgson responded that we could attempt to sift the soil but given the density munitions debris and the high clay content of the soil, sifting would be problematic. The project team feels that this is a better plan, which will make for the most efficient clean-up. When asked how long the clean-up of the JDR would take, Mr. Hodgson replied that it depended on the weather, funding, and whether or not the teams encountered any “surprises.” However, he did say that he hoped that the area would be close to being cleared within two years.

General

Presently, the entire FLBGR project is approximately 62 percent complete. Mr. Hodgson stated that he planned to meet with Mr. Jeff Swanson (CDPHE) in the near future to discuss the plan forward for the Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range, the 20mm Range Fan, and Bombing Target #1 (BT1). The USACE has identified a point-of-contact for the Plains Conservation Center, currently leasing the BT1 area from the City of Aurora, and has made plans to visit the site and establish the current and probable future use of the area. At that point, the USACE and CDPHE will begin formulating a plan forward for the BT1 area.

Discussions and Adjournment

Mr. Hodgson reminded RAB members and other attendees that future RAB meetings will be held quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 July 2009 with the last meeting of the year scheduled for 21 October 2009. Future locations are to be determined; however, most likely they will continue at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds.

Lastly, Mr. Swanson (CDPHE) brought up the recent Arapahoe Country range fire in the vicinity of BT6 (south of Quincy Avenue along Box Elder Creek). Apparently the Arapahoe County bomb squad was using explosives on a windy day without organized fire response. Luckily, fire breaks constructed at BT6 prevented the fire from spreading further. Currently, the State Land Board, CDPHE, and the USACE are coordinating with the City of Aurora and Arapahoe County to establish protocols for fighting fires on the bombing range should any fires occur again. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that the FLBGR project has performed over 800 demolition shots without a single incident. Mr. Swanson added that the Arapahoe County bomb squad personnel were not following protocols and two bomb squad personnel have been relieved and another demoted as a result of the incident.

As there were no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.