

IOWA ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT (IAAAP)  
PUBLIC MEETING  
IOWA AAP RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD SCOPING SESSION  
JUNE 25, 1997  
7:00PM

The public meeting was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Burlington, Iowa, with thirty-nine attendees. (See attached listing).

Opening Comments:

Rodger Allison, Iowa AAP: Thank you for such a good turnout here this evening. We have LTC John R. Stefanovich from IAAAP with us tonight along with COE, IOC, and EPA representatives. Please be sure you signed in, took handouts that are available along with the survey to be completed if you want to be considered as a member or candidate of the Restoration Advisory Board.

LTC John R. Stefanovich - Commander Iowa AAP:

We are glad to see all who are here. We're excited about these activities. This is the largest environmental restoration project in Iowa. During 55 years of production we used standard industry practices in using hazardous materials and disposing of them. When we learned of the problems with the environment, we began aggressively working toward the cleanup. We have moved lots of contaminated earth as you will see in detail here tonight. We have reached a point where the community needs to understand what we are doing and we want your opinions and input.

Joe Ricci - AEC Army Environmental Center, Baltimore MD:

To help you better understand:

Restoration Advisory Boards (RAB) - what they are, how to form one, what you actually do whether a representative of the community, installation and/or regulation agency in providing advice. A RAB is not a decision making body. It is jointly chaired by installations and the community encouraging community participation and ongoing input. Documents which are relative are reviewed. 2 co-chairs are chosen - one from the installation and the other from the community thus benefiting both the Army and the community. The RAB allows the community to have a voice and to understand the process while complementing other activities on the installation.

Initiation of a RAB

As an example - when the Army places a post on the Base Closure List with transfer of property to the public - a local government may ask for a RAB. A petition of 50 or more citizen's signatures are submitted. If the commander of the installation deems necessary they then can commission to form a RAB. In order to establish the board you must determine all avenues of interest through newspapers, local service announcements, public news releases and establish a POC to gather information surveys. Use of surveys are recommended in order to establish interest. The installation is to document the interest activities.

Selection Panel is chosen as required by DOD/EPA guidelines. Reflects diverse community interest. Their purpose is to recommend the RAB members. They determine whether a board is needed in each town/area or collectively and will recommend members based on these decisions. Once approval/selection process is complete the RAB is formed.

#### Responsibilities of the RAB

The survey sheet outlines the responsibilities in detail. Meetings are to be monthly or quarterly - are recommended at least quarterly. Beyond that no recommendation is made on frequency. However, priorities are recommended such as attendance. A RAB committee is a commitment for 2 years and you are expected to attend most/all of the meetings. Your commitment is voluntary and there is no monetary compensation.

#### State/EPA:

Provide information, referral, resource bank, review and provide document commentaries, ensure stated/federal stand and issues are identified, facilitate resolutions of issue and concern, and assist in education/training of the RAB.

#### Co-Chairs:

Will coordinate with the community, administrative support, ensure RAB has the opportunity to input community concerns, provide documents in timely manner, refer to non-cleanup issues appropriately, keep to the issues at hand and keep topics clear and appropriate for the RAB. They will report back to the community/installation.

There is assistance available from the USAEC, technical assistance - e.g. - CHPPM - which explains the assistance organizations, DOD/RAB directory/resource book, TAB/TOSC, TAPP which provides technical assistance for public protection.

Kirk Hasenclever: Aren't guidelines established by EPA so how can citizens have input?

Joe: The RAB can't change guidelines but can find out why.

Kirk: So, this is basically just taking information back to the community?

Joe: We cannot change the laws but to help to assure that the public has had a voice in restoration activities at installation here at IA.

Kirk: So, this has been ongoing already? What don't we know?

Joe: Derek will present this tonight. Some have had this ongoing for many years. You can get in on ground floor in some places - but here at Iowa we'll find out what's ongoing - once you form a RAB you have a voice. Ask about past things - you may feel perfectly satisfied with the progress.

Derek Romitti, Army Environmental Center:

We have had several public meetings in the past. This is a good turnout here tonight. Whenever a new document is prepared we put out a press release. They are placed in repositories for public viewing such as the Burlington Public Library, Danville Community Center and at the installation.

I am from the US Army Environmental Center in Aberdeen MD - we have some 20 years in environmental business - providing support services for the Army. We focus on specific sites and in December 1990 established review times. When IAAAP was reviewed we found we needed to evaluate possible environmental concerns.

Investigation Process

Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation

Remedial Investigation

Feasibility study

Proposed Plan

All above Equals Interim Remedial Action

Record of decision - remedial design and then remedial action

Investigation included soil, ground water, ecological assessment.

Then develops technology to clean up.

IAAAP initial feasibility study and proposed plan by the Army and EPA.

Design stage transfers to COE (Corps of Engineers) in order to implement design which is the physical cleanup of site.

Kirk Hasenclever: A feasibility study? You people have drilled these test wells - on private property - and you are routinely on private property. I got no information - no notification - and this has been since 1988.

Derek: I don't know who put them in.

Kirk Hasenclever: They're by Brush Creek - you put 2 wells on my property without permission. I see people there very often.

Derek: We cannot go on private property without asking.

Kirk: You still do. Brush Creek ran red w/TNT for 25-30 yrs. I don't know what is coming out of those wells.

Rodger - Show us which wells. We'll find out.

Derek - You can have access to data.

Kevin Howe, Army Corps of Engineers: You could be right. There could be mistakes. We should not have been but it is possible that we were. We do make mistakes.

Kirk: You even tried to sell that piece of property. IAAAP tried to in 1982. The road runs through but that's not the property line.

Kevin: Sounds like you have big concerns. We want them voiced. Those of us who are involved aren't aware of circumstances that you are describing. We need to stop it if it goes on.

Rodger: Please get with me later.

LTC Stefanovich: We will have an answer for you. We were under the impression that we were on IAAAP property.

Kevin: It appears we have incorrectly done some things and we want to become aware of it for correction. This is a long process, lots to say and lots to share - can't be done in couple of hours - that's what a RAB is all about.

Joe: This is what the RAB allows - if situations the installation may not be aware of will most likely come up at a RAB meeting. So it is valuable.

Rodger: We'll come to a resolution.

Kirk: All this is happening without us even knowing and that's why I'm here.

Scott Marquess, EPA Region VII: - Do you have a water supply well?

Kirk: No, the creek runs through and people are up there all the time. The property owner is not notified. The whole road is private. I don't lock it because you are in and out of there. It's not right for you to go in without my knowledge.

Kevin: Thank you for letting us get away with it - it clearly was innocent.

Kirk: And I'm sure you have a good purpose.

Kevin Howe: Corp of Engineers, Project Manager for the Cleanup Activities

I work for IAAAP - they are our customer - doing the design and implementation of the cleanup activities. It came to us in sort of a "hand off mode" e.g. we've been involved the last 2 years so we're relative newcomers to IAAAP. However, we'll take a hit if we've done anything wrong. I want to offer an overview of what has been done in the cleanup activities. There is lots more to be done but to date the progress is significant.

Project Description:

- Contaminated Removal Areas
- Receiving Units
- Borrow Sources
- Sedimentation Ponds

This is a multiple year type project. Receiving units - which is where we're putting soil that has been excavated. It's placed in a temporary stockpile until we decide how to treat and destroy. Trench 6 is random fill.

The contaminants are - TNT, RDX, HMX - explosives. There are many types. However, there's more TNT than anything else but RDX is more of a problem because it is more toxic. There are other contaminants as well, such as fuels and solvents but on a much smaller scale. Line 1 - Brush Creek - was discharged with large wastewaters. Impounded behind a manmade dam. Inudated with pink water which is TNT in the water, exposed to sunlight - causing it to turn pink to red depending on the level of contamination.

By April 97 - modifications to the site are:

Brush Creek has been rerouted around pink water impoundment area.

Line 800 lagoon- is the pink water storage area but it does not have a creek running through it. Discharges were allowed to go into it when in operation but the contaminants were contained. We have dewatered the remaining water - and removed 75% of the contaminated soil, approx. 50000 to 60000 yds of soil from here. Reddish tint is due to the pink water nature and doing some things to pump that water where we can get it. We will process groundwater at a later date.

Future sites include the east burning pads - there are 8 different areas which were used to burn in open fashion. There will be approximately another 20000 yds of soil yet to excavate. There are 120 other sites we're working on as well. There are small sites through Line 1 and 2 which is a maze of building and utilities.

Phytoremediation - we will be implementing this process which is the utilization of plants for environmental cleanup. We will be cultivating phytoremediation in the wetlands. These are plants that have abilities to absorb, accumulate and metabolize various substances.

By April 97 there were many changes to the inert landfill area which is trenches covered with soil. Soil is added to build to proper slope for the cap which will be done to satisfy requirements. Trench 6 has geosynthetic type liners with multiple layers and eventually will have soil on top.

We are also working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to make sure we are ecologically correct in the processes we are doing.

#### Questions

How did you prioritize and decide which site to work on first?

Kevin: We consulted with the EPA, participated with Army Environmental Center, IAAAP staff, COE out of Omaha and collectively decided. However, it was pretty obvious. The worst sites at IAAAP needed the most attention first.

Derek: We needed to begin on the 2 sites which had the most contamination which was Line 1 - Brush Creek area and Line 800 Lagoon.

Kevin: Collectively 50-75% of the total contamination is at these 2 sites.

Kirk: And you didn't mess up more than you cured?

Kevin: We don't think so. I'll refer to EPA to see if they agree. We are doing much good and very little in the way of harm. Any harm is short term and is offset by the good we are doing.

Kirk: Except for the people on Brush Creek.

Kevin: - We don't intend to create more problems than we can cure. EPA is watching our progress and would redirect us if need be. Our interests are in line with EPA's. We are interested in the protection of health of the environment and saving taxpayers money but not to compromise public safety. We're looking for a balance with EPA approval.

Kirk: How long does ongoing monitoring go?

Derek: We have a 30 year monitoring program with a 5 yr review - corrections if necessary - and in 30 years we will evaluate data.

Kevin: 5 year review is every 5 years e.g. is repeated every 5 years - asking ourselves - did we make right decision?

Kirk: Are you hoping for new technology to get rid of wastes before incinerating?

Kevin: It already exists - but we can't focus attention there yet - we're focusing on moving first and how we do we treat it now. One step at a time - it's massive scale of effort - and funds do play a part.

Kirk: And you're two-thirds of the way thru?

Kevin: As far as the soil goes. We have hardly touched water issues yet but will very soon.

Derek: We haven't chosen the technology to clean only excavate it.

Scott: I'm the environmental cop for superfund cleanup at IAAAP. I don't want to write tickets but prefer to work with the Army/installation to identify problems and find solutions. We don't have the dictator approach. Try to work effectively for everybody. We want to spend less time arguing - more time progressing. What we have here is good, cost effective solutions to part of the environmental problems at IAAAP. That's one of the reasons for the RAB - provide you with information and help to address your questions. It's good to see the turnout here tonight. This is more than in all meetings I've been part of in the last 5 years. We want the public to be informed, address their concerns since we are spending millions of dollars here - we want all to be satisfied that we've done a good job. I'm looking forward to working with you and answering questions.

Kirk: Are you local?

Scott: I'm in Kansas City but I get here periodically to see what's going on. The more often we're here the better the understanding which contributes to the progress.

Question: What are health hazards?

Scott: We can't tell the exact classification of the carcinogens.

Derek: There's no data to support the fact that there is and there no data to rule it out either

Scott: And that drives the clean up.

Kirk: Is there any radioactivity?

Scott: There is radioactive contamination in one area. It's from depleted uranium.

Kirk: Is it handled on site?

Scott: That hasn't been determined yet. Possibly could end in landfill - could go off-site.

Kirk: You are just containing for now?

Kevin: There may be some radioactivity - but is of relatively low concern and is fairly well contained.

Scott: I don't see any migration in getting people off plant in an area where there is little exposure.

Kirk: That doesn't mean it can't get in the ground water?

Scott: It doesn't show in the sampling so far.

Kirk: What about surface water?

Scott: We haven't seen it.

Derek: The firing site is not along Brush Creek. When the preliminary assessment was done the highlighted areas were looked at first.

Kirk: I used to play in that red water when we were kids. We didn't know any better.

Scott: We want to address the problems that we know of and fix those. Then we can figure out from there what to do next.

Kirk: I'm just glad you are doing something.

Rodger: The survey form has information on it on how to submit. We will contact you concerning the selection committee. It will be strictly community members. We will make contact when we pull all things together for the selection panel.

Scott: What size are you looking at?

Rodger: No more than 20. You may still attend the meetings even if you're not a RAB member.

Joe: They are always open. Most of the RAB's fall in the 20 or so category - some are smaller. It's more complex for a large board but in all it's a very large effort and includes lots of involvement.

Kathleen Hemmesch: How many RAB's are there nationally? Are there others to refer to? For research and such?

Joe: Nationally - in the low hundreds. The Army has 60 or 70. The Navy has a RAB that covers more than 1 installation. They are nation wide and the number of defense installations is in the thousands. But we are talking about a few hundred that have RAB's. Former Army property can have RAB's - not necessarily always an active installation. There are several former military properties where they have a RAB.

Kathleen: Are there any natural aquifers - underneath the installation?

Derek: There are 3 groundwater aquifers - at Line 6 with minor contamination. They are fairly clean. There's not much contamination outside of the lines.

Question: Can the RAB tour the plant?

Rodger: Yes we'd give you tour of the entire facility. And include specific restoration efforts. It would bring you up to speed on where we're at, where we're going. It would allow us to draw from your expertise.

Question? The RAB resource book - is that available?

Joe: It's available thru the DOD.

Rodger: I will work on getting copies. Once the RAB is solid, we'll get copies to you.

LTC Stefanovich: Thank you for your interest. There is a wealth of information on our web home page "teamiowa". In fact it will give you information in agonizing detail about the environmental activities.

Joe Haffner, Government Staff - In case you are thinking that forming a RAB is after the fact - when the project started, it was documented and when a decision was made on the way to proceed, it was to be reported in a public meeting which was advertised and held but the turnout was low or zero. The newspaper didn't even show up. It was decided in order to enhance public interest we'd try to form a RAB. I hope you are interested and will serve.

Rodger: We realize we've given you a lot of information - some of it hard to digest in one evening. We will stay and field questions.

Scott: Be sure to get the form back to your POC.

Rodger: That information is on the survey.

Kevin: The people might be interested to know when they will hear back. What's the next step? When is the next step?

Rodger: We'll take surveys until July 3 and at that point move forward and form the RAB - probably the second week in July.

Kevin: Have you provided a phone number if they have questions - should they have a way to reach you? Kevin have you provided a phone number - if have questions - should they have a way to reach you.

Lori: The number is on the pens.

Rodger: And also on the fact sheet.

Kevin: I'd like to speak for the Government Staff and EPA - it really is our intention to be as open as we can - it's a difficult thing to do - it's a complicated, lengthy thing to get out into the world. Our policy is to be open about this once you get familiar with it - please call and we'll try to answer your questions. We're honest folks and if you want to know something we'll tell you if we know. Sometimes answers are hard to come by but we'll try to help you.

Marjorie Fitzsimmons: You are to be commended for the information given and for informing the public and the community about this. This is quite a contrast compared to when information was given when the plant area was taken. Times were quite different then - there was an urgency.

The meeting was dismissed at 8:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon Farris, Secretary, Mason & Hanger Corporation