

**Restoration Advisory Board
Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range (FLBGR)
21 April 2010
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

The 21 April 2010 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 6:15 p.m. and welcomed two new RAB members: Mr. Justin Peach, Department of the Navy and Mr. Don Roche, City of Aurora. Mr. Hodgson then asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

ATTENDANCE

The following RAB members were present:

Mark Harding, Rangeview Metro District
Bob Hastings, Citizen
Jerry Hodgson, USACE, Co-Chair
Julio Iturria, Arapahoe County
Carol MacLennan, Tri-County Department of Health (TCHD)
Justin Peach, Department of the Navy
Don Roche, City of Aurora
Jeff Swanson, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE)

Other attendees:

Chris Bryant, USACE
Morey Engle, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
Steven Gehring, Shaw
Randy Hawbaker, Cherry Creek School District (CCSD)
Jed Lowrey, Tetra Tech
John Mullen, Shaw
Lawrence Phipps, Citizen
Meggan Pickner, Sky Research
David Rathke, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Rick St. Amand, Shaw
Cal Schultz, Country Gardens RV and Mobile Home Park – Strasburg
Lisa Stahl, Shaw
Chris Sundeen, Shaw
Elaine Tate, Shaw
Adam Wilms, Tetra Tech

GENERAL RAB ITEMS

Mr. Hodgson(USACE) asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the minutes from the 21 October 2009 RAB meeting. As there were no comments, the minutes from the October RAB meeting were approved.

NAVY/DRI

Navy Update (presentation posted on the project website: www.flbgr.org)

Mr. Peach (Department of the Navy) began by announcing that the former Department of the Navy representative, Ms. Karan Holmes, had left the Navy and had moved to Texas to work with the USACE. He then gave a brief overview of the project's history and outlined the schedule for the upcoming Non-Time Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) at the site.

Occupying 386 acres, the Denver Research Institute (DRI), under contract to the Office of Naval Research from 1959 to 1995, sought to demonstrate the potential effects of munitions and explosives in a controlled environment. This work was performed at the Denver Test Area (DTA), which was comprised of approximately 100 acres at the center of the site. Since the closure of the site in 1995, several remedial efforts have occurred at the Navy/DRI site. However, not all of these studies tied together well. Therefore, the Navy decided to perform a NTCRA, which is scheduled to begin the week of April 26th.

The NTCRA will be conducted to remove all munitions-related targets equal to or greater in size than a 20mm projectile. Field activities will consist of a radiation survey, an instrument aided surface clearance, 100 percent geophysical investigation, removal of munitions-related anomalies, and QA by Pacific Northwest Laboratories (PNL) and the Maryland based NAVEODTECHDIV. The NTCRA will be executed by Tetra Tech, Inc. An aggressive schedule has been adopted, in anticipation of completing all field work by September 2010, with final reporting completed by June 2011.

Mr. Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County, asked whether the Navy's aggressive schedule for the clearance was feasible. Mr. Peach acknowledged that the schedule is ambitious, but noted that the Contractor is planning to use a large field work force, consisting of 14 UXO Techs and 3 Supervisors on-site.

FORMER LOWRY TRAINING ANNEX (FLTA)

Air Force Update

Mr. Hodgson (USACE) reported that all munitions response activities are essentially complete and that the FLTA is in the final reporting stage. Currently, Shaw is working on the draft report. Once the report has been reviewed internally by Mr. Hodgson (USACE), it will be reviewed by the state (CDPHE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Board will also be given an opportunity to review and comment on the draft FLTA report.

FORMER LOWRY BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE (FLBGR)

Project Status and Field Work Update (presentation posted on the project website: www.flbgr.org)

Mr. Hodgson (USACE) 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 3,739 days without lost time due to injury.

Prior to discussing the specific status of munitions response activities at FLBGR, Mr. Hodgson (USACE) took a moment to bid farewell to Mr. James Anelle (USACE - Omaha), who has served at FLBGR as the USACE Ordnance and Explosives Safety Specialist (OESS) for over ten years. Mr. Hodgson then introduced Mr. Chris Bryant (USACE – Omaha) who has taken Mr. Anelle's place as the FLBGR OESS.

The FLBGR currently encompasses 12 known munitions response sites (MRSs) and 3 Areas of Interest (AOIs) within approximately 59,000 acres (i.e., 100 square miles). Currently, there are six munitions response (UXO) teams and one geophysical team in the field at FLBGR, within five MRSs and one AOI: two munitions response teams at the Jeep/Demolition Range (JDR); two munitions response teams at Bombing Target 4 (BT4); one munitions response team at Bombing Target 2 (BT2); one munitions

response team at the Rocket Range; and one geophysical team performing post-removal verification (PRV) and Quality Control (QC) revisits at BT4, Bombing Target 6 (BT6), and the Circle of Bricks AOI. Many of these sites are nearing completion.

Mr. Iturreria (Arapahoe county), asked Mr. Hodgson (USACE) to point out on the map where residential areas were in relation to the FLBGR sites. Mr. Jeff Swanson (CDPHE) responded by showing high density residential areas to the southwest/west of the FLBGR, a cluster of 20-acre parcels to the east (near the former missile silo), and 40-acre parcels to the north/northeast in the vicinity of Bombing Target 1 (BT1). Mr. Iturreria (Arapahoe County) commented that it was impressive that his office has never received a single complaint from the local citizens or property owners in the area. He further suggested including this fact in the final reporting. Mr. Hodgson (USACE) commented that people probably take for granted how smoothly things run at FLBGR, despite the increased risk brought on by the proximity of residents to the site.

Jeep/Demolition Range (JDR)

Clearance efforts within the majority of the JDR are considered complete. Since the last RAB, one “mag-and-dig” grid was completed and three demolition shots were performed at the JDR. To date, 13,677 live munitions items have been found within the JDR. Currently, 30 uncleared grids remain within the central triangular “berm” area, which will require large scale earth moving, and manual and mechanical screening. To date, eight open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) pits have been discovered. These pits may possibly connect or may be separate. The 30 grids are full of Explosives and Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training related munitions debris (MD) and other material, as well as some unexpected items including several recently discovered buried barrels containing several thousand jacketed 20mm projectiles.

Bombing Target 2 (BT2)

Since the last RAB meeting, 2 “mag-and-dig” grids have been completed and no demolition shots were performed at BT2. To date, 539 live munitions items have been found within BT2. There are three “mag-and-dig” grids remaining within the target center. However, because the remaining grids are heavily contaminated with high densities of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and MD, it will take the teams a little longer than usual to clear the remaining areas.

Bombing Target 4 (BT4)

Since the last RAB meeting, 18 grids (11 “map-and-dig” and 7 “mag-and-dig”) have been completed and no demolition shots have been performed at BT4. Mr. Hodgson (USACE) pointed out that BT4 has proved to be much denser (i.e., containing many more munitions-related items) than was anticipated. To date, 15 live munitions items have been found within BT4. Currently, there are 28 “map-and-dig” grids along the range boundary and 13 “mag-and-dig” grids near the target center remaining for clearance.

Rocket Range

Though no grids were completed and no demolition shots were performed since the last RAB meeting, clearance work continues at the Rocket Range. Currently, eight “mag-and-dig” grids remain at the northern boundary; however, because of the density of MEC and MD at these grids, clearance will take considerable time. In addition, 25 recently added “map-and-dig” step-out grids remain along the southern and western boundaries. To date, 126 live munitions items have been found within the Rocket Range.

Circle of Bricks AOI

Because clearance work has focused on the Circle of Bricks AOI in recent months, significant progress has been made at the AOI. Since the last RAB meeting, 9 “map-and-dig” grids have been completed and three demolition shots were performed at the AOI. To date, 11 live munitions items have been found within the Circle of Bricks AOI. Mr. Hodgson observed that a considerable amount of small arms munitions (i.e., .50-caliber and 20mm munitions) have been discovered at this AOI. Currently, there are

15 “map-and-dig” grids and 2 “mag-and-dig” grids remaining. In addition, three “map-and-dig” step-out grids have recently been added to the southern boundary.

Miscellaneous Target AOI

Munitions response efforts at the Miscellaneous Target AOI are considered essentially complete. Since the last RAB meeting, the remaining 5 “map-and-dig” grids were completed and no demolition shots were performed at the AOI. To date, one live munitions item has been found within the AOI. Activities anticipated for the remainder of the year include PRV, final USACE QA, CDPHE concurrence, and preparation of the final report. Closure of the AOI is anticipated for 2010/2011.

Bombing Target 6 (BT6)

Munitions response activities at the huge (almost one square mile) BT6 are essentially complete. Activities that remain at BT6 include completion of the ongoing PRV, final USACE QA, CDPHE concurrence, and final reporting. Closure of BT6 is anticipated for 2010/2011.

Mortar Range

Currently, munitions response activities at the Mortar Range are considered essentially complete. Remaining activities at the range include the completion of the ongoing PRV, final USACE QA, CDPHE concurrence, and final reporting. Closure of the Mortar Range is anticipated for 2010/2011.

No Name AOI

Munitions activities at the No Name AOI are considered to be essentially complete. Activities that remain at the range include the ongoing PRV, final USACE QA, CDPHE concurrence, and final reporting. Closure of the No Name AOI is anticipated for 2010/2011.

Bombing Target 3 (BT3)

No field work has been performed at BT3 since the last RAB meeting. However, 10 additional “map-and-dig” grids along the target boundary have recently been added to ensure the entire impacted area is addressed. These areas will be addressed during the summer 2010 field season. Additionally, Mr. Swanson (CDPHE), Ms. Melissa Yoder (SLB), and Mr. Hodgson (USACE) plan to hold discussions to determine areas applicable for institutional controls.

Bomb Target 1 (BT1)

Beginning in April/May 2010, a 100 percent surface clearance of the impacted BT1 area will commence. At the end of the surface clearance effort, when it is confirmed that there are no remaining immediate explosive hazards, institutional controls to address/limit future intrusive activities within the BT1 footprint will be implemented. These controls will be developed by CDPHE and the City of Aurora, with USACE input. Remaining site activities include performing a surface clearance of 100 grids (92 acres), designating areas applicable for institutional controls, obtaining CDPHE concurrence, and final reporting. Closure of BT1 is anticipated for 2010/2011.

Bombing Target 7 (BT7)

Munitions response activities at BT7 are essentially complete, including PRV. Remaining activities at BT7 include final USACE QA and final reporting. Closure of BT7 is anticipated for 2010.

General

Mr. Randy Hawbaker (Cherry Creek School District) asked if there was a completion date for the JDR. Mr. Hodgson assured Mr. Hawbaker (Cherry Creek School District) and the RAB that the JDR effort continued to be the highest priority at FLBGR. However because of the density of contamination within the central grids (including the OB/OD pits), the response is very time consuming. His best estimate was still 2-3 years to complete the effort. Mr. Swanson (CDPHE) followed up by asking Mr. Hawbaker

(Cherry Creek School District) about the status of the school construction planned for the area north of the JDR. Mr. Hawbaker responded that everything was still on schedule. The design phase for the new high school will be completed later this year and the actual construction of the Transportation and Maintenance building, located further north of the JDR, will be completed later this year as well.

Discussions and Adjournment

Mr. Hodgson (USACE) reminded RAB members and other attendees that future RAB meetings will be held quarterly. The remaining 2010 meetings are scheduled for 21 July 2010 (at the USACE site compound) and 20 October 2010 (at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds).

As there were no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

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