

**IOWA ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
May 24, 2001**

The Restoration Advisory Board meeting was held at 5:10 p.m. on May 24, 2001 at the Burlington Ballroom located in the Burlington Apartments.

Jeff Bergman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He explained that a few members would be late and went on to explain the purpose of the RAB. Larry Orr introduced Kristina Venzke to the RAB. She is the coordinator of the Former Workers Program. She is working to figure out who worked at the plant from 1947 to 1975 as well as what they were working with. Former workers who have health problems associated with plant operations may be eligible for a reimbursement of up to \$150,000. To apply for the compensation former workers can call a toll free number 1-866-282-5818 or stop by the Former Workers Program Office. Kristina told the committee that she would be available for questions after the meeting.

**Minutes Review**

Mike Guely suggested that the members be prepared with their comments for the minutes before the meeting. Jeff agreed that it would save time. Mike pointed out one typo on page two of the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved with the correction.

**Agenda Review**

Jeff added a five-minute segment after Sharon Cotner's Radiological Fly-over segment for LTC Bruce Elliott to present the Army's position on the fly-over. The agenda was unanimously approved with this addition.

**Public Comment**

No comments were made at this time.

**Off Post Sampling**

Kevin Howe briefed the RAB from briefing charts. (See Exhibit 3)

Sherry Alexander explained that she lived in the Green Valley subdivision. She asked Kevin why the Army was spending so much money on sampling, but would not pay to have her hooked up to Rathbun water. Kevin explained that in 1993 approximately 160 residents were contacted. Some of those residents refused the hook up while other did not respond. He also explained to her that she currently is living in an area that is considered clean. LTC Elliott explained that if she were one of the original residents identified in 1993 the Army would pay to hook her up to Rathbun. He also explained that if any other residents who were not identified in 1993 who are affected by the contamination will also be hooked up to Rathbun water. He explained that if they wanted to be hooked up they needed to contact Rodger Allison at 319-753-7130. Rodger Allison confirmed that he had both the Alexander's and the Gosney's on his list to receive the hook up. He told them that once the Army gets the money for the hook ups he will contact them. Sherry Alexander was speaking for Mrs. Gosney as well.

Alison Hart asked Kevin how the homes were selected for sampling. He explained that he was given a list from the Army. Leon Baxter explained that homeowners who had called and asked to have their water sampled were put on the list. He also explained that the six were selected because of their circumstances. Others have well water as well as Rathbun water and, if they choose to use the well water, samples can not be taken.

Larry Orr asked if the contamination was migrating with time. Kevin explained that USACE does not think that is what is happening. They feel the contamination flowed Southeast down Brush Creek until it reached a location where the creek changes from a gaining stream to a losing stream. In the area where the contamination is found the geology changes into a sandy area. The sandy area is flat land and the contamination has spread out.

Mark Hagerla asked if there has been any testing done on the Skunk River. Kevin explained that no testing has been completed at this time; however, he feels that before the project is done they will have to sample on the other side of the river. Mark also asked if the data collected before 1993 would be used. Kevin explained that if the data can be found it will be considered. Rodger explained that the data he has found from before 1993 only says low, moderate, or strong existence.

### **Web Site**

Kevin Howe briefed the RAB from briefing charts. (See Exhibit 4)

A member of the RAB asked if Kevin needed anything from the RAB members? He explained anything that they send must be in electronic form because the contractor was not hired to retype or scan documents.

### **Current Projects**

Kevin Howe briefed the RAB from briefing charts. (See Exhibit 5)

After Kevin had finished his presentation Jeff read a press release to the RAB members. The release explained that there was a pink water spill at the plant on Tuesday, May 22, 2001. The spill was immediately cleaned up. Carbon was put on the soil and testing was done to determine the extent of the contamination. There was minimal contamination and the clean up was completed. Corrective action was taken to assure that the same thing would not happen again. In each pink water tank an independent water level sensing unit has been installed.

### **Radiological Fly-over IDPH**

Dan McGhee briefed the RAB from briefing charts. (See Exhibit 6)

Dan explained to the RAB what Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM) was used for. He told the RAB that the manual helps put limits on clean up efforts. The IAAAP is at the historical site assessment and the scoping survey phase. The scoping survey helps find impacted areas as well as eliminate statistically areas that are not contaminated. There is no data that can affirm or contradict the statement that all acres are or are not contaminated. One way to do this is with a fly-over, however that is not the only way it can be done. One man with a meter could do it, but he should have started 10 years ago. He said this to mean that it would take a long time to accomplish a survey that way. It is also possible to have a number of people with a meter walking in a straight line. If either of these methods were used one soil sample per acre would have to be taken. A fly-over is the best way to accomplish one of these surveys. A fly-over can be done with a variety of different planes. At the IAAAP the best way to conduct a fly-over would be with a helicopter. The resolution of the survey goes down when the plane goes higher or faster.

During the fly-over the helicopter will fly at 50 to 150 feet in overlapping lines. Ground truth and GPS devices are also used. Once the helicopter has flown over the site a three-dimensional plot will be made. Dan felt the actual fly-over would only take about 2 hours. The fly-over will have reproducible

georeferenced results. It would be possible to pick any location on the plant and determine its isotopic condition. Confirmatory samples may need to be done. The ballpark cost that he found for the survey could be \$175,000 flying at 150 feet and \$300,000 flying at 50 feet. He explained these numbers could vary by 25%.

The Iowa Department of Public Health feels that a fly-over achieves the scoping survey required by MARSSIM in the most cost-effective way.

Vaughn Moore asked if the fly-over would detect anything inside of buildings. Dan explained that it is possible to detect something inside a building, but it could not detect something at the bottom of Lake Mathes.

### **Radiological Fly-over USACE**

Sharon Cotner briefed the RAB from briefing charts. (See Exhibit 7)

Sharon explained to the RAB that when the FUSRAP program receives funds those funds are only allowed to be spent on sites that were used by AEC. She explained that unless there is a reason to believe that AEC had operations all over the IAAAP, FUSRAP could not pay for a fly-over of the whole plant. She told the RAB that a fly-over is a gross assessment and there are other ways of completing the survey. Before USACE can decide what is the best way to complete the survey, they need to know what type of contamination they are looking for. They also need to make sure the USEPA would accept the survey results.

A fly-over also gives multiple false positives. Consequently a lot of money could be wasted looking for things that are not there. Her data shows that the fly-over survey would cost \$475,000.

USACE feels that it is too soon to make a decision. A fly-over is a valuable tool and it will remain one. However, if they do decide to use it, they do not have justification to do a fly-over of the whole 19,000 acres.

Eric Orth asked if it was possible for both FUSRAP and the Army to pay for part of the fly-over. Sharon explained there was nothing to prevent other programs from doing a fly-over.

### **Radiological Fly-over ARMY**

We have heard supporting arguments tonight from the State of Iowa regarding the relevance of a fly-over. We also heard arguments by USACE as to why at this particular juncture in time the fly-over is not relevant. While much has been said embellishing the merits of a fly-over. Those merits only represent a one sided perspective. Tonight, I am presenting the Army's official position regarding a fly-over at IAAAP.

First, please be assured that the Army shares everyone's desire for a thorough review of activities at IAAAP. A complete assessment of risks associated with any contamination present and ultimately the protection of human health and the environment. Two coordinated efforts are under way to address contamination at IAAAP. The first effort is being carried out under the Army's Installation Restoration Program (IPR). A second effort was recently initiated under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP is a former DOE program transferred to the Army in 1998 to address sites contaminated as a result of the nation's early atomic energy development activities. With the assistance of USACE, we are evaluating IAAAP for possible inclusion in FUSRAP based on a referral from DOE. USACE must first determine whether FUSRAP related

contamination poses a threat to public health or the environment following the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) before including the site in FUSRAP for remediation. We have initiated a Preliminary Assessment (PA) under CERCLA to make this determination.

The Army is concerned with all forms of contamination. As I stated many times, from the inception of the Army's cleanup efforts at IAAAP, "We have been and will remain forever steadfastly committed as the environmental leaders and stewards to finding and cleaning up all contamination at IAAAP". The Army's concerns are not limited solely to radiological, chemical, explosive, or heavy metals such as Barium or DU but all forms of contamination, which exists at IAAAP. Yes, we too were surprised when we encountered tons of the highly toxic Barium, a non-radioactive heavy metal. Recently De-classified AEC documents have proven invaluable in our quest. These very documents bear out the history behind the Barium in question, its AEC origins and disposal location. These documents would have proven greatly beneficial and would have served us well when we first began our restoration efforts over 10 years ago. We are now using this new and invaluable information in our CERCLA and EPA approved methodology, prioritization of effort and scheduled clean up of IAAAP. We are most grateful to Senator Harkin and his staff in securing these most important documents and ensuring their release. If in fact, it was as SIMPLE as having a fly-over and equipment available, it would be idiotic not do it. In other words a no brainer. However, it is not that SIMPLE. The unknown remains a real and ever present possibility with many forms of potential contamination remaining to be discovered at IAAAP. However, what a fly-over will not do is detect the non-radiological highly toxic chemicals, explosives and the very toxic heavy metal contamination.

As with all members on the RAB, we solicit and welcome the State of Iowa and the DOE to sit in and participate as members of the Army's Community RAB. RAB members' recommendations, suggestions and advice are always welcomed and encouraged. We appreciate the diversity and differing opinions presented by the RAB. As a Federal Installation, in 1989, IAAAP was added to the National Priorities List and designated as a Super Fund Site for Environmental Restoration. Because of our existing FFA with the EPA, any decisions to conduct a fly-over rest with the Army and the EPA. The FFA however, does not include the State of Iowa or the DOE under CERCLA. The Army considers the real threat to the environment from chemical and explosives contamination greater than possible radiological contamination. Some DU contamination has been confirmed at FS 6 & 12. A radiological walkover to help characterize the contamination in those areas is being conducted and the results will be included in the PA. The PA, to be completed in this summer, will be the basis for determining whether further investigations are required and whether a fly-over would facilitate such investigations. Regardless whether or not the fly-over costs \$300K or \$3M, it is simply not warranted or prudent and is premature at this time. Working in concert with the EPA, we believe our priorities have been and remain appropriate.

### **Test Fire Survey**

Sharon Cotner briefed the RAB from briefing charts. (See Exhibit 7)

The Iowa Department of Public Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the IAAAP reviewed the walkover survey before it was completed. The survey was completed during the week of 30 April 2001. The survey results are linked to a GPS system so maps can be generated. Those maps will be feed into the Preliminary Assessment. Two sites that made up a total of eight acres were surveyed. The sites were Firing Site 6 and Firing Site 12. Firing Site 6 was sampled as a result of an interview with a former employee and not as result of our document review. During the walkover 15

pieces of Depleted Uranium were removed from the site. One of the pieces weighed between 30 and 35 pounds. Twenty soil samples were taken from around the Depleted Uranium chunks. The Depleted Uranium is not evenly distributed

Currently the site is not viewed as a threat as depleted uranium is not dangerous unless it is inhaled or ingested. It is not usually a problem because the soil layer prevents inhalation or ingestion. Access to the areas is controlled also. Therefore she did not find a need for emergency action.

Once the data is validated, the results will be compiled into a Preliminary Assessment. Sharon hopes to have the Preliminary Assessment to Washington by August 2001.

Vaughn Moore asked if she knew how many pounds of Depleted Uranium have been found. She explained that they have not weighed all of the pieces.

Mark Hagerla asked if there was any danger if these sites were to have a grass fire. Dennis Chambers, a member of Ms. Cotner's team, explained that some of it will burn off, but it will not cause a significant health risk.

Alison Hart asked why there were no historical records found for Firing Site 6. Sharon explained there were documents found. They also found documents that stated there were sites that AEC had cleaned up. However the standards have dropped since then. We do not want to rule out a potential area. Sharon told the RAB that the FUSRAP program works a lot faster than other programs, but they have been known to slow the train to make sure that things are done right the first time.

### **Schedule of Tours**

Larry Orr explained that there is a procedure in place for RAB members to take tours. A RAB member or a group of RAB members can apply through Rodger at least two weeks in advance.

### **Marketing/Budgeting Strategies**

Rodger Allison told the RAB he had an action to correct the budget sheet for fiscal year 2000 (See Exhibit 8). He corrected the numbers and provided the members with an updated copy. He also provided the members with the numbers for fiscal year 2001 (See Exhibit 9).

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Marketing**

Eric Orth has put together preliminary text for the display boards. He plans to e-mail the text to Kevin Howe so that Kevin can pick out the appropriate pictures.

#### **Training**

There was no report at this time.

#### **Recruiting**

There was no report at this time.

#### **Budget**

There was no report at this time.

#### **RAB Recognition**

Jeff explained there would be a recognition at the end of the meeting.

**Public Comment**

Mike Guely, as a RAB member, suggested that instead of having each agency present their opinion on the fly-over, they should have hashed out their differences and then the consensus should have been presented to the board. He wanted to make sure the lines of communication remain open.

**Next Meeting/Draft Agenda**

The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. at a location to be determined. Agenda items will include showing the website, Tech Law report, FUSRAP update, and Fuel Station report.

**Future Work Session Topics**

Eco-Risk  
Monitoring Techniques

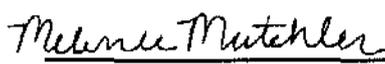
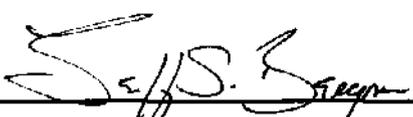
**Recognition**

The RAB presented LTC Elliott with a mounted turkey tail and plaque that commended the work he has done with the RAB. They also brought cake and punch for the occasion. LTC Elliott thanked the RAB and told everyone he was proud of what the RAB had accomplished in the past 22 months. He also said Iowa was a great place to live and he wished he didn't have to leave.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Action List**

1. Eric Orth to send Kevin the wording he has for the display boards so that Kevin can find pictures.
2. IAAAP to provide information for the Web Site.

		
Melenie Mutchler Secretary	Jeff Bergman Community Co-Chair	Rodger Allison Army Co-Chair

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|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| Exhibits: | 1 | Attendees                      |
|           | 2 | Agenda                         |
|           | 3 | Off Post Sampling Presentation |
|           | 4 | Web Site Presentation          |
|           | 5 | Current Projects Presentation  |
|           | 6 | Radiological Fly-over IDPH     |
|           | 7 | Radiological Fly-over USACE    |
|           | 8 | FY00 Army Budget Distribution  |
|           | 9 | FY01 Army Budget Distribution  |

## **EXHIBIT 1**

### **RAB MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joel Behne  
Jeff Bergman  
Marjorie Fitzsimmons  
Mark Hagerla  
Dan Nelson  
Larry Orr  
Eric Orth

### **RAB MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Glen Fullhart  
Richard Johnson  
Don Kuechmann  
Dean Vickstrom

### **GOVERNMENT MEMBERS**

Rodger Allison  
Mike Guely  
LTC Elliott

### **PUBLIC**

Don Flater  
Dan McGhee  
Fred W. Taylor Jr.  
Melenie Mutchler  
Larry Johnson  
Alison Hart  
Benjamin Puesta  
Dennis Chambers  
Sherry Gibson  
Sedonia D. Gosney  
Sherry Alexander  
Dick Alexander  
Kristina Venzke  
John Carroll  
Rick Larkin  
Howard Reif  
Dennis Carroll  
Bruce Workman  
Nicholas M. Kieler  
Vaughn Moore  
Kevin Howe  
Piper Sullivan  
Leon Baxter  
Ben Letak  
Soren Sorensen