



# Restoration Advisory Board



## What is it?

- Department of Defense organization
- Authorized, established, led by Garrison Commander or designee
- Serves as forum for discussion and exchange of restoration program information between the Army and the community
- Includes:
  - DOD [Army] representatives
  - US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - State environmental regulatory agencies
  - Local government agencies
  - Tribal governments
  - Members of the local community
- Reflects the diverse makeup of the community



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Purpose

- Provides input to the Garrison Commander
- Facilitates information exchange between installation and community
- Provides stakeholder opportunities to:
  - Participate in the restoration process
  - Monitor restoration progress
  - Make community views/concerns known to the decision-makers
  - Review progress for restoration activities
  - Establish and promote dialogue between installation decision makers and those affected by their decisions



# Restoration Advisory Board



## RAB Establishment

- Decision of commander
- Based on survey of interest
- No more than 30 individuals
- No smaller than is necessary to reflect diverse community interests
- Focused on environmental restoration ONLY
- Leadership responsibilities shared by installation appointed and community elected co-chairs
- Develops ground rules and operating procedures which define responsibilities within the RAB



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Garrison Commander Role

- Selects installation representatives/participants
- Contacts EPA, tribal, state and local government and/or regulatory agencies to request appointment of respective RAB members
- Identifies diverse community interests (with stakeholders)
- Organizes a selection panel to nominate RAB members
- Ensures community members live or work in affected area
- Ensures priority given to those community members directly affected/impacted



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Installation Role

- Educates/informs community members about the Defense Environmental Restoration Program and Army environmental decision-making process
- Facilitates productive community participation
- Helps members understand and participate in the relative risk site evaluation and/or munitions response site prioritization protocol processes
- Helps members understand the Army budgeting process; develops budget requests and advise RAB of funds provided
- Provides the RAB cleanup alternatives, including implications of choices
- Provides technical support as required



# Restoration Advisory Board



## RAB Member Role

- Addresses important issues related to environmental restoration
  - Scope of studies
  - Cleanup levels
  - Remedial action alternatives
- Reviews documents (plans and technical reports)
- Provides input on priorities among sites/projects
- Participates in meetings
- Documents decisions; makes info available to public
- Discusses future land-use issues with appropriate planning bodies



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Community Co-chair Role

- Coordinates meeting order and agenda matters with community RAB members and Installation Co-chair
- Assists in the dissemination of information to the general public
- Ensures that RAB membership reflects diverse interests within the community (jointly with Installation Co-chair)
- Ensures community issues and concerns related to cleanup activities are addressed (jointly with Installation Co-chair)
- Ensures that the RAB has the opportunity to participate in decision processes (jointly with Installation Co-chair)



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Community Co-Chair Election Procedures (as defined in Fort Meade RAB Charter)

The election of the community co-chair will follow this procedure:

1. Nominations will be made from the floor. The consent of the nominee must be obtained prior to nomination.
2. Voting shall be by secret ballot, or by voice vote if the Board so chooses. Any Board member may request a secret ballot be taken.
3. In order to be elected, the nominee must obtain a majority of the votes cast.

# Restoration Advisory Board



Questions?

# Restoration Advisory Board



## Backup Info



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Examples of Community Interests

- Affected community
- Business community
- Homeowners associations
- Local environmental groups
- Environmental justice groups
- Local officials
- Health officials
- Senior citizen associations
- Civic groups
- Installation workers
- Installation residents
- LRA for BRAC installations



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

- Department of Defense program
  - Only community members (not government members) are eligible to apply for assistance
  - Minimum of three RAB community members apply
- Provide access to independent technical consultants
  - Interpret technical documents
  - Assessing technologies
- Helps community members understand scientific and engineering reports and documents
- Related to specific environmental restoration activities



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Ineligible for TAPP

- Activities associated with non-restoration issues
- Litigation of underwriting legal actions
- Political activity and lobbying
- Generation of new primary data
- Disputing remedy selection
- Reopening final Army decisions
- Epidemiological or health studies
- Community outreach
  - Reproducing reports
  - Conducting site tours
  - Obtaining meeting rooms



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Meeting Specifics

### (as defined in Fort Meade RAB Charter)

1. Meet monthly and otherwise as necessary. Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
2. Meet at Pershing Hall at Fort Meade during the evening or other acceptable time to afford broad public access to the RAB and to encourage Board members to gain an understanding of local concerns.
3. Accommodate public attendance and participation needs through a flexible meeting schedule.
4. In order to ensure a fair, open, orderly and productive meeting, the RAB may impose reasonable restrictions on the time a RAB member or a member of the public may speak per recognized turn.



# Restoration Advisory Board



## Installation Co-chair Role

- Coordinates meeting order and agenda matters with community RAB members and Community co-chair
- Ensures that adequate administrative support is provided to the RAB
- Ensures that RAB membership reflects diverse interests within the community (jointly w/ Community Co-chair)
- Ensures community issues and concerns related to cleanup activities are addressed (jointly w/ Community Co-chair)
- Ensures that the RAB has the opportunity to participate in decision processes (jointly w/ Community Co-chair)